

DETERMINATION OF WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE LOWER ORANGE CATCHMENT

PSC MEETING NO.4 MS TEAMS

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Date: 18 November 2025

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Department:
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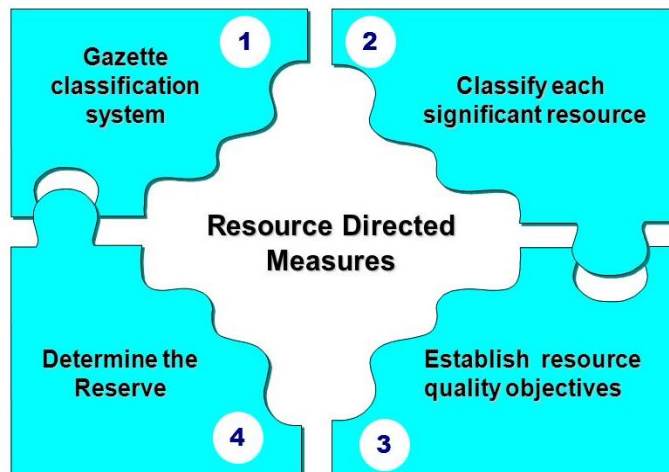


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background
- Implications of Classes, RQOs & Reserve
- Study Area
- Study Progress
- Stakeholder Engagement

BACKGROUND

- The protection of water resources is addressed under Chapter 3 of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), as Resource Directed Measures (RDM)
- The RDM taken to protect water resources are:
 - Classification (S13)
 - Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs) (S13)
 - Reserve (S16)
- A Water Resource Classification System (WRCS) was published as Regulation 810 in 2010, outlining the procedures for determining RDM
- Following this, DWS has been progressively determining classes, RQOs, and the Reserve for all significant water resources



- Thus:
- Three-year study for the Lower Orange River Catchment: from September 2023 to September 2026
- WSP group Africa (PTY) LTD was appointed as the PSP to assist DWS with the study.

BACKGROUND

- Output:

1. Water Resource Classes: describe what state the water resources need to be in to satisfy beneficial use. Each class represents:

A different level of protection that is required for the water resource, and

The extent to which a water resource can be used.

	Description of use	Ecological Category	Description of resource
Class I	Minimally used	A-B	Minimally altered
Class II	Moderately used	C	Moderately altered
Class III	Heavily used	D	Heavily altered

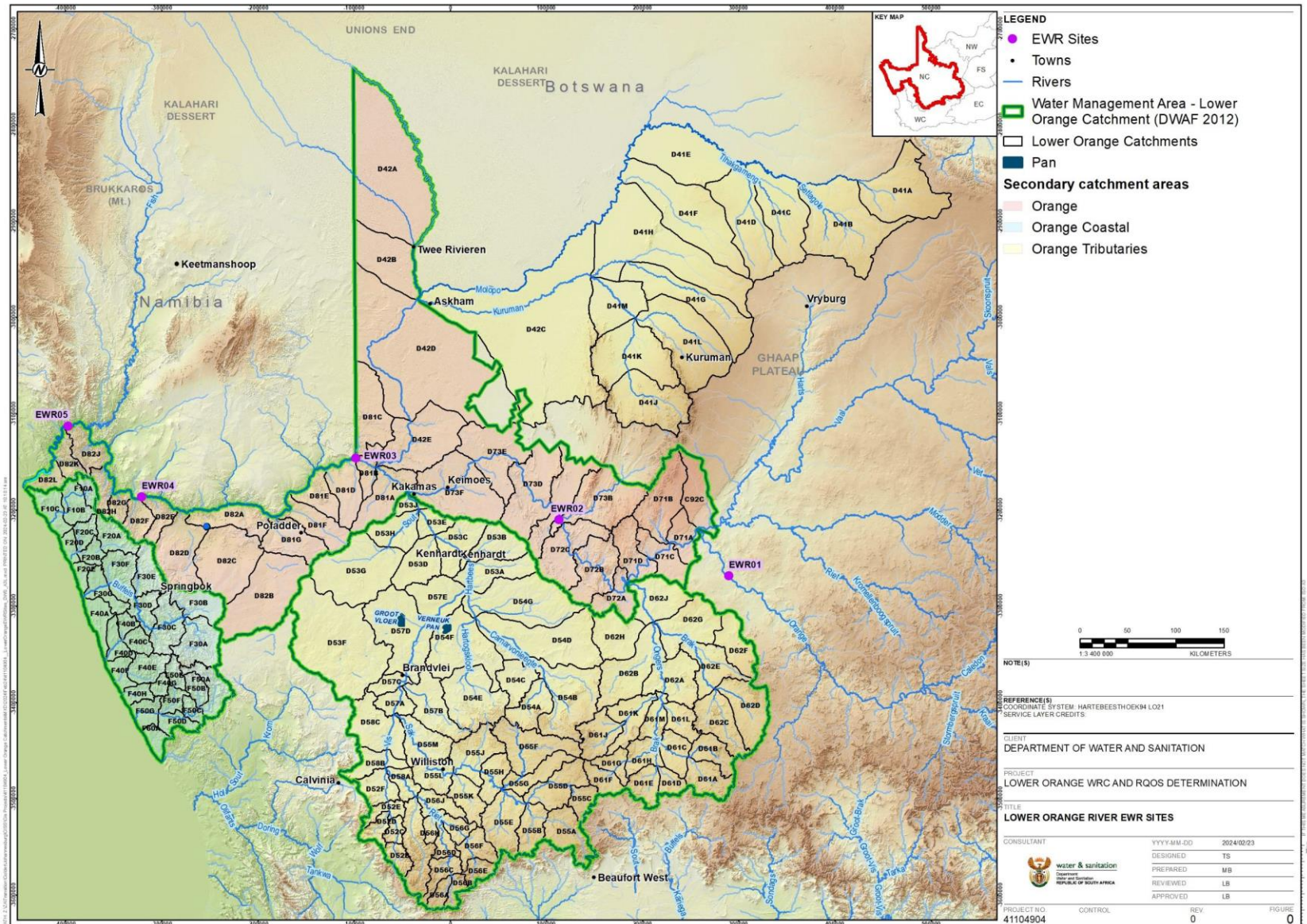
2. Resource Quality Objectives: conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource to give effect to the classes. RQOs provide statements about:

