27-28 March 2025 | Gallagher Convention Centre

WATER & SANITATION
INDABA

THEME:

WATER SECURITY AND PROVISION

GROUP 2:   WATER SERVICES SECURITY
GROUP 2d: WSAS WITH GOOD/EXCELLENT PERFORMING SYSTEMS

Rapporteur: Luxolo Mditshane

March 2025

## Group 2d: Presentation Outline

Good Performing Systems/WSAs

1. Noted inputs from Plenary (Purpose and Problem Statement)
2. Outcomes of 2024 summit and progress (12 Good performing WSAs)
3. Proposed Action Plan within 5 key Focus Area /Pillars
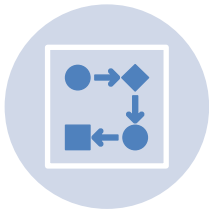4. Strategic Recommendations

Purpose of the Water Indaba

To define a clear strategic path to address water and sanitation adequacy.
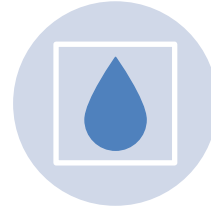
To elevate water security as Priority No. 1 aligned to Section 27 of the Constitution.

To consolidate ideas, encourage planning and collaboration, and prevent duplication.

To develop a high-level strategic turnaround plan aligned with the MTDP.

To drive urgent, solution-focused action that avoids legal and financial implications.

To treat the water crisis as an emergency requiring radical change.

Problem Statement

The water crisis is well-known and persistent, not requiring further diagnosis.

Many infrastructure projects remain incomplete, stalling service delivery.

Unspent infrastructure grants are returned to National Treasury.

Water provision remains underfunded in provincial budgets.

Illegal water connections persist without formalisation.

Failure to act may lead to zero funding allocation in 2025/2026.

Group 2d: Presentation

Good Performing Systems/WSAs

1. Bitou Local Municipality **Not in attendance on the breakaway session**
2. City of Cape Town Metro **In attendance on the breakaway session**
3. City of Ekurhuleni Metro **In attendance**
4. Drakenstein Local Municipality **Not in attendance**
5. JB Marks Local Municipality **In attendance**
6. Mosselbay Local Municipality **Not in attendance**
7. Overstrand Local Municipality **In attendance**
8. Saldanha Bay Local Municipality **Not in attendance**
9. Swartland Local Municipality **Not in attendance**
10. Theewaterskloof Local Municipality **Not in attendance**
11. uMgungundlovu District Municipality **In attendance**
12. Witzenburg Local Municipality **In attendance**

Key achievements

80%+ of process controller posts filled

98%+ of supervisor posts filled

100% chemical compliance; 91% microbiological compliance

Strong financial and asset reporting

Avg Blue Drop infrastructure condition: 85%

Key Concerns

6 of 12 municipalities scored poorly in operational monitoring
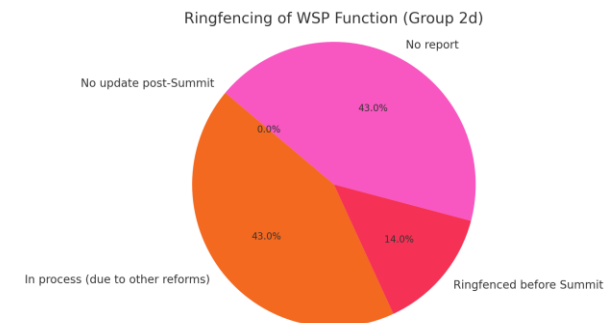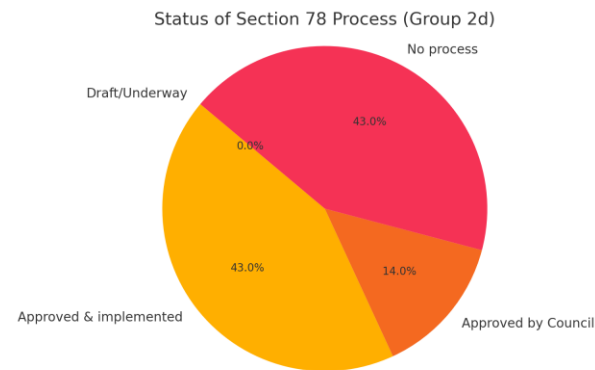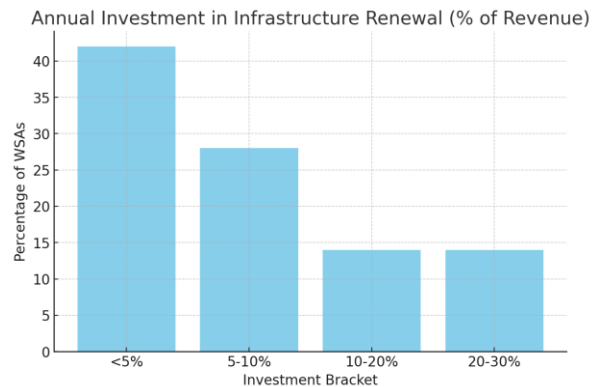
NRW remains high (avg 29%; 6 above 30%)

6 systems failed to issue advisory notices (legal non-compliance)

Some wastewater infrastructure in poor condition

Ringfencing of WSP Function and Section 78 process (Group 2d)

Annual Investment in infrastructure renewal)

Areas Needing Acceleration

Complete	Complete ringfencing of WSP function with Council approval
Finalise and implement	Finalise and implement Section 78 processes
Improve	Improve operational monitoring
Issue	Issue advisory notices as required
Boost	Boost infrastructure renewal investments
Prioritise	Prioritise underserved communities

Enablers for Accelerations

Strengthen Water Partnerships Office collaborations

Tap into private sector finance for NRW and energy efficiency

Peer support and mentorship among WSAs

Embrace new technology (with academia support)

Use IGR platforms to share good practices

Call to Action

01 Finalise all pending ringfencing and SLAs

02 Ensure minimum WSP competency

03 Align all interventions with Drop Report findings

04 Use mid-term budget reviews for reprioritisation

Group 2d Work

a)   Does the group agree that the presentation is an accurate description of progress?

•   **There were no objections to the presentation, and it was taken as an accurate description of progress**

b)   Where there is a lack of progress, what are the causes?

•   **The concept of ring fencing was misunderstood by the WSAs**

c)   What should be done to accelerate implementation?

All WSA will develop an infrastructure security strategy/ plan, to combat vandalism and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure.

•   **To accelerate the development of an infrastructure security plan to combat vandalism and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure requires an approach as a societal problem and not a municipal problem. A joint effort from all role players will assist in minimising the theft and vandalism**

All WSAs/WSPs to implement water conservation and demand management programmes, with targets   and timeframes, to reduce demand towards the international norm of 176l/c/d.

•   **The sector identifies informal settlements as a major contributor to NRW as a result of illegal connections and inability to bill the settlements**

d   Is there a common understanding of what is meant by 'ringfencing'?   **No**

e) Are all municipalities moving towards obtaining Council approval for ringfencing and implementing   ringfencing?   **No**

f) Have all municipalities created a separation between the water service authority and water service provider as required by the Water Services Act? Is a service level agreement in place between the WSA and the WSP?   **No**

g) Are municipalities planning Municipal Systems Act Section 78 processes where necessary   **Yes**

h) Are municipalities prioritizing providing access to a basic level of service to communities without such access?   **Yes**

Group 2d:

Action plan in consensus to the 5 focus Areas/Pillars

1. Implementation and Delivery Model
2. Financial Viability
3. Technical and Operational Capacity
4. Building Partnerships and Innovations
5. Fighting Crime and Corruption

Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Implementation and Delivery Model	Transition to a **ringfenced utility model** for water and sanitation services Ensure separation between **WSA and WSP** functions Explore Build-Operate-Transfer (BoTT) , SPV and Concessions for strategic upgrades Review and align with **Section 63, 154, 139 interventions** as needed Sec 78 analysis to inform decision making	WSAs, National Treasury, DWS, SALGA, COGTA	Short (0-3 Months) to Medium Term (3-6 Months)
Financial Viability of the Water and Sanitation Sector	Develop and implement **NRW reduction plans** with clear targets Improve revenue collection through **billing system upgrades and audits** Use **mid-term budget reviews** to prioritise renewal, monitoring and energy efficiency Leverage private sector through **PPPs** and Water Partnerships Office Ensure proper use of **WSIG, RBIG, MIG**; avoid grant abuse	Municipal Council, WSAs,COGTA, NT, DWS	Medium (6 - 12 months) to Long (24 months)

Five Pillars of Focus

Pillars	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Financial Viability of the Water and Sanitation Sector (continues)	Implement cost reflective tariffs guided by s10 of Water Services Act Understand the profile of the customers Asset Management Priorities investing in infrastructure development and O&M Budget and resources	Municipal Council, WSAs, COGTA, NT, DWS,	Medium to Long
Technical and Operational Capacity	Complete skills audit and training needs analysis Compliance with **Regulation 3630** (Process Controller registration) Professionalisation of the sector (engineers, scientist and maintenance staff) Improve condition of **treatment works** and address overcapacity Cross pollination between WSAs (sharing of best practices) Implement appropriate technologies (Demographics to guide technology)	COGTA, SALGA, WSAs, LGSETA, EWSETA, DWS, NT	Short to Medium

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Technical and Operational Capacity	• Complete skills audit and training needs analysis • Compliance with **Regulation 3630** (Process Controller registration) • Professionalisation of the sector (engineers, scientist and maintenance staff) • Improve condition of **treatment works** and address overcapacity • Cross pollination between WSAs (sharing of best practices) • Implement appropriate technologies (Demographics to guide technology) • Adopt Drop programmes in the day to day operations of the WSA • Digital technologies for real-time monitoring • Establish municipal Committees chaired by HOD technical services (e.g.WC/WDM) • Develop strategies to retain and attract skilled professional	COGTA, SALGA, WSAs, LGSETA, EWSETA, DWS, NT	Short to Medium

Strategic Recommendations

1 Establish and operationalise intergovernmental platforms.

2 Define the 'Ideal Municipality' for future planning.

3 Accelerate all incomplete infrastructure projects.

4 Launch Water Committees and Anti-Corruption Forums.

5 Formalise informal water connections and disconnect illegal ones.

6 Prioritise water in provincial budgets with specific funding percentages.

Thank you