



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Directorate: National Water Resource Planning

# **LUVUVHU AND LETABA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

**Study Steering Committee (SSC) for the development of the Reconciliation Strategy for the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System**

## **Terms of Reference for members of the Study Steering Committee**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) requires consultation with “society at large” in the progressive development of water resource strategies such as the development of the Reconciliation Strategy for the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System.

The institutional framework is one of the most important aspects of water resources management, because it determines the effectiveness of policy implementation. Institutions (statutory and non-statutory) are also important in that they are the focus for the Act's requirements to consult widely with water users and other interested persons before policies and strategies relating to the management and use of water resources are implemented. Although there is no specific provision in the National Water Act for creating non-statutory forums, the experience of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) is that these voluntary bodies have proved to be of great value in the management of the country's water resources. Stakeholder groups have also made significant contributions to water resources management at a local level, by, among other things, providing essential local knowledge, expertise and information. In this respect the DWA expect them to play an important role in the implementation of water resource management strategies.

A Reconciliation Strategy for the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System has to be developed by the DWA to ensure the future availability of water to key municipal and development areas in the catchment.

The primary function of the Study Steering Committee (SSC) will be to provide guidance for the development of the Strategy and to make sure that the various sectors are participating in its development. Various sectors receive water from the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System to maintain their operations. These include agriculture, irrigation, industry, urban and rural communities. These representatives must play a significant role in decisions regarding the management of the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System and need a committee to ensure that their requirements can be met.

It is envisaged that the SSC will be converted into a **Strategy** Steering Committee towards the end of the study. The role will then shift towards maintaining and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy on a continuous basis.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the SSC are to:

- Ensure the development of the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy;
- Ensure that the Strategy and its recommendations are appropriately communicated; and
- Ensure that the Reconciliation Strategy, after its development, is implemented.

## **3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The roles and responsibilities of the SSC could include the following:

- Members have to attend meetings of the SSC and make certain that they are well prepared for meetings. In the event that they cannot attend, a mandated representative may attend in their absence;
- Providing executive support and guidance to the direction and outcomes of the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy;
- Identify practical solutions that will improve the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System;
- Sharing information and data or facilitate the sharing of data where possible;
- Facilitating strategic linkages of the study with other stakeholders;
- Studying of status reports and giving comments on the findings;
- Providing strategic advice to ensure that the national perspectives on water management are maintained;
- Provide feedback to their organisations; and
- Communicating with stakeholders to provide feedback. This will entail the following:
  - ✓ Liaise with Departments involved in producing National and Provincial Strategies and provide input into Provincial Strategies;
  - ✓ Brief relevant municipalities and Water User Associations (WUAs) on imminent decisions;
  - ✓ Inform politicians of process and need for the reconciliation of supply and requirement;
  - ✓ Provide information for relevant institutions' websites.

### **3.1 Scope of work in developing the Reconciliation Strategy**

The area under investigation is the entire Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Management Area (WMA) and parts of the adjacent WMAs. The main objectives of the study is to develop water availability assessment tools (mathematical models) and formulate water resource reconciliation strategies that will ensure sufficient water up to the year 2040 during the 36 months study period, which includes the following main components:

- Review of all available information and options for reconciliations;
- Develop a Water Availability Assessment Model for the quantification of allocable water including updating the hydrological data and accounting for groundwater surface water interaction;
- Configure and apply the Water Resource Planning Model for the water resource system of the study area;
- Assess the historical water requirements and return flows and compile projection scenarios;
- Evaluate both demand management and water resource infrastructure options to formulate scenarios to achieve a positive water balance until the year 2040; and
- Develop a preliminary Reconciliation Strategy within 12 months followed by a final strategy.

Members of the SSC will actively participate in assisting to fulfill the scope of work in order to take ownership of the strategy and take up respective responsibilities for the implementation of specific interventions that will be identified.

#### **4. ARRANGEMENTS**

The SSC of the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System Reconciliation Strategy is a study committee formed to ensure the development of this Strategy. Whilst the committee comprises representatives from national government, provincial government, local government, organised agriculture and civil society the meetings will be facilitated and chaired by the DWA: Integrated Water Resource Planning.

It is envisaged that two meetings will be held each year at approximately six monthly intervals in accordance with the study programme.

A secretariat was appointed to perform the following functions for the SSC:

- Send out invitations to the meetings;
- Organise the venue and catering;
- Assist with drawing up the agenda;
- Keep a database of all members; and
- Compile and timeously distribute the minutes of every meeting.

Workshops with specific stakeholders to discuss specific technical matters may be held from time to time. Feedback on the deliberations of such workshops will be provided at the SSC meetings. The public at large will be invited to proposed stakeholder meetings which will be held at specific milestones in the project. The SSC members will be invited to these stakeholder meetings and feedback will also be provided at the SSC meetings.