

Public Consultation

The requirement for public consultation on the Proposed National Water Resource Strategy (Proposed NWRS) is described in section 5 of the National Water Act (see Appendix C). This appendix provides key details of the consultation process adopted by the Department.

Pre-publication: March - August 2002

- 120 000 A4 Z-fold information leaflets about the Proposed NWRS were distributed during Water Week in March 2002.
- A national stakeholder database was compiled, comprising about 8 400 organisations and individuals.
- Letters were distributed to all stakeholders on the database announcing the impending availability of the Proposed NWRS, inviting them to participate in the consultation process, and including a four page briefing document.
- Letters were sent to all stakeholders informing them of the dates and venues of regional public meetings and national workshops and inviting them to attend.
- Advertisements announcing the public meetings were published in four national newspapers and in at least one local newspaper in each water management area.

Publication: August 2002

- A 59 page Summary of the Proposed NWRS was published in the Government Gazette.
- Hard copies of the Summary, the full text of the Proposed NWRS (approximately 250 pages) and a 16 page Information Document (the latter in all 11 official languages) were made available for inspection at the public places, including the offices of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, listed in Table F.1.

Public meetings and national workshops: mid-September - April 2003

- A series of 24 public meetings was held at venues throughout the country, together with five national workshops in the Pretoria/Johannesburg area (see Table F.2). The meetings and workshops included presentations on the contents of the Proposed NWRS followed by facilitated discussions, and were attended by a total of more than 2 000 people.
- All comments at the meetings and workshops were recorded, and written comments were invited.
- In addition during the consultation process -
 - The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water Affairs and Forestry was briefed on the Proposed NWRS in October 2003.
 - The consultation process was announced on national television (50-50) and in approximately 20 radio interviews.
 - Ten capacity building workshops for departmental staff were held to prepare them for the public meetings.
- After the nationally-organised series of meetings was concluded -
 - More than 40 additional public meetings were held by the Regional offices on request by stakeholders.
 - Workshops/briefing sessions were held with the Chemical and Allied Industries Association (Johannesburg), the South African Water Caucus (Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban) and the Water Institute of Southern Africa Mining Division (West Rand).
 - Almost 18 500 copies of documents directly related to the Proposed NWRS - full and Summary documents, information documents and copies of slides presented at the public meetings - were distributed on request from stakeholders, together with 860 copies of other departmental documents.

Review of comments

- By May 2003 a total of more than 2 300 comments had been received on individual chapters and parts from more than 600 commentators.
- All comments were reviewed by a team of departmental officials, and amendments to the proposed NWRS proposed and submitted to senior staff members. The opportunity was also taken to update information in the Proposed NWRS to reflect developments since its publication, and to undertake a plain language edit.
- The amended NWRS, First Edition was then reviewed by an external reviewer and by the Minister's office, and necessary changes made.

Table F.1: Availability of NWRS documentation at public places**EASTERN CAPE**

DWAF Area Office: Cradock
 DWAF Area Office: East London
 DWAF Regional Office: King Williams Town
 DWAF Area Office: Port Elizabeth
 DWAF Area Office: Umtata
 Grahamstown Public Library

FREE STATE

City Library: Bloemfontein
 DWAF Regional Office: Bloemfontein
 Welkom Public Library

GAUTENG

Carletonville Library
 DWAF Head Office: Pretoria
 DWAF Regional Office: Pretoria
 DWAF Area Office: Potchefstroom
 Germiston Library
 Johannesburg Library
 Soweto Library

KWAZULU-NATAL

Dundee Public Library
 DWAF Regional Office: Durban
 Empangeni Public Library
 Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg
 Newcastle Public Library
 Richards Bay Public Library

LIMPOPO

DWAF Regional Office: Polokwane
 Louis Trichardt Public Library
 Mussina Public Library
 Phalaborwa Public Library
 Thohoyandou Public Library
 Tzaneen Public Library

MPUMALANGA

AWARD NGO Office (Acornhoek)
 Barberton Public Library
 DWAF Area Office: Groblersdal

MPUMALANGA (continued)

DWAF Regional Office: Nelspruit
 DWAF Offices: Tonga, Malekutu, Eerstehoek
 Mvula NGO Office (Nelspruit)
 Groblersdal Public Library
 Mzinti Agricultural Centre
 Nelspruit Public Library
 Secunda Public Library
 Witbank Public Library

NORTHERN CAPE

Calvinia Hantam Municipality Offices
 De Aar Emthanjeni Municipality Offices
 DWAF Regional Office: Kimberley
 DWAF Area Office: Upington
 Namaqua District Municipality Offices
 Northern Cape Agricultural Union, Upington
 Prieska Public Library
 Springbok Public Library

NORTH-WEST

DWAF Area Office: Hartbeespoort Dam
 DWAF Regional Office: Mmabatho
 Groot Marico Public Library
 Klerksdorp Public Library
 Lichtenburg Public Library
 Rustenburg Public Library
 Vryburg Public Library

WESTERN CAPE

Beaufort West Public Library
 DWAF Regional Office: Bellville
 DWAF Area Office: Clanwilliam
 Caledon Public Library
 George Public Library
 Hermanus Public Library
 Lambertsbaai Public Library
 Library of Parliament in Cape Town
 Oudtshoorn Public Library
 Witzenberg Municipality

Table F.2: National (key stakeholder) workshops and regional public meetings

National (key stakeholder) workshops			
Sector	Place	Date	Attendance
National Government departments	Pretoria	16th September 2002	43
Agriculture	Pretoria	26th September 2002	32
Forestry	Pietermaritzburg	18th October 2002	12
Water and waste management	Pretoria	4th November 2002	77
Industry, mining and power generation	Midrand	11th November 2002	63
Regional public meetings			
Water Management Area	Place	Date	
3 Crocodile (West) & Marico	Midrand	17th September 2002	85
	Rustenburg	18th September 2002	82
8 Upper Vaal	Vereeniging	19th September 2002	112
	Carletonville	20th September 2002	69
12 Mzimvubu to Keiskamma	East London	26th September 2002	69
	Umtata	27th September 2002	40
4 Olifants	Witbank	1st October 2002	78
19 Berg	Stellenbosch	2nd October 2002	92
5 Inkomati	Nelspruit	3rd October 2002	108
18 Breede	Worcester	3rd October 2002	76
9 Middle Vaal	Welkom	8th October 2002	73
13 Upper Orange	Bloemfontein	19th October 2002	86
11 Mvoti to Umzimkulu	Pietermaritzburg	15th October 2002	109
7 Thukela	Ladysmith	16th October 2002	82
15 Fish to Tsitsikamma	Port Elizabeth	22nd October 2002	62
16 Gouritz	Oudtshoorn	24th October 2002	86
1 Limpopo	Polokwane	29th October 2002	59
2 Luvuvhu & Letaba	Thohoyandou	30th October 2002	46
10 Lower Vaal	Kimberley	29th October 2002	96
14 Lower Orange	Upington	31st October 2002	69
	Springbok	7th November 2002	57
17 Olifants-Doorn	Clanwilliam	13th November 2002	68
6 Usutu to Mhlathuze	Richard's Bay	19th November 2002	74
	Vryheid	20th November 2002	53