



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Clanwilliam Dam to unlock economic development in West Coast

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Clanwilliam Dam, a gravity dam, built on the Olifants River remains one of the key water infrastructure projects in government's efforts to unlock economic growth in the Western Cape.

Thus, the ongoing work undertaken by the Department of Water and Sanitation to raise its wall by 13 metres is seen as a catalyst to all things development in the West Coast Region and the province at large, particularly to the farmers.

This iconic dam was originally built in 1935 and it was further raised by 3 metres between 1964 and 1965 to contain 123 million cubic metres of water volumes. The current work to increase the dam wall will see the capacity increasing to 133 million cubic metres and much of the water will be allocated to poor resource farmers.

The Clanwilliam Dam supplies water to the Clanwilliam Water Users Association that supplies water to Clanwilliam and the surrounding areas. The water from the dam is released into Bulshoek Dam for farmers in the Lower Olifants River.

The dam serves towns such as Vredendal, Klawer, Lutzville amongst others and most of the water in the dam is used for agriculture, mining and industry.

The raising of the dam, projected at R3.5 billion is seen as one of the largest government investments in the Western Cape.

**Sekonyela Makgala**

