

# The Determination Of Water Resource Classes, Reserve And Resource Quality Objectives For Secondary Catchments (A5-A9) Within The Limpopo WMA And Secondary Catchment B9 in the Olifants WMA.

## Project Steering Committee Meeting 3

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**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Presentation Content

- Legal Mandate
- Water Resource Classes
- Resource Quality Objectives (RQOS)
- Reserve
- Study Focus: Determination of Water Resource Classes (WRC), Reserve & Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)
- Process: Classification of water resources, determination of the Reserve & Resource Quality Objectives
- Stakeholder Engagement

# Legal Mandate

- Chapter 3 of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), deals with the protection of water resources
- The measures for protection of water resources are:
  - Classification (**S13**)
  - Reserve (**S16**)
  - Resource Quality Objectives (**S13**)
- S12 requires the Minister to establish the Water Resource Classification System, (WRCS)
- WRCS was published as Regulation 810 in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010
- The WRCS defines:
  - water resource classes and
  - the procedure to determine Class, RQOs and Reserve
- According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified, Reserve and Resource Quality Objectives determined

# Water Resource Classes

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

**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;

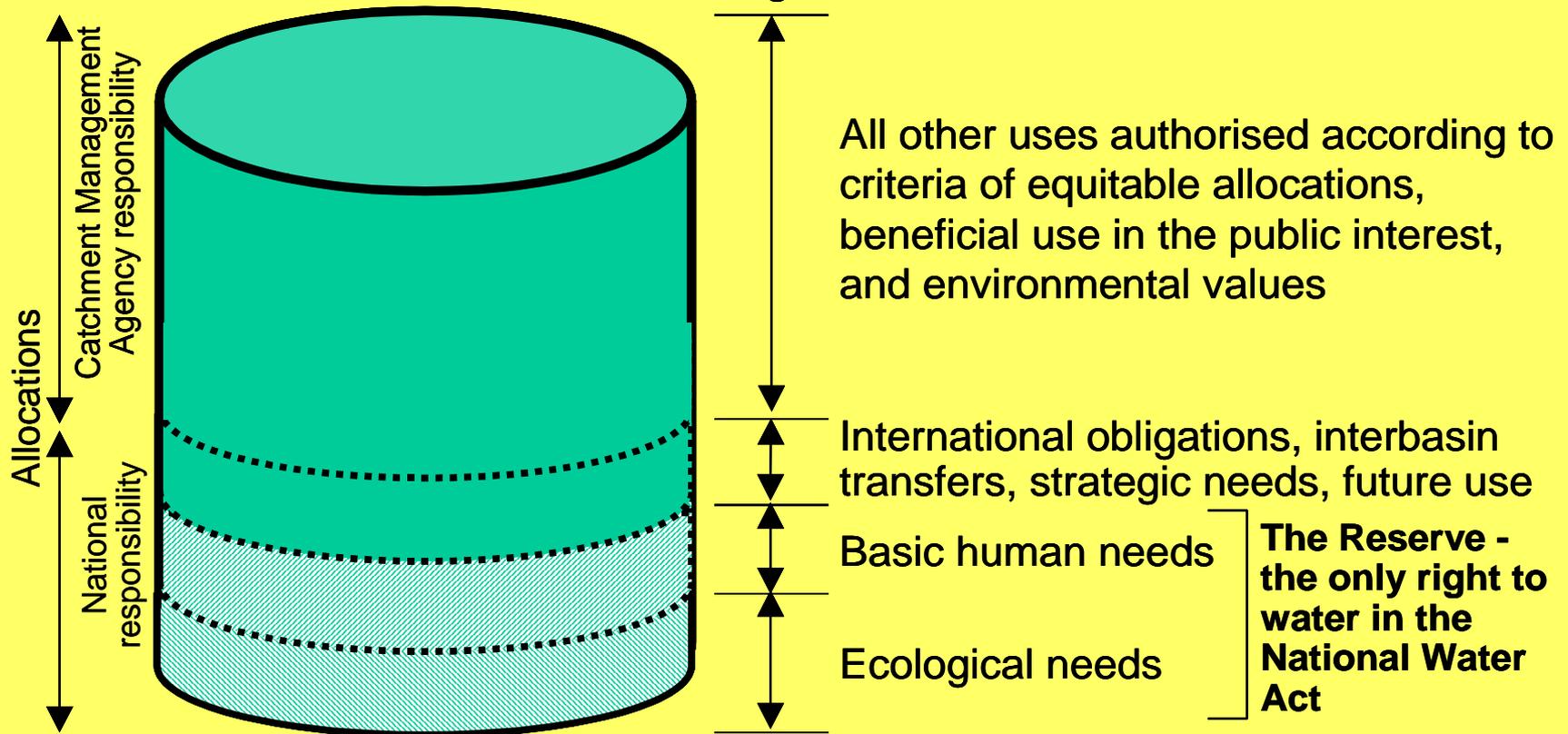
The objectives provide statements about:

- 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.

# Reserve

## Balancing equity with sustainability - the Reserve

If all the water in the country could be put into a bucket, the “Reserve” is the water that must always be left in the bucket for basic human needs and ecological needs.

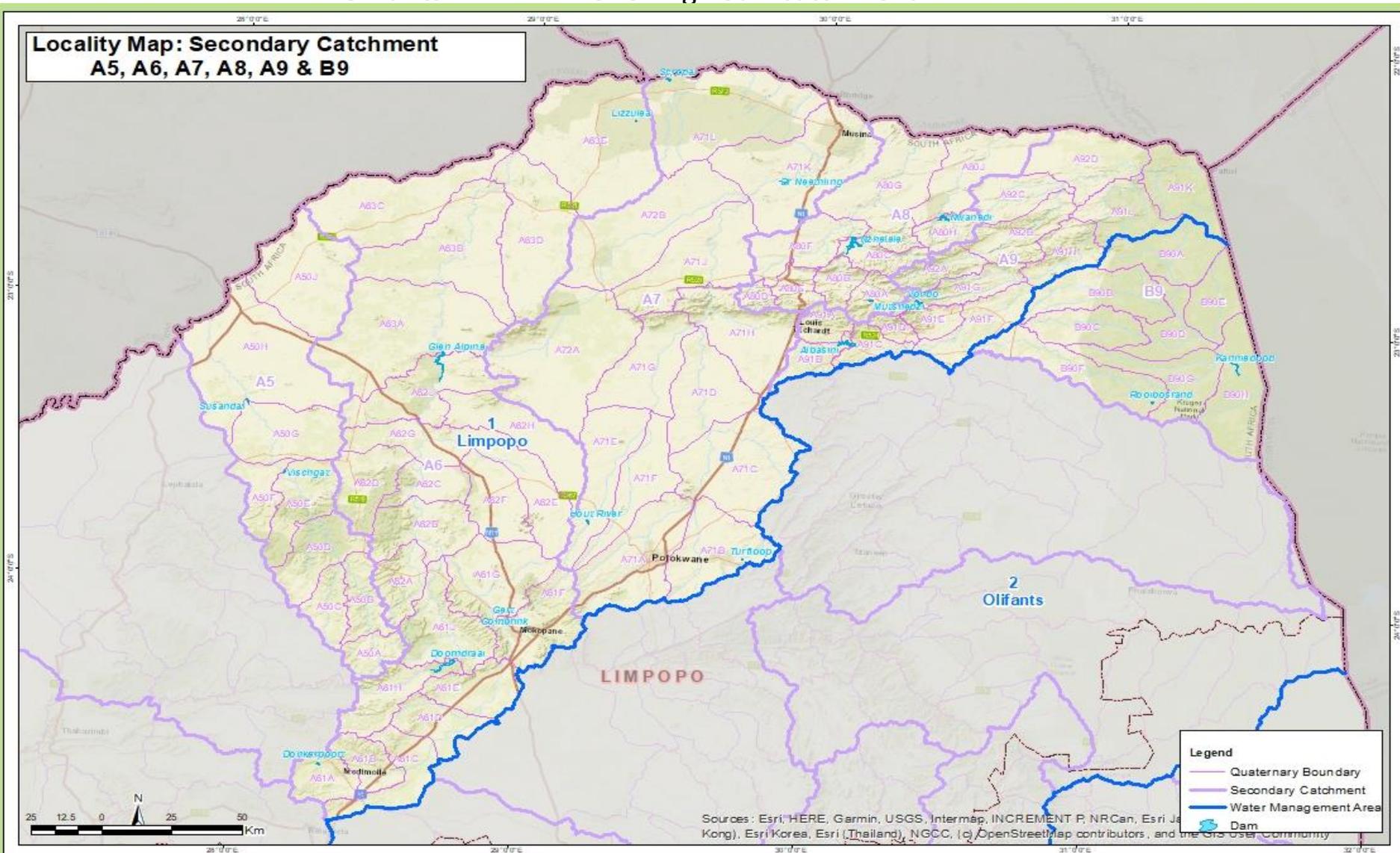


# Study Focus: Determination of Water Resource Classes, Reserve and Resource Quality Objectives

- 48 Months project: from September 2021 to September 2025
- The main aim of the project is to determine:
  - Water Resource Classes;
  - Reserve
  - Resource Quality Objectives
- Water Resource Classes, Reserve and RQOs will be gazetted once approved by the Minister.

# Study Area:

- Limpopo WMA 1 : A5-A9 catchments (Lephalala, Mogalakwena, Sand, Nzhelele & Luvuvhu)
- Olifants WMA 2: B9- Shingwedzi catchment



# Process: Determination of Water Resource Classes, Reserve and Resource Quality Objectives

In accordance with the gazetted steps and guidelines

1	Describe the status quo and delineate the study area into units of analysis (IUAs)	
2	Delineate and prioritise Resource Units (RUs) and select study sites	
3	Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs) & BHN	
4	Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations	
6	Determine RQOs and provide implementation information	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes, RQOs and the Reserve	
		Stakeholder Engagement

## Progress thus far

- 12 IUAs delineated.
- 75 nodes were identified. (19 EWR sites)
- Value and condition of water Resources linked.
- Ecological Water Requirements quantified.
- Ecologically Sustainable Base Configuration Scenario determined.

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement

- To improve the management process of the project.
- To reduce the potential for future conflict.
- To enable the Department and stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise.

# Stakeholder Engagement

Platforms	Stakeholder groups	Purpose
Project Steering Committee	Representatives from various Sectors	To give strategic inputs to the project 05 July 2022 (Status Quo & IUAs Delineation) 14 March 2024 (EWR Results)
Technical Task team Meeting	Representatives from sectors with technical knowledge of study area and water resource management	To source comments and inputs on technical aspects of the project 21 November 2022 (Wetland Prioritisation) 09 June 2023 (Development of Operational Scenarios)
Public Meeting	The broader public	To announce the project & present the final results. 12 May 2022
Forums	Catchment management forums	Information sharing
Sectors	Different sectors e.g. Domestic, Agriculture, mining etc. ( where necessary).	Information sharing

# Upcoming Meetings

Platform	Purpose	Proposed date
RQOs Workshops	RU Prioritisation RU Evaluation Outline of RQOs	February 2025
PSC Meeting 4	Present the draft RQOs	April 2025
Public Meeting	Present the draft Water Resources Classes; RQOs & Reserve	June 2025

# Contact Details

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### ABOUT US

**Purpose:** Water Ecosystems Management develops measures to protect water resources. This entails determining appropriate protection levels and goals described by the Class, Resource Quality Objectives and Reserves of water resources as well as developing water resource protection strategies supported by water quality management plans aimed at priority interventions.

#### Description of functions:

The authority to carry out the following functions is delegated to the Chief Director: Water Ecosystems Management.

- Determination of the class of water resources and resource quality objectives (Section 13 of the NWA),
- Preliminary determination of the class and resource quality objectives (Section 14 of the NWA),
- Determination of the Reserve (Section 16 of the NWA), and Preliminary determinations of the Reserve (Section 17 of NWA).

The service rendered by the Chief Directorate: Water Ecosystems Management can thus be outlined as follow:

- Facilitate and coordinate the classification of water resources and Reserve determination (and updating thereof) for all significant water resources.
- Development of indicators of water ecosystems requirements (both resource quality and quantity) against specified resource quality objectives (RQOs) and the Reserve.
- Prioritization, piloting and co-ordination of resource directed measures (RDM) implementation, i.e. the Reserve, water resources classification and resource quality objectives; and Capacity building and technical support in order to give effect to RDM.



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## WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION

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**Purpose:** The purpose of the Directorate: Water Resources Classification (D:WRC) is to develop policies, strategies, systems, methodologies and guidelines to facilitate the protection of water resources through the progressive classification of significant water resources as well as determine in a phased and progressive manner, the classes of significant water resources in the country.

### Description of functions:

Chapter 3 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA) makes provision for a series of measures to ensure the comprehensive protection of all water resources, which includes the determination of the classes, Reserve and resource quality objectives for all or part of water resources considered to be significant. According to the NWA, once the regulations for a water resource classification system have been published, where appropriate, the class of a water resource, the Reserve and resource quality objectives must be determined and approved by the delegated authority. The above-mentioned regulations were subsequently promulgated in September 2010 thereby giving effect to the establishment of a prescribed water resources classification system.

The services rendered by the D: WRC can thus be outlined as follows:

- Develop policies, strategies, systems, methodologies and guidelines for the classification of water resources
- Developing and incrementally updating a water resources classification system;
- Co-ordinating the determination of the class of all significant water resources.
- Scientific and water resource classification related support for the implementation of strategic imperatives (i.e. Climate Change and NWRS).
- Development and maintenance of strategic relationships within the department and with other organs of state, NGO's and stakeholders.
- Develop and maintain the necessary WRC support required to fulfil this function.
- Financial planning according to PFMA and MTEF.

[Water Resource Classification – Active Projects](#) ★

[Water Resource Classification – Completed Projects](#)



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### 1. General Project Documents

### 2. Project Reports

- [Status quo report](#) [PDF - 3.4 MB]
- [Appendix A - Groundwater Status Quo Trend Analysis](#) [PDF - 3.86 MB]
- [The Linking Value and Condition Report](#) [PDF - 1.82 MB]

### EWR Reports

- [Limpopo WMA EWR Assessment Rivers Report](#) [PDF - 9 MB]
  - [River Assessment \(Vol2\) Data Collection and Analysis April 2024](#) [PDF - 48 MB]
  - [Basic Human Needs Report](#) [PDF - 1.89 MB]
  - [Eco Categorisation Rivers Report](#) [PDF - 3.35 MB]
  - [EcoStatus and Priority Wetlands Report](#) [PDF - 47.3 MB]
  - [Ground Reserve Report](#) [PDF - 3.83 MB]
  - [Wetland EWR Assessment \(Nylsvlei and Makuleke\)](#) [PDF - 12 MB]
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- [ESBC Report](#) [PDF - 3.12 MB]
  - [Scenario Evaluation & Draft Water Resource Classes Report](#) [PDF - 3.12 MB]

### 3. Stakeholder Engagements

- 3.1 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meetings
- 3.2 Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings
  - PSC 1
    - [BID](#) [PDF - 588 KB]
    - [Technical Presentation](#) [PDF - 14.8 MB]
- 3.3 Public Meetings
  - Public meeting 1
    - [Background presentation](#) [PDF - 3.4 MB]
    - [Presentation Public meeting](#) [PDF - 3.86 MB]
- 3.4 Technical Task Group (TTG) Meetings

# THANK YOU!

Estuaries



Rivers



Wetlands



Dams



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DOESN'T  
COME FROM  
A TAP.



Groundwater



Conserve



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