- what the quantity of the water should be (water level, pattern, timing)
- what the water quality should be (physical, chemical and biological)
- what the condition of the instream and riparian habitat should be
- what the condition of the biota should be.

IMPLICATIONS OF CLASSES, RQOs & RESERVE

- Once the Class, Reserve & RQOs are in place, they are binding on all authorities or institutions when exercising any power or performing any duty under the NWA.
- The implementation of Gazetted Class, Reserve & RQOs may necessitate the Department to:
 - Decline new water use authorisations
 - Revise General Authorisations,
 - Update Discharge Standards,
 - Initiate Compulsory licensing,
 - Update Monitoring Programmes

STUDY AREA



STUDY PROCESS & PROGRESS

In accordance with the Classification and RQOs guidelines

1	Describe the status quo and delineate the study area into units of analysis (IUAs)	Completed	Stakeholder Engagement (In progress)
2	Delineate and prioritise Resource Units (RUs)	Completed	
3	Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs)	Completed	
4	Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process	Completed	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations	Completed	
6	Determine RQOs	In progress	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs	Not yet started	

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Platform	Purpose	Date
Public Meetings	1. To introduce the study Invite nominations from stakeholders to serve as PSC members	21 May 2024 (Springbok) ✓ 22 May 2024 (Upington) ✓
	2. To present the proposed classes & RQOs	Apr 2026
PSC Meetings	1. Water Resources Information and gap analysis Status quo and IUAs Linking the value and condition of water resources	25 Jul 2024 (Upington)✓
	2. Resource Units prioritization and sites selection	06 Nov 2024 (Springbok) ✓
	3. Scenarios evaluation, draft classes	06 May 2025 (Upington)✓
	4. Sub-components, indicators, Draft RQOs and numerical limits	18 Nov 2025 (online) ✓
	5. Gazette template	18 Feb 2026 (online)
TTG Meetings	1. Water quality catchment situation, monitoring and current and future management	10 Oct 2024 (Upington) ✓
	2. Sub-components prioritisation	17-18 Jun 2025 (Upington) ✓
Sector Meetings	1. Determine what may need to be considered for classification from the Agriculture Sector perspective	09 Oct 2024 (Kakamas) ✓
	2. Address Agriculture Sector concerns on draft classes	14 Oct 2025 (Upington, hybrid) ✓
Specialist Workshops	GW methodologies for determining classes and RQOs Scenario Analysis Results and Proposed GW classes Lower Orange Estuary workshop	05 Dec 2024 (online)✓ 08 April 2025 (online)✓ 22 April 2025 (online) ✓
Other	RQOs and numerical limits workshop	28-30 Oct 2025 (Upington) ✓

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://www.dws.gov.za/WEM/WRCS/lo.aspx>



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LOWER ORANGE

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1. General Project Documents

2. Project Reports

- [Inception Report](#)
- [Info and Gap Analysis Final Report](#)
- [Linking value & condition of resources](#)
- [Status Quo and IUA Delineation Report](#)

3. Stakeholder Engagements

- 3.1 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meetings
- 3.2 Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings
 - [LO PSC 1 BID](#)
 - [LO PSC 1 Background](#)
 - [LO PSC 1 Technical](#)
 - [LO PSC 1 PSC Role](#)
- 3.3 Public Meetings
 - [LO Public 1 BID](#)
 - [LO Public 1 Background](#)
 - [LO Public 1 Technical](#)
 - [LO Public 1 PSC Role](#)
- 3.4 Technical Task Group (TTG) Meetings
- 3.5 Capacity Building

4. Gazettes

- 4.1 Draft Gazette
- 4.2 Final Gazette

THANK YOU!!



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