

# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGES

## Water Resources Management Charges – your “water insurance policy” that gives you the right to protected water resources.

**Together with you, the department cares about water resource management – the lifeline of all your activities.**

During December 2002 you will receive the first invoice that bills you for water resource management charges. This follows lengthy negotiations with organised agriculture and agricultural unions.

### What is water resource management?

Water resource management is needed to ensure the reliable supply of water that farmers and other users need. Water resource management includes:

- water abstraction control to ensure that all users get a fair share of water,
- monitoring and pollution control to keep our rivers healthy,
- planning for development of new schemes and to extend existing schemes,
- clearing of invading alien plants which consume water that should be available for our use.

All major water users within the catchment, whether it is an industry, mine, municipality or irrigator will pay water resource management charges.

### Why do I have to pay?

The costs of water resource management are set out in terms of the National Water Act, (Act no 36 of 1998) Raw Water Pricing Strategy, published in 1999 after consultation with all

major stakeholders. As from 1 April 2002 a water resource management charge has been introduced to cover some of the costs of water management. The funds will allow the Department and every Catchment Management Agency (CMA) to plan and to manage water optimally to ensure that adequate water is available. Paying water resource management charges is your responsibility and gives you the right to protected water resources.

### You will directly benefit

The costs recovered will be used within the Water Management Area (WMA) where the water use takes place. Money paid in one WMA will **not** be used in another WMA. (except where water is transferred from one Water Management Area to another in which case the beneficiaries will have to pay for this privilege.) In this way, the money you pay will be used to benefit you directly.

**For more information, contact your local Department of Water Affairs and Forestry**



Department: Water Affairs and Forestry

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