



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 4

Presented by:
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Department: Water & Sanitation

Date: 03 March 2021

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
Class I	Minimally used	A-B
Class II	Moderately used	C
Class III	Heavily used	D

- **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)	Completed	
3	Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs)	Completed	
4	Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process	In progress: -Focus for today’s meeting -report circulated for review –comments due by 04/03/2021	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations		
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: - Study introduction & PSC membership nominations
- 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
- PSC Meeting 3 (26/11/2020)
Purpose: To present the EWRs, RU prioritisation and sub-components prioritisation and indicators selection
- One-on-one (30 November 2020)
Purpose: Clarify some issues regarding the Thukela Estuary
- TTG Meeting (20 January 2021)
Purpose: Update to the geomorphic condition of the Thukela Estuary
- PSC Meeting 4 (03/03/2021: *this meeting*)
Purpose: To present the identified scenarios & proposed classes

THANK YOU

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