



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DETERMINATION OF WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES IN THE THUKELA CATCHMENT: BACKGROUND

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 6

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Date: 28 July 2021

PURPOSE

- Recap of the study process

BACKGROUND

- The study started in August 2019 and will be completed in February 2022
- The aim of the study:
 - Classify Water Resource Classes of the Thukela Catchment
 - Determine Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)
- Water Resource Classes and RQOs will be gazetted once approved by the Minister.

WATER RESOURCE CLASSES

	Description of use	Majority of ecological categories
Class I	Minimally used	A-B
Class II	Moderately used	C
Class III	Heavily used	D

Ecological Category (EC) - means the assigned ecological condition to a water resource . It is measured by determining how much the ecosystem has changed from natural (pre-development condition).

RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES

RQOs are numeric or descriptive statements of conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource;

The objectives 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 (river bank) **habitat** should be
- what the condition of the aquatic (water) **animal and plant** life should be.

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	Completed	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs	In progress Draft template circulated for review – comments due by 13/08/2021	

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC MEETINGS

	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	26 Feb 2020	Study introduction & PSC membership nominations	Newcastle
2	27 Feb 2020		Estcourt
3	25 Aug 2021 (tbd)	Present Classes and RQOs template	Estcourt
4	26 Aug 2021 (tbd)		Newcastle

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETINGS

1	16 Jul 2020	Status Quo Assessment and Draft IUAs	On-line
2	22 Sept 2020	Linking the socio-economic and ecological value to condition of the water resources	
3	26 Nov 2020	EWRs, RU prioritisation and sub-components prioritisation and indicators selection	
4	03 Mar 2021	Identified scenarios & proposed classes	
5	28 Apr 2021	Draft RQOs and numerical limits	
6	21 Jul 2021	Gazette Template	

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT *cont.*

TECHNICAL TASK GROUP (TTG) MEETINGS

	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	20 Jan 2021	Provide update to the geomorphic condition of the Thukela Estuary Outcomes of the scenario runs	On-line
2	26 Apr 2021	To discuss and clarify the scope for the determination of classes and RQOs for Thukela Estuary Propose a way forward for management of the estuary	

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

1	16 Jul 2020	Clarify some issues regarding the EWRs for Thukela Estuary	On-line
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THANK YOU

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<http://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx>