



**water & sanitation**

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



**27-28 March 2025**

**| Gallagher Convention  
Centre**

# **WATER & SANITATION INDABA**

**THEME:**

***WATER SECURITY AND PROVISION***

Status of water resources and interventions to match water supply to water availability

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**March 2025**



## Feedback from Group 1 work

### 1. Discussion on presentations

- a) In Group 1 there was consensus in terms of the presentation by DWS identifying the key actions required to ensure raw water security
- b) What other actions should be taken? This is unpacked in the presentation( 5-Pillar action plan)
- c) What are the reasons for a lack of progress in implementation of the required actions? This is unpacked in the presentation( 5-Pillar action plan)

## Feedback from Group 1 work

### **(d) What needs to be done differently to make more progress with the implementation of the required actions**

- Create incentives for the agriculture sector to use less water (efficient/precision irrigation systems)- incentives and expansion.
- Use-it-or-lose it principle needs to find expression in law.
- Discourage the use of water tankering.
- Off-grid water sources reduce municipal revenue. Need a clear policy direction.
- CMAs to develop Catchment Management Strategy to deal with erosion and silting of dams, which reduce dam capacity.
- Develop a groundwater protection strategy to deal with pollution from pit latrine toilets.
- Partnership-the government must not give away leverage/power
- Behavioural change in handling water – water use efficiency is a responsibility for all.
- Reprioritize budget earmarked for building new dams and fix leakages. It is cheaper to implement WCWDM than to build new dams

## **(d) What needs to be done differently to make more progress with the implementation of the required actions Cont...**

- There is a need for proper planning that does not respond to crisis situations – planning is done but other factors (political landscape) kick in.
- Fast track the implementation of the Waste Discharge Charge System (mitigation charge to be used to treat polluted water)
- Ensure that proposed dams provide adequate env flow requirements, also factoring in the impact of Climate Change. This will protect the rivers from degrading.
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus – water treatment facilities from the private sector (mines) can be used as part of the water resource. Decommissioned power station treatment facilities should be explored
- Add SDG 12: Responsible consumption to reduce the above-average per capita consumption. This may also be applicable to all sectors, incl irrigation.
- Implement projects for spring protection.



## **(d) What needs to be done differently to make more progress with the implementation of the required actions Cont...**

- Acid Mine Drainage treatment – this can be used to treat water to an acceptable standard and the removed metals/salts can be used for circular economy.
- Need to track trends in terms of the projected water deficit by 2030.
- Grant funding needs to consider the capacity of the WSAs to implement.

## Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>An Implementation and Delivery Model</b>	• Building the family of institutions (people and systems) and guiding their interaction will be critical to water security success(WUAs, CMAs, NWRIA/TCTA, DWS (National custodian); water boards, municipalities), private sector, civil society	DWS	Ongoing April 2026
	• Independent regulator must support WRM as new WSPs emerge	DWS	April 2026
	• Develop non-revenue water program in each municipality	WSAs	April 2025
	• Fast track the implementation of the Waste Discharge Charge System (mitigation charge to be used to treat polluted water)	DWS	April 2025
	• Policy on borehole drilling ( domestic use)	DWS	March 2026
	• Implement the recycle and re-use initiatives	DWS, WSAs, Water Boards	March 2026
	• Sect 37 declaration of state of emergency for dealing with non-revenue water	COGTA	April 2025
	• Strengthen enforcement role of CMAs and oversight by DWS	DWS, CMAs	April 2026

## Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Financial Viability of the Water and Sanitation Sector</b>	• Promote investment in the water sector. There is a need to build private sector confidence	NWRIA/WPO	June 2025
	• Need to repurpose limited budget	DWS/NT	July 2025
	• Policy on off-grid use of water resources	WSAs/DWS	June 2026
	• Appointment of contractors/SLAs – O&M (short-term contract for long-term infrastructure)	WSA	June 2026
	• Finance Model: fit for purpose/must recognize constraint of increasing unit costs	DWS, Private Sector, NT	June 2025
	• Good GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY will facilitate flow of finance	NT	June 2025
		All	April 2025

## Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Technical and Operational Capacity</b>	• Technical capacity requirements for effective O&M must be developed at all levels, for economic and reliable assets leading to affordable tariffs	DWS	April 2025
	• For Water Resources DWS to play an effective overarching monitoring, planning and regulatory functions	DWS	April 2025
	• Need policy, research and innovation capabilities (with WRC & academia)	WRC, CSIR, Academia	Ongoing
	• Implement new resource development projects when planned, not in crisis mode!	DWS	Ongoing
	• Develop implementation processes for 'new' local sources (e.g. reuse and desalination)	DWS	Dec '25
	• Develop a process for trial and uptake of new tech by end-user departments	DWS/WSAs	April 2026
	• Incentives/rural allowance for scarce skills	DWS	June 2025
	• Grant funding needs to consider the capacity of the WSAs to implement	DWS	April 2025
	• MFMA review	NT	July 2026
	• PPP model needs to be clarified. NT needs to simplify the guidelines on PPP, e.g. ownership		June 2025



## Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Partnerships</b>	• Effective partnerships between users and providers (Water users already partnering in WUAs, CMAs, Water Boards & municipalities, and mines). This must expand to include community / civil society organizations / private sector	DWS	June 2025
	• Partner with the irrigation sector to refurbish dilapidated irrigation systems – farmers are willing to invest	DWS/DAR LD	April 2026 Sept 2025 April 2025
	• Anti-pollution Forums –national rollout	DWS	
	• Empower CMAs to deal/partner with WSAs to deal with WWTW failures	DWS DWS	Dec 2025
	• Water Community Forums need capacitation – develop a model to support	DWS government	Dec 2025 July 2025
	• Youth trained in war-on-leaks not involved in dealing with water leaks-develop a program	WSAs	
	• Need to look beyond the borders for funding- consider international funding	TCTA	

## Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Fighting Crime and Corruption</b>	• Neutralise the construction mafia	Security Cluster	June 2025
	• End abuses of procurement systems	All Institutions	April 2025
	• Take action against infrastructure sabotage and water tanker networks	Security Cluster	April 2025
	• Improve governance of water institutions – WS Act review	DWS	Ongoing
	• Consequence management for those who aid and abet crime & corruption	Justice Cluster	April 2025
	• Consequence management for officials derelicting their duties	DWS/WSA	April 2025
	• Community mobilization and awareness on the value of the water infrastructure – community can safeguard public infrastructure	DWS/WSA	April 2025

