

The following matters were raised at various meetings as well as in correspondence from individual members of the forums mentioned above. The issues are grouped under related headings:

1. Public Participation Structures

- 1.1 What is the real purpose of the Agri-forum and the Working Groups?
- 1.2 What reporting lines would there be for the Agri-Forum and how will the Forum be able to engage with DWA?
- 1.3 Request attendance of senior DWA official to the Agricultural Sector meetings.
- 1.4 Request the provision of the flow data from various gauging stations in the Crocodile (West) River to members of the Agri-forum.
- 1.5 Request that technical information must be provided to the Agri-forum and the Working Groups.
- 1.6 Members of the Agri-forum are keen to broaden their knowledge of the water situation in both the Limpopo and Crocodile (West) – Marico Water Management Areas. Access to the relevant reports will assist them in this regard.

2. Planning Process and Water Requirements

- 2.1. Avoid conveying information on a “piece-meal” basis.
- 2.2. Finalise the actual water requirements for the new developments as soon as possible.
- 2.3. Closer cooperation between the various role players (developers) should be established.

3. Water Resources

- 3.1 Proof must be provided that sufficient water is indeed available to serve the new requirements.
- 3.2 Additional dams must be built as the only solution to provide sufficient water to the new users.
- 3.3 Propose the raising of Klipvoor Dam and Mokolo Dam
- 3.4 What will happen to the increased effluent to be produced at and between Lephalale and Steenbokpan?

- 3.5** How would the Water Users be affected downstream of Vlieëpoort?
- 3.6** What is the norm for the assurance of supply to the Agricultural Sector and how will the new demands impact on it.

4. System Operation and Management

- 4.1** How will the Water Resource Management be conducted in future?
- 4.2** Will the Crocodile be managed as an integrated System?
- 4.3** What will the nature of the Institution to conduct the Operation & Maintenance of the entire scheme be?

5. Project Implementation

- 5.1** What will happen if the implementation of the transfer pipeline is delayed?

6. Socio-Economic

- 6.1** That the socio-economic impacts of the project must be investigated. (Specifically on the Mokolo but also on Crocodile irrigation)

7. Administrative

- 7.1** Members of the Agri-forum and Working Groups request compensation for travelling expenses to attend the various meetings.
- 7.2** Will it be possible to have independent verification of reports?
- 7.3** A separate fund should be established by DWA to make provision for financing travelling allowances of forum representatives and also for appointing external, independent specialists.

8. Other studies and processes

- 8.1** When will the Validation and Verification process be completed?
- 8.2** Drilling of boreholes took place in the Lephale Area. Who is undertaking this and for what purpose? The farmers requested that the water quality data from these holes must be made available to them.

RESPONSES AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE MATTERS

1 Public Participation Structures

1.1 Purpose and functions of working groups and forums:

Refer to paragraph 5 of the report.

The objective of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) is to advise the DWA representative regarding the execution of the MCWAP study and to provide for the coordination required with other spheres of government (national, provincial and local) and key stakeholders. The Agricultural Sector, as a very important stakeholder, has representation on this Committee. See the attached diagram indicating the Governance Structure of the MCWA(P) Project. Also note the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the structures.

The Agricultural Sector is very diverse in terms of its interest groups and therefore different structures exist to serve the needs of its members. For the sake of this project, it is important to provide a forum where the sector can discuss the issues with the project team and to obtain a consensus view of the Sector on matters which are common to all. The representatives of the sector can then reflect the views of this Sector at the PSC. The Agri-forum was established with this in mind.

Working Groups are convened to attend to specific matters on an ongoing basis or over a fixed period of time. Working Groups will comprise of directly affected parties, (which could also be members of the PSC and/or Agri-forum) members of the Project Team or other relevant people. The Working Groups will be driven by DWA or its representative(s) and tasked by DWA to deliberate with the affected parties on specific matters and to report back to DWA, the Agri-Forum and the PSC.

The DWA has the obligation to advise the Minister on the Project issues and in this regard interaction takes place with the different stake holders and in working groups.

1.2 Attendance at Forum Meetings: DWA will attempt as far as possible to have own representation or alternately to have senior Project Team members at the Forum meetings. This will depend on the nature of the matters on the agenda. The Forum could also submit written submissions to the senior management of DWA or raise their concerns at the PSC meeting. An invitation has also been directed to the Forum to meet the senior management of DWA to discuss their concerns with DWA management.

