

**Determination of Ecological Water Requirements
for Surface Water (Rivers, Estuaries and
Wetlands) and Groundwater in the Lower Orange
WMA: WP10974**

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**SCENARIO RECOMMENDATIONS: PRELIMINARY
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE CATEGORY**

Delana Louw: Rivers for Africa

REMINDER:

- Purpose of setting the preliminary Reserve is to provide management guidance that is legally binding.
- Focus is **on pre-dam situation** / pre Classification study (and Reserve determination) as is relevant for a Preliminary Reserve.
- **Focus on immediate implementation and management based on Preliminary Reserve.**
- Recommendations therefore based on the A2/3 scenarios (i.e. what is IMMEDIATELY achievable)

PERC RECOMMENDATIONS

EWR Site	PES	REC	PERC	Comment
O3	C	B	B/C	With current constraints, improvement only possible to B/C.
O4	C	B/C	B/C	Although EcoStatus met, all component REC not met.
O5	B/C	B	B	REC fully met
Estuary	D	C	C/D	C/D can only be achieved with non-flow related mitigation. Without a dam, flow to achieve the additional improvement to get to a C not available.

PERC RECOMMENDATIONS

EWR Site	PERC	ASSOCIATED FLOW
O3	B/C	EWRs associated with Sc A2/3
O4	B/C	EWRs associated with Sc A2/3
O5	B	EWRs associated with Sc A2/3
Estuary	C/D	No changes in flow from current

NOTE: THE RECOMMENDATION IS SYSTEM-BASED AND INTEGRATED AS IT IS LINKED TO A SCENARIO THAT IS RELEVANT FOR ALL THE EWR SITES AND THE ESTUARY

PERC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Desktop Biophysical Nodes: Desktop nodes will require mostly non-flow related interventions to achieve the REC at the few nodes where REC is an improvement: Recommendation: REC = PERC.
- Wetlands: Wetlands not addressed through rivers: Desktop level assessment was undertaken: REC = PERC. If future developments will impact on specific high priority wetlands, then further work required.
- Groundwater: Contribution to the Reserve has been determined. Information is available to evaluate whether sufficient groundwater is available for future developments such as fracking.

IMPLEMENTATION

CURRENT OPERATING RULES MUST BE ADJUSTED TO INCORPORATE REAL TIME IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY RESERVE.

Tools which have been tested and used are available for this.



QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION