



DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS  
Directorate: National Water Resources Planning

## **OLIFANTS RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM:**

### **Strategy Steering Committee (SSC) for the Implementation of the Reconciliation Strategy**

#### **Terms of Reference for the SSC**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

A Reconciliation Strategy for the Olifants River Water Supply System was finalised in 2011 by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) to ensure the future availability of water to key water users in the Catchment. The strategy now needs to be implemented and maintained. One of the recommendations of the Reconciliation Strategy was that a Strategy Steering Committee (SSC) be formed with a clearly defined mandate and scope of work to roll-out the strategy's recommendations.

The primary function of the Strategy Steering Committee will be to ensure the implementation of the Strategy and to make recommendations on an annual basis, on long-term planning activities required to ensure on-going reconciliation of water requirement from and available supply to the Olifants River Water Supply area.

Various sectors receive water from the Olifants Water Supply System to maintain their operations. These include agriculture and irrigation, mines, industry and urban (power generation is primarily supplied from the Vaal River System). Representatives of these sectors have been involved with the development of the Reconciliation Strategy and have to remain involved in the implementation and maintenance. These representatives are important role-players in decisions regarding the operation of the Olifants River Water Supply System and need a forum to ensure that their requirements can be met. Members of the Strategy Steering Committee must ensure that recommendations made in the Strategy

documents are implemented and assume a collective responsibility for the on-going reconciliation of supply and requirement.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Strategy Steering Committee are to:

- Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Olifants River Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy.
- Update the Strategy to ensure that it remains relevant.
- Ensure that the Strategy and its recommendations are appropriately communicated.

### 2.1 Implementation of Strategy Recommendations

Some of the required implementations actions by the SSC will be:

- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reconciliation Strategy.
- Monitor and address the progress and compliance with set targets and objectives, e.g.
  - Water use compliance enforcement to eradicate unlawful water use
  - Implementation and effectiveness of Water Conservation and Water Demand Management
  - Utilization of treated effluent and other discharges, especially those from the mines
  - Implementation of infrastructure augmentation options
  - Implementation of other interventions
  - Target dates for initiating and completing studies
- Assess the implications of deviations.
- Make recommendations on mitigation measures and adjustments to ensure the on-going reconciliation of supply and requirements.

### 2.2 Updating of the Strategy

Typical strategy updating actions by the SSC will be:

- Review and revise the Olifants River Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy as required.
- Monitor and update water requirements on an annual basis.
- Reassess the available resources and the existing system yield.
- Undertake an annual reconciliation of supply and requirements.
- Update the Scenario Planning Process to cater for changes in water requirements, yield and potential delays in the implementation of selected interventions.
- Finalize the process for the Selection of Interventions for implementation.
- Make recommendations to the Department of Water Affairs and the relevant Water Services Authorities (WSAs) for further studies required to update the water requirement and system yield, as well as on the need to implement interventions.

### 2.3 Communication

Some of the required strategy communication actions by the SSC will be:

- Communicate annually, as and when required, the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Olifants River Water Supply Reconciliation Strategy Study to the following authorities and stakeholders:
  - DWA
  - Other National Departments
  - Gauteng Provincial Government
  - Limpopo Provincial Government
  - Mpumalanga Provincial Government
  - District and Local Municipalities
  - Rand Water
  - Magalies Water
  - Lepelle Water
  - SALGA
  - Mining and Industries
  - Organised Agriculture
  - Eskom
  - The general public
  - Environmental NGO's
- 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 press releases relating to the reconciliation of supply and requirement.
- Receive input from the Annual Operations Forum as required.
- Provide information for the DWEA, WSAs and other relevant institutions' websites.

### **3 REPORTING**

The Olifants River Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy Steering Committee is a steering committee formed to ensure the on-going reconciliation of water supply and requirement. Whilst the committee comprises of representatives from national government, provincial government, local government, the CMAs and WUAs, the meetings will be facilitated and chaired by DWA: Integrated Water Resource Planning.

### **4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP**

An Administrative and Technical Support Group will be appointed to support the Strategy Steering Committee. The Support Group will provide administrative, scientific and technical support. This support will be facilitated through DWA: National Water Resource Planning.

### **5 REPRESENTATION**

The institution / agencies to be represented on the Strategy Steering Committee are listed in the table to be distributed at the SCC Meeting. This list will be updated on an on-going basis.

### **6 STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It is envisaged that two meetings will be held, at six monthly intervals, each year. Meetings are proposed for March and October each year.