1.3 Sharing of Information: It has been pointed out that the sharing of raw data in the form of flow records will not provide the required answers. In spite of the above explanation, flow records were sent to two members of the Agri-forum and it is available to anyone else on request. A number of reports are freely available free of charge from the Departmental web-site.

Access to the site can be obtained as follows:

- i. Launch Internet Explorer Browser
- ii. Open www.dwaf.gov.za to obtain access to DWA Home Page
- iii. In the left hand column, open *Documents*
- iv. Open the *Search* menu and choose *Integrated Water Resource Planning –WMA Documents*
- v. Any of the following documents can be downloaded:
 - WMA01: Limpopo Water Management Area
Overview of Water Resources and Utilization (Report number: P WMA 01/000/00/0203), September 2003
 - WMA01: Limpopo Water Management Area
Water Resources Situation Assessment (Report number: P WMA 01/000/00/0101), July 2003
 - WMA01: Limpopo Water Management Area
Limpopo Water Management Area: Internal Strategic Perspective, November 2004
 - WMA01: Limpopo Water Management Area
The Mokolo River Catchment: Study Report: Validation of the Existing Lawful Water Use (PWMA 01/A42/00/02007), January 2007
 - WMA03: Crocodile (West) and Marico Water Man. Area
Overview of Water Resources and Utilization (Report number: P WMA 03/000/00/0203), September 2003
 - WMA03: Crocodile (West) and Marico Water Man. Area
Water Resources Situation Assessment (Report number: P WMA 03/000/00/0101), April 2002
 - WMA03: Crocodile (West) and Marico Water Man. Area
Marico: Internal Strategic Perspective (Report number: P WMA 03/000/00/0404), February 2004
 - WMA03: Crocodile (West) and Marico Water Man. Area
Crocodile (West): Internal Strategic Perspective (Report number: P WMA 03/000/00/0303), February 2004
 - Crocodile (West) River Reconciliation Strategy
 - Large Bulk Water Supply Reconciliation Strategy for the Vaal River System
Will be available Soon

The National Water Act, the first edition of the National Water Resource Strategy etc can also be downloaded from the DWA Home Page.

The need for better exchange of information of the EIA processes of the different developments is however appreciated. As an additional service the MCWAP EIA team will endeavour to also share information, of other EIA processes known to them, at public

meetings of this DWA Project. This will of course happen on the basis that public information is shared without prejudice.

2 Planning Process and Water Requirements

Refer to paragraph 6 of the Main Report

3 Water Resources

3.1 Different sources of water

Refer to paragraph 7 of the Main Report

3.2 Creation of Additional Storage through the Construction of New or Raising of existing Dams.

Refer to paragraph 7.6 of the Main Report

3.3 Flows Downstream of Vlieëpoort. See paragraph 8.4 of the Main Report. Regarding the continued utilisation of the flows in the Makoppa area for irrigation and environmental requirements the following design philosophy applies. The irrigation in this reach of the river is not entitled to water from storage in the dams upstream and takes place from surplus water (natural flows) in the Crocodile River (West). The tributaries contributing to the flow in the Crocodile downstream of “Hugo” Weir will be passed through and/or be released at the Vlieëpoort structure. The structure will be designed to create the minimum storage required to enable the abstraction of the water to be transferred, which will be released from the dams upstream. The new water demands will be provided from the additional effluent, and not from natural flows from the intermediate catchment. A network of existing and possible new gauging stations will also be utilised to manage and monitor the flows.

4 System Operation and Management

4.1 System Operation: Refer to paragraph 4.1 et al and 8.2 of the Main Report

Components in the Crocodile River (West) catchment are operated as different components. The water supply from Roodekopjes and Klipvoor Dams are operated separately from Hartbeespoort Dam, as per the relevant White Papers. The future operating rules and procedures will need to be determined and optimised. In drought conditions the DWA as the custodian of the water resources will determine whether water restrictions must be imposed and the extent thereof on the various sectors. This is normally done in collaboration with the stakeholders. The enforcement can either be done by the Department, the Catchment Management Agency or by an agent appointed by the Department, or a combination of both. In this regard, the Irrigation Boards as a statutory body can act as an agent but also have specific obligations and responsibilities that they need to fulfil. The institutional arrangements and the details of the River Management of

the River reach between Roodekopjes Dam and Vlieëpoort still need to be determined. It is however foreseen that the Crocodile River (West) Irrigation Board will need to perform an important function and have a leading role in terms of their mandate from the DWA in the optimal management of the scarce water resource in National Interest in their area of jurisdiction.

4.2 River Management System and Operating Rules

Refer to paragraph 8.2 to 8.4 of the Main Report

As part of the new development the current system of river management and abstraction control will need to be upgraded. The river management and operating rules that are already applied in other catchments such as the Vaal system and the Crocodile River (East) and Komati River system will need to be evaluated and components of it applied to a system for the Crocodile River. This will also be to the benefit of the existing users. The operating rules and river management system will need to be developed with the active participation and leadership of the Irrigation Board and Agri-Forum.

4.3 Assurance of supply:

Refer to paragraph 8.2 of the Main Report

5 Project Implementation

5.1 The impact of delayed Implementation: In the case that the implementation of the project is delayed it may mean that special measures will need to be implemented. This may impact on the period that water will have to be obtained from the Mokolo farmers. As presented to the Mokolo Working Group the level in Mokolo Dam on 01 April of each year will determine whether water will have to be leased for that year and possibly for subsequent years. The conservative and responsible approach was already taken whereby the new developments on the Waterberg coal field have been delayed in consultation with the developers to fit realistic and feasible delivery dates.

6 Socio-Economic

6.1 Refer to paragraph 9.1 of the Main Report

The socio-economic impact will be considered as part of the tasks to be undertaken by the Regional Economic Module that will be incorporated with the specialist studies of the EIA.

7 Administrative

7.1 Compensation for Participation in EIA processes etc.: It is not normal practise for DWA to compensate affected parties that are financially self-sufficient to attend meetings of feasibility studies of this nature. There is no specific approved policy available. Other developers confirmed that they follow the same approach.

A formal response from DWA at the Agri-Forum meeting indicated that commercial farmers will not be compensated. It was recommended that if they want to pursue the matter further, the Agricultural Sector should launch a motivated request through their existing organised Agricultural structures. Alternatively, the individuals could approach the relevant interest group they represent to provide compensation through these structures. Whilst it is not possible to compensate stakeholders it will be endeavoured to be cost effective by having meetings in the project area only when substantive issues are to be discussed.

7.2 Review of Reports: Since this issue was raised the first time DWA critically evaluated the review of the reports. In terms of the Professional Engineers code of conduct the task and function of the Professional Engineers are to provide independent professional advice to DWA. DWA also made provision in the Terms of Reference of the Professional Service Providers to have independent verification of reports to be performed. This is in the form of a team of specialists whose task it is to critically evaluate the report before it is submitted. It also comes in the form of a peer review system. The reports are also reviewed and commented on by specialists in the project Coordination team and within the Department. The review mechanisms are considered to be adequate and satisfactory.

Only in exceptional cases where substantive reasons exist and where consensus cannot be reached, may DWA consider the appointment of further reviewers. Alternatively the sector can negotiate with DWA to have the reports reviewed by the sectors own reviewers, appointed and compensated by themselves.

7.3 Creation of Separate Fund: The consultation with the Agricultural Sector forms part of the Public Participation and Environmental studies and these are all components of the Feasibility Study for the MCWAP. This study is financed from public funds. The management of public (government) funding is governed by legislation such as the Public Finance Management Act as well as strict Treasury Regulations. These regulatory frameworks, do not allow the establishment of a separate external fund.

8 Other Studies and Processes

8.1 Validation and Verification: As the custodian of the country's water resources, the DWA is in the process to perform the Validation and Verification functions in the Mokolo as well as the Crocodile River Catchments. The sudden increase in the water demands created by the new developments, did in fact raise the priority for abstraction monitoring and control for these two catchments significantly. This is an aspect where the intimate involvement and co-operation by the different water sectors, DWA and the irrigation board is of crucial importance to ensure the successful management of the water resources.

8.2 Drilling:

Refer to paragraph 7.1 of the Main Report.