

RESPONSIBLE FORESTERS PAY WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGES

Together we build a better future for all water users in our catchments

During January 2003 you will receive the first invoice that bills you for water resource management charges. This follows after negotiations with representatives of the Forestry Industry.

What is water resource management?

Water resource management is needed to ensure the reliable supply of water that foresters 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, irrigator or forester will pay water resource management charges.

Why do foresters need to pay this charge?

In South Africa, afforestation has been declared as a stream flow reduction activity (SFRA), regulated by means of a licensing system in terms of chapter 4 and Section 36 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998).

An SFRA is any dryland land use practice, which reduces the yield of water (with reference to yield from natural veld in undisturbed conditions) from that land to downstream users.

The costs for water resource management are set out in terms of the National Water Act Raw Water Pricing Strategy, published in 1999. This strategy was established 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. According to the Pricing Strategy, water resource management charges will be paid by water users who take quantities of water from the country's water resource. Declared activities that would significantly reduce stream flow will be regarded as a water use. Afforestation has been declared as such an activity and foresters will also pay the water resource management charge.

You will benefit from the charge

You will benefit by paying because it gives you a right to protected water resources. The costs recovered will be used within the Water Management Area (WMA) where the water use takes place.

**For more information,
contact your Regional Office
of the Department of Water
Affairs and Forestry**



Department: Water Affairs and Forestry

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