

**VAAL RIVER SYSTEM
INTEGRATED STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Terms of Reference

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND TASK DESCRIPTION (TERMS OF REFERENCE)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy was recently developed to ensure that the water resources in the Vaal River System (VRS) will be adequate to meet water requirements well into the future. The strategy now needs to be implemented. One of the recommendations of the Strategy Study was that a Strategy Steering Committee (SSC) be formed with a clearly defined mandate and scope of work.

The primary function of the SSC 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 ongoing reconciliation of water requirement from and available supply to the Vaal River System area.

A number of organisations receive water from the Integrated Vaal River System. The main role players to date being the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), Eskom, Sasol, Rand Water, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc. These organizations must play a significant role in decisions regarding the operation of the VRS and need a forum to ensure that their requirements can be met. Organizations represented on the Steering Committee must ensure that recommendations made in the Strategy documents are implemented and assume a collective responsibility for ensuring the ongoing reconciliation of supply and requirement.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Strategy Steering Committee are:

- Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the VRS Reconciliation Strategy.
- To 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*

- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the VRS 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 ongoing reconciliation of supply and requirements.
- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy. Integration across all the Water Management Areas within the VRS and integration of all studies are vital for the success of this Strategy.

2.2 *Updating of the Strategy*

- Review and revise the Vaal River 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 DWA 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*

- Communicate annually, as and when required, the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy Study to the following Authorities and Stakeholders:
 - DWA
 - Eskom
 - Sasol
 - Rand Water
 - Sedibeng Water
 - Midvaal Water
 - SALGA

- Gauteng Provincial Government
- Northern Cape Provincial Government
- Free State Provincial Government
- North West Provincial Government
- Organised Agriculture
- 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 DWA, WSAs and other relevant institutions' websites.

3. ARRANGEMENTS

The Vaal River System Strategy Steering Committee was formed to ensure ongoing water quality management and the reconciliation of water supply and requirement. Whilst the committee comprises 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 below.

6. STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It is envisaged that two meetings will be held, at six monthly intervals, each year:

- Meeting 1 (August)
 - Ø To consider / review progress with implementation
 - Ø To consider implications from the Annual Operations System Analysis
 - Ø To update the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy
 - Ø To identify further investigative work to be done
 - Ø To deal with communication (media release)
- Meeting 2 (February)
 - Ø To consider / review progress with implementation

- Ø To consider findings of investigations identified earlier
- Ø To deal with communications (media release and newsletter)