



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



## **DETERMINATION OF WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES IN THE THUKELA CATCHMENT: BACKGROUND**

### **PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 02**

Presented by:  
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Department: Water & Sanitation

Date: 26 November 2020

# PURPOSE

- To provide background to the study
- To provide progress to date on the study in the Thukela Catchment

# BACKGROUND

- Two year study; from August 2019 to February 2022
- Output:
  - **Water Resource Classes:** describe what state the water resources need to be in to satisfy beneficial use.

	Description of use	Majority of ecological categories
<b>Class I</b>	<b>Minimally used</b>	<b>A-B</b>
<b>Class II</b>	<b>Moderately used</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Class III</b>	<b>Heavily used</b>	<b>D</b>

- **Resource Quality Objectives:** conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource. Give effect to the implementation of the classes. RQOs provide statements about:
  - what the quantity of the water should be (water level, pattern, timing)
  - what the water quality should be (physical, chemical and biological)
  - what the condition of the instream and riparian habitat should be
  - what the condition of the biota should be.

## STUDY PROCESS & PROGRESS

In accordance with the Classification and RQOs guidelines

1	Describe the status quo and delineate the study area into units of analysis (IUAs)	Completed	Stakeholder Engagement (In progress)
2	Delineate and prioritise Resource Units (RUs)	In progress: RU report to be circulated for review	
3	Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs)	In progress: EWR report circulated for review 21/10/2020	
4	Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process	In progress	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations	Not yet started	
6	Determine RQOs and provide implementation information	Not yet started	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs	Not yet started	

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Public Meetings (26/02/2020 at Newcastle & 27/02/2020 at Estcourt)

*Purpose:* - To introduce the study

- Invite nominations from stakeholders to serve as PSC representatives

- PSC Meeting 1 (16/07/2020)

*Purpose:* Present and discuss Status Quo Assessment and Draft IUAs

- PSC Meeting 2 (22/09/2020)

*Purpose:* To present the methods for linking of the value and condition of the water resources and obtain input

- PSC Meeting 3 (26/11/2020: *this meeting*)

*Purpose:* To present the EWRs, RU prioritisation and sub-components prioritisation and indicators selection

# THANK YOU

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<http://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx>