

## DWAF calls on water users to apply

## for water licences

**Durban/Nelspruit, Date** The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) today called on all water users in the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX areas who wish to use raw water for commercial purposes to submit their applications for a water licence to its regional offices.

Commercial purposes includes using water for farming, businesses, industry or mining, and means that all people who generate an income using water will require licences. People who want to plant trees for commercial purposes should also apply for a licence.

XXXXXXXX said that every one who uses raw water to generate an income needs to apply for a licence even if he or she already has a licence or has a certificate indicating that he or she is authorised to use the water. This is to make sure that everyone is included equally in the re-evaluation of the way water is allocated.

People who use tap water supplied by the municipality are **not required** to apply for a licence even if they use this water in a commercial enterprise.

The Call for Licence Applications is being made in terms of the Compulsory Licensing, process, which was launched in the XXXXXXXXXXXX about 18 months ago.

Compulsory Licensing (Sec 43 48 of the Act) is DWAF's most important tool to reform how the country's scarce water resources are managed.

### New plan to share out water

XXXXXXXX, Regional Director at the DWAF Regional Office in XXXXXXXXXXX, told a media briefing earlier today that the Call for Licence Applications follows months of intensive consultation and work to develop new plans to share out water resources in the area.

The new plan, called the **Framework for Allocation**, takes into account that water must allocated to meet basic needs and protect the environment, as well as to meet international obligations, social needs and the needs of strategic users and different water users in the area.

The Framework for Allocation has already been widely discussed and distributed to stakeholders. It is also available for inspection at XXXXXXXXXXX.

The plan identifies how much water must be assigned to meet the legal requirement of protecting the environment and meeting basic needs, and the priority needs of international agreements and strategic users. It then shows how the balance of the

water available can be shared out, in a manner which addresses poverty and past injustices, and also makes the best use of the water available.

In particular, opportunities where new users could make productive use of water have been identified, and the Department has teamed up with other Government departments and development agents to help build capacity of the new users to take up this opportunity.

However, people who can still identify good opportunities to use water to help fight poverty and unemployment, as well as to support economic growth, are still welcome to apply for licences, XXXXXXX said.

### Evaluating licence applications

XXXXXX noted that all licence applications will be evaluated on two factors:

The first is the benefit that the water use will bring to the public, through addressing equity, creating jobs and supporting local and regional economic development. The second is the impact that the water use will have on the environment and other water users.

### Deadlines

Water licence application forms are available from XXXXXXX and must be submitted to XXXXXXX, by XXXXXXX. The process to finalise the allocation plan will follow the requirements of the National Water Act, and is expected to be completed by XXXXXXX.

Anyone needing assistance with completing the form, or further information should contact:

Name: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Title at DWAF: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Tel (direct line): XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Tel (switchboard): XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Cell: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Fax: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



**water & forestry**

Department:  
Water Affairs and Forestry  
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