

# Continuation and Maintenance of Reconciliation Strategies for All Towns in the Northern Planning Region

## Information Document

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water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
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### Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to announce the study for the continuation and maintenance of water reconciliation strategies for towns in the northern region by the Department of Water Affairs.

The document provides background information, explains the rationale for the study and requesting participation from stakeholders to assist DWA to ensure enough water can be made available for all towns for the next thirty years.

As the Department wishes to follow a transparent process and include stakeholders as prescribed by the National Water Act of 1998, an extensive public engagement process will be followed. Part of this process involves establishing a Strategies Steering Committee (SSC) that is representative of sectors important to the study.

The SSC will be a voluntary body operating at a strategic level and ensuring that the technical aspect of the study is transparent, open and consultative and that cooperative governance is embraced.

Your organization is regarded as a key stakeholder in this process. We therefore have the pleasure to invite you to serve as a member of Northern Planning Region's All Town Reconciliation Strategies' Steering Committee and participate in regional activities during the implementation of this study.

### INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has commissioned four three-year studies for the continuation and maintenance of the bulk water supply reconciliation strategies for all towns in the country.

The studies cover the four Water Resource Planning Areas - North, South, East and Central and **this study covers the Northern Planning Area.**

These strategies were developed in 2011 and need to be revised to remain relevant under prevailing conditions. The study is part of an on-going process to ensure sufficient water can be made available for pertinent developmental imperatives in and around all towns.

Although each town's strategy is different, key common themes were highlighted as listed below:

- Improved management will solve a significant portion of immediate problems.
- In the Northern Planning Region, the water requirements in 2010 exceeded water resources availability in 64 towns.
- Lack of water metering impedes the confidence in planning and the strategies.
- High per capita use in many towns points to the potential of saving through Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WC/WDM).
- Groundwater remains a viable source of water for many towns.
- Supply problems relate to infrastructure constraints rather than water resource availability limitations in many towns.

### Study Area

The Northern Region study area is made up of the entire Limpopo Province, the north-west part of the North West Province and the northern parts of the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces respectively. Please see the map for more detailed information.

The area covers eight Districts and one Metropolitan Municipality and 229 separate town strategies were developed.

A number of towns in this region are supplied from Water Boards, which to a large extent, are already incorporated in the larger Reconciliation Strategies for the Vaal River (2009), Crocodile (West) River (2012) and Olifants River (2011) Water Supply Systems respectively.

DWA also commissioned a further study at the end of 2012 for the Development of a Reconciliation Strategy for the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System, to be completed in three years.

Documentation on these strategies is available on the DWA web page: <http://www.dwa.gov.za/projects.aspx>

In brief, this study is a further endeavour to aspire to make the slogan, "some for all", to become a reality.

The intention is to continue the maintenance, review and implementation of the reconciliation strategies even after completion of this study and phase.

## OBJECTIVE FOR THE STUDY

The primary objectives of the study are to review and refine all strategies, identify priority or “hot spot” towns requiring full revisions and document the progress on how the recommended interventions (strategy actions) were implemented.

This will be carried out in collaboration with the respective Regional Offices (ROs) in the Northern Planning Region. The ROs will serve as the conduit through which the study team will engage with the designated Water Service Authorities - either Local or District Municipalities.

A further key objective is to promote the reconciliation strategies as a core planning product giving the actions needed to secure the required water resources.

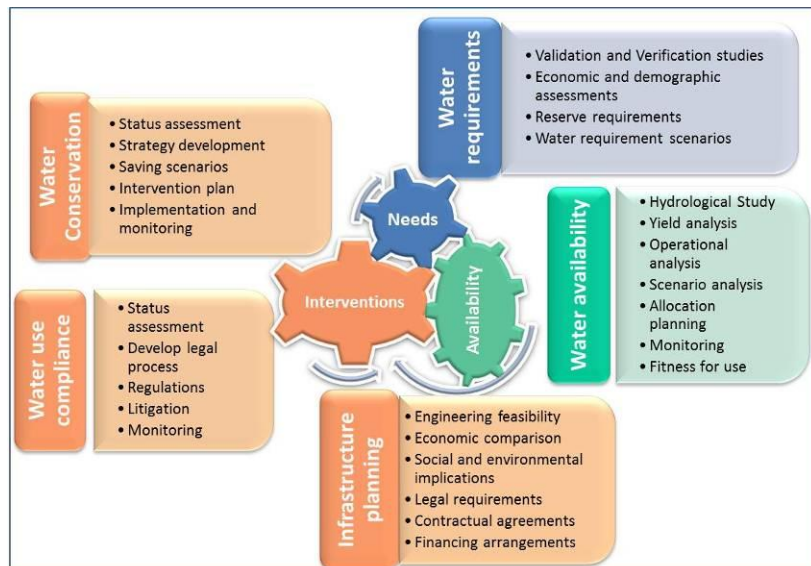
The vision is for the strategies to be considered and incorporated when other plans such as the Water Services Development Plans and Integrated Development Plans are developed.

## RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES: COMPONENTS

Lessons learned from strategies being reviewed and implemented in other parts of the country identified the components shown in **Figure 1**, as the main elements to consider in a reconciliation strategy. At the centre of the diagram the questions regarding how much water is **needed**, what water resources are **available** or could be made available, and which **interventions** can be considered to achieve a balance between demand and supply should be answered.

The coloured boxes indicate how each question is answered by undertaking various investigations and synthesising the results of several processes to formulate the most suitable strategy for an area and plan to reconcile the water resources with the requirements.

The particular tasks and activities relevant to the Northern Region were identified from the generic complements provided in **Figure 1** and are presented in the following section.



**Figure 1: Reconciliation Strategies: Components**

## STUDY METHOD

The study for the Northern Planning Area will be carried out in eight tasks, listed in the diagram below and briefly described in the following sections.



### Inception Phase

The outcomes of Inception Phase are consolidated into an Inception Report which forms the basis for the execution

of the study and will serve as the baseline against which progress of each task can be monitored and evaluated.

Once approved by the client, the Inception Report will become the Revised Terms of Reference for the remaining phases and tasks of the study.

### Preliminary Strategies Steering Committee Workshops

The purpose of this task is to confirm the strategies that were identified as priority strategies as part of *Task 1: Inception Phase*. The Strategies Steering Committee workshops (one per province) will allow input from stakeholders. These strategies will then be updated during the remainder of the study period (subject to the study budget not being exceeded).

The strategies will be reviewed and evaluated on their completeness with the aim to identify the preliminary priority towns. The priority list will be presented at the workshop for discussion, amendment and the final selection will be confirmed.

### Updating priority reconciliation strategies

This phase of the study encompasses the bulk of work required for the execution of this study, including the engagement of stakeholders, information sourcing,

verification of data, modelling, evaluation of scenarios and determining of reconciliation measures. It is envisaged that typical activities involved in the updating of the prioritised reconciliation strategies may include:

- Detailed assessment of the water requirements, demographics, service levels to derive future water requirement projections a planning horizon of at least 25 years (up to 2035).
- The status and impact of WC/WDM interventions within the relevant WSAs will be evaluated and an assessment of potential target savings that can possibly be achieved through WC/WDM will be estimated.
- Opportunities for water re-use will be explored.
- New schemes such as RBIG or other grant schemes will be incorporated in the intervention timeline.
- Potential gaps or inaccuracies in the surface and groundwater availability estimates will be identified and addressed.
- Water quality related planning activities that are necessary to improve and sustain the quality of the water resource in the prioritised areas where this is an issue, will be identified.
- Compare water requirements with the water resources availability to confirm the water balances status over the planning period i.e. whether and when deficits/shortfalls occur.
- Identify development scenarios/options that can meet the long term water requirement projections for areas where shortfalls/deficits occur over the planning period with preference to utilising local resources first (groundwater, re-use etc.).
- The reconciliation strategies for supply areas that depend on the same water resource will be combined (where appropriate) in order to confirm the combined strategy and water balance situation.

The deliverable of this task will be updated reconciliation strategies for the prioritised towns.

### **Second Strategies Steering Committee Workshops**

Once approved by DWA, the strategies will be distributed to stakeholders and the Second Strategies Steering Committee workshops will be arranged for each of the provinces with the following objectives:

- To present the updated/revised strategies, to obtain comments, further guidance and agreement on the acceptability of the results.
- Agree on the preferred development scenarios and on the way forward for the compilation of the reconciliation strategies.

The deliverable of this task will be the Second Provincial Strategies Steering Committee workshops.

### **Complete updating of reconciliation strategies**

The reconciliation strategies will be completed and finalised through the following processes:

- Consider the comments received from the Second Strategies Steering Committee workshops and undertake further studies where possible, that are required to finalise reconciliation strategies.
- Update prioritised strategies with any additional/revised information received.
- Add any significant developments, augmentation options, etc., to any of the strategies. This is to provide descriptive text to indicate where the strategies are superseded.

Based on the above, compile the final reconciliation strategies and submit to DWA for approval.

### **Addressing ad hoc study requests**

During the course of the assignment, the study team may be requested to undertake any other ad hoc studies and/or investigations as may be required in support of the study. The study leader will assess the scope of work, the resources and time that will be required to do the work and make an estimate of the costs involved. On approval by the Client the work will then be undertaken.

### **Study management and administration**

A key success factor for a multi-disciplinary study of this nature is the proper and co-ordinated management of the team. This is to ensure that all aspects of the study are adequately addressed by the appropriate staff and specialist(s) to the correct level of detail without losing focus of the essential holistic approach.

All activities will be monitored continuously to ensure that each one is completed on time and within budget. The management of the study will conform to the latest version of DWA's "Guidelines for Structuring the Management of Studies".

Provision has been made for Study Management Team (SMT) and Support Group (SG) meetings to guide the day-to-day management of the study.

This task ensures efficient and continuous administrative and monitoring activities for the duration of this study.

### **Study termination**

Once approved by DWA, the final priority strategies will be distributed to the stakeholders for signing off by the identified stakeholders.

All study reports and study deliverables will be finalised and submitted during this phase. The final strategies will be incorporated into DWA's database which will then be uploaded onto the DWA's website.

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For more information on the study, visit the Department's website at: <http://www.dwa.gov.za/projects.aspx>



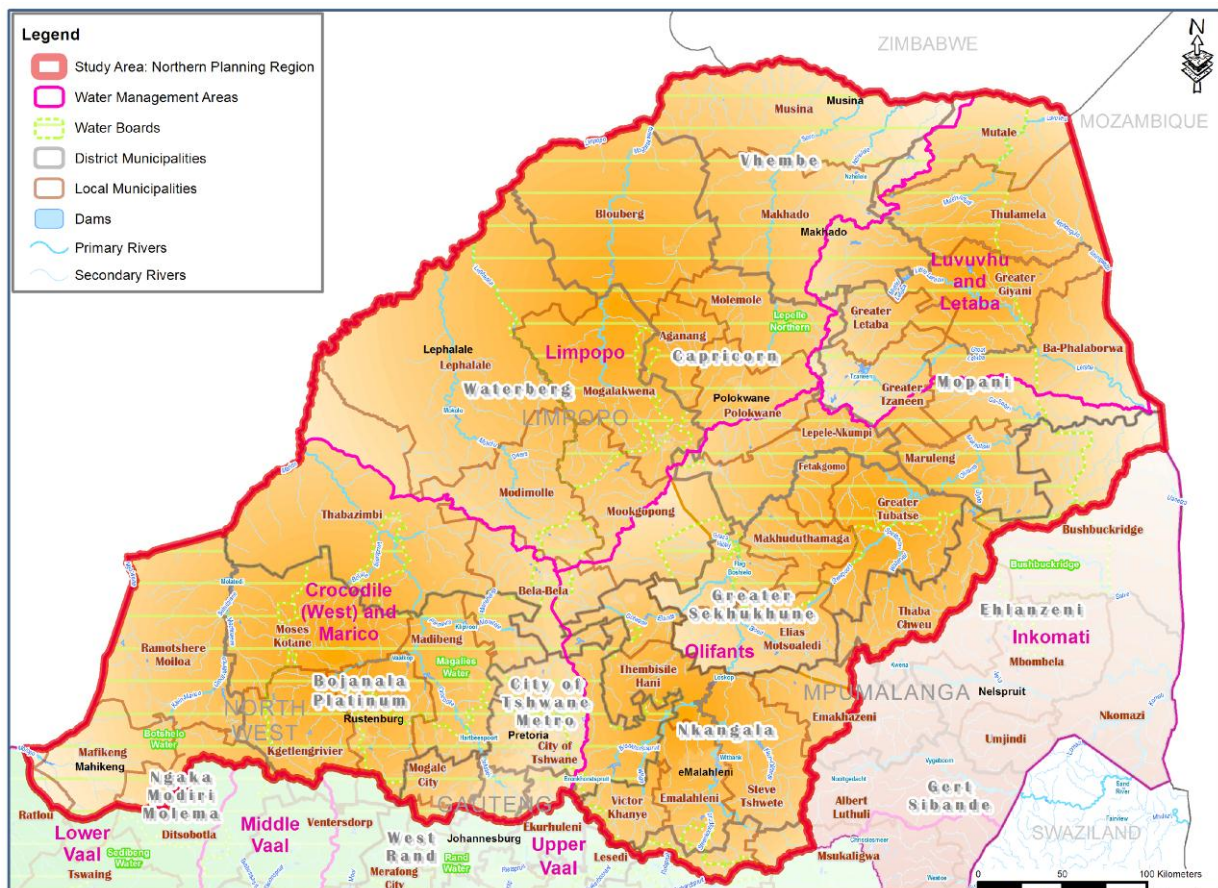
## PRIORITISATION PROCESS

The steps that were followed by the study team to identify the preliminary priority towns are presented below:

- **Step 1:** Identification of Category 4 strategies (towns currently in deficit).
- **Step 2:** Eliminate towns where solutions are in an advance stage of planning or implementation (RBIG projects).
- **Step 3:** Add towns where RBIG or other processes are in an early stage of planning and can still be influenced by strategy recommendations.
- **Step 4:** Add any other hot spot areas identified on a national, provincial or local strategic level.
- The final selection was confirmed at a screening sessions held with DWA: National Water Resources Planning (Northern) and DWA Regional Offices.
- Present, discuss and request confirmation from the Strategies Steering Committee.

The 2013 preliminary assessment identified 51 of the strategies (out of the total of 229 strategies assessed) as priority areas. The breakdown per province is listed in the table below.

Province	Number of priority strategies
Gauteng	0
Limpopo	28
Mpumalanga	6
North West	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>



Continuation of the Northern Planning Region's All Town Reconciliation Strategies: Phase 1