

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. R. 7494

22 May 2026

NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM: AMENDMENT

The Minister of Water and Sanitation hereby intends, in terms of section 12(1) read with section 69 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998), to make the regulations in the Schedule.

The proposed amendments seek to provide for the procedure for determining Resource Quality Objectives (RQO) as contemplated in section 12(2) of the National Water Act, 1998. The RQOs have been determined in various Water Management Areas across the country using the procedures set out in the RQO determination guideline which can be downloaded from the following link: <https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/documents/proceduresToDevelop&ImplementResourceQualityObjectives.pdf>. The proposed amendment aims to create alignment between the Regulations and the guidelines.

Interested persons are invited to submit substantiated comments or representations on the proposed amendments to the Regulations for the Establishment of a Water Resource Classification System within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice by—

- (a) posting such comments to the following address:
Department of Water and Sanitation
Director: Water Resource Classification, Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala
Ndinaye Building
Private Bag X 313
PRETORIA
0001;
- (b) hand delivering such comments to the following address:
Department of Water and Sanitation
Director: Reserve Determination', Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala
Ndinaye Building
178 Francis Baard Street
PRETORIA,
0001; or
- (c) sending such comments by electronic mail to the following address:
E-mailing such comments to the following address:
E-mail: matlalal@dws.gov.za

Comments must be addressed to the Director: Water Resource Classification and marked for the attention of Ms Lebogang Matlala. Comments received after the closing date shall not be considered.



MS PEMMY MAJODINA (MP)

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 13 - 04 - 2026

SCHEDULE

Definition

1. In this Schedule the Regulations means the Regulations for the Establishment of a Water Resource Classification System, as published in Government Notice No. R. 801 of 17 September 2010.

Substitution of regulation 4 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 4 of the Regulations is hereby substituted for the following regulation:

“Procedure for determining resource quality objectives

3. For each water resource class, the procedure for establishing resource quality objectives for each resource unit must comprise of the following 6 steps:
 - (a) **Step 1:** Delineate the Integrated Units of Analysis (IUAs) and define the Resource Units (RUs);
 - (b) **Step 2:** Establish a vision for the catchment and key elements for the IUAs;
 - (c) **Step 3:** Prioritize and select preliminary Resource Units for RQO determination;
 - (d) **Step 4:** Prioritize sub-components for RQO determination, select indicators for monitoring, and propose the direction of change;
 - (e) **Step 5:** Develop draft RQOs and Numerical Limits; and
 - (f) **Step 6:** Agree on Resource Units, RQOs and Numerical Limits with stakeholders”.

Short title

4. These Regulations are called Amendment Regulations for the Establishment of a Water Resource Classification System, 2025.