

What is Water Resource Management Charges and why do I have to pay for it?

Water Resources Management Charges - your "water insurance policy" that gives you the right to protected water resources.

Pay Water Resource Management Charges to ensure:

- all users get a fair share of water,
- monitoring and pollution control to keep our rivers healthy,
- development of new schemes and extending existing schemes,
- clearing invading alien plants which consume water.

The costs of water resource management are set out in terms of the National Water Act, (Act no 36 of 1998) - Pricing Strategy for Raw Water Use Charges 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. Costs recovered will be used within the catchment where the water use takes place – the funds will be ploughed back into water resource management activities to give you a better service.

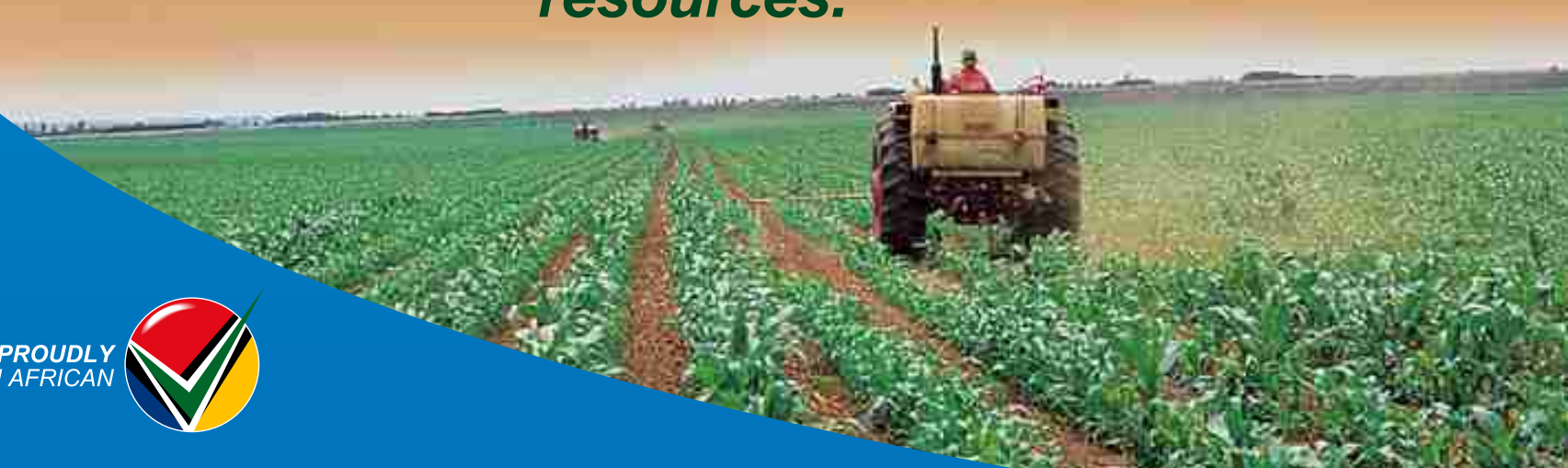
Paying Water Resource Management Charges is your responsibility and gives you the right to protected water resources.



Department: Water Affairs and Forestry

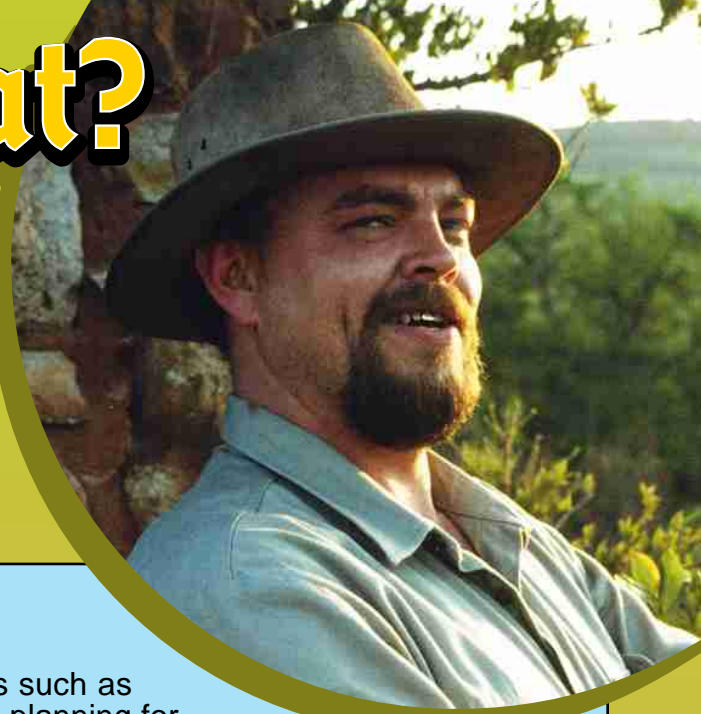
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Who pays for what?

Upstream water users affect downstream water use in every catchment. So all significant water users within every catchment, whether it is an industry, mine, water provider, farmer or irrigator will pay Water Resource Management Charges.



Water Resource Management Charge



This charge is towards better water resource management and includes functions such as water abstraction control, monitoring of surface and groundwater, pollution control, planning for development of new schemes and clearing of invading alien plants. This charge has been introduced since 1 April 2002 for all significant water users without exception.

YOUR INVOICE MAY ALSO INCLUDE:

Water Research levy



This levy is towards payment for research by the Water Research Commission. This levy has been charged since 1984 and is payable on water supplied for irrigation, industrial use and water supply. Most irrigators have paid this levy as part of their payment to irrigation boards. In future, the levy may be incorporated into a single bill together with the three other charges.

Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) charge



Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) charge is billed to water users within the TCTA scheme. Those who pay this charge will continue paying.

Consumptive charges



The usual consumptive charges for water use that takes place with government water schemes will be charged. These charges only apply within schemes. Farmers outside of schemes do not pay this charge.

How much are Water Resource Management Charges?

Water Resource Management Charges are calculated per cubic meter and according to the three main sectors – domestic/industrial, irrigation and forestry. Water Resource Management Charges to the agricultural sector do not exceed 1 cent per cubic metre for the 2002/03 financial year.

Why are only these sectors paying?

Irrigated agriculture, industries/domestic and forestry are the most significant consumptive sectors. This means that when water is used by them it is taken out of the river or groundwater and it is no longer available for any one else to use. For this reason, the pricing strategy makes provision for billing of these sectors as a priority. Later, waste charges and rebates may be considered once the pricing strategy has been extended to these aspects of water use. The following water uses will be billed initially as they are the most significant in consuming our limited available water:

- Taking water from a water resource (groundwater or surface water),
- Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity - commercial afforestation.

What will happen if I do not pay?

Non-payment is a serious matter, and you will be prosecuted if you do not pay.



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Together, we ensure better water resource management.

You pay, you have a say!

Water Resource Management Charges were introduced to ensure that our water in every Water Management Area is managed in such a way that we all have access to the limited available resources.

Your payment will benefit you directly.

- All costs recovered will be used within the Water Management Area (WMA) where the water use takes place. In this way, the money you pay will be used to benefit you directly.
- We all live downstream of a water user – so water management must control the impacts on others within the catchment.

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