



**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 5**

Presented by:  
Mohlapa Sekoele  
Department: Water & Sanitation

Date: 28 April 2021

# PURPOSE

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

# BACKGROUND

- The study started in August 2019 and will be completed in February 2022
- The aim of the study:
  - Classify Water Resource Classes of the Thukela Catchment
  - Determine Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)
- Water Resource Classes and RQOs will be gazetted once approved by the Minister.

## WATER RESOURCE CLASSES

	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>

**Ecological Category (EC)** - means the assigned ecological condition to a water resource . It is measured by determining how much the ecosystem has changed from natural (pre-development condition).

# RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES

RQOs are numeric or descriptive statements of conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource;

The objectives 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 (river bank) **habitat** should be
- what the condition of the aquatic (water) **animal and plant** life 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	Completed	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations	Completed	
6	Determine RQOs	In progress: -Focus for today's meeting -report circulated for review –comments due by 25/05/2021	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs	Not yet started	

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	26 Feb 2020	Study introduction & PSC membership nominations	Newcastle
2	27 Feb 2020		Estcourt
3	25 Aug 2021	Present Classes and RQOs template	Estcourt
4	26 Aug 2021		Newcastle

## PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETINGS

1	16 Jul 2020	Status Quo Assessment and Draft IUAs	On-line
2	22 Sept 2020	Status Quo Assessment and Draft IUAs	
3	26 Nov 2020	EWRs, RU prioritisation and sub-components prioritisation and indicators selection	
4	03 Mar 2021	Identified scenarios & proposed classes	
5	28 Apr 2021	Draft RQOs and numerical limits	
6	21 Jul 2021	Gazette Template	

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT *cont.*

TECHNICAL TASK GROUP (TTG) MEETINGS			
	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	20 Jan 2021	Provide update to the geomorphic condition of the Thukela Estuary Outcomes of the scenario runs	On-line
2	26 Apr 2021	To discuss and clarify the scope for the determination of classes and RQOs for Thukela Estuary Propose a way forward for management of the estuary	
ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS			
1	16 Jul 2020	Clarify some issues regarding the EWRs for Thukela Estuary	On-line



# THANK YOU

## Contacts:

	Email address	Telephone	Mobile
Project Manager: Ms Mohlapa Sekoele	sekoelem@dws.gov.za	012 336 8329	082 809 5418
Scientist Manager: Mr Mkhevu Mnisi	mnisim2@dws.gov.za	012 336 6887	082 908 3291
Director: Ms Lebogang Matlala	matlalal@dws.gov.za	012 336 6707	082 884 5399

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