

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 7731

24 July 2026

## NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

**PROPOSED WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND THE RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES IN THE KEISKAMMA AND FISH TO TSITSIKAMMA CATCHMENTS WITHIN THE MZIMVUBU TO TSITSIKAMMA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA 7 (EXCLUDING MZIMVUBU CATCHMENT T31-T36)**

I, Pemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina, in my capacity as Minister of Water and Sanitation, and duly authorised in terms of section 13(4) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), hereby publish for public comment the Notice, on the proposed Water Resources Classes and the Resource Quality Objectives in the Keiskamma and Fish to Tsitsikamma Catchments within the Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma Water Management Area 7 (excluding Mzimvubu Catchment T31-T36), as set out in the Schedule.

Any person who wishes to submit written comments in connection with the proposed Water Resources Classes and Resource Quality Objectives in the Keiskamma and Fish to Tsitsikamma Catchments within the Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma Water Management Area 7 (excluding Mzimvubu Catchment T31-T36), is hereby invited to do so within 60 days from the date of publication this Notice by:

- (a) Posting such comments to the following address:  
Department of Water and Sanitation, Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala  
Private Bag X 313  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

**OR**

- (b) Delivering such comments by hand to the following address:  
Department of Water and Sanitation, Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala  
Ndinaye Building  
178 Francis Baard Street  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

**OR**

- (c) Emailing such comments to the following address:  
Email: [matlala@dws.gov.za](mailto:matlala@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 CASTELINA PAMELA MAJODINA**

**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

**DATE:**

12/06/2026

## SCHEDULE

### 1. DEFINITIONS

In this Schedule any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and, unless the context indicates otherwise -

**"Class I water resource"** means a water resource in which the configuration of ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is minimally altered from its pre-development condition, and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

**"Class II water resource"** means a water resource in which the configuration of ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is moderately altered from its pre-development condition and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

**"Class III water resource"** means a water resource in which the configuration of Ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is significantly altered from its pre-development condition and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

**"Ecological category"** means the ecological condition of that water resource in terms of the deviation of its biophysical components from a predevelopment condition;

**"Ecological Water Requirements"** in relation to a water resource, means the quantity and quality of water of that resource that is required to maintain the said water resource in its assigned Ecological Category;

**"Integrated unit of analysis"** means a water resource catchment that incorporates a socio-economic zone, but is defined by a watershed;

**"Percentile"** means the non-exceedance probability i.e., at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, 95 percent of values must be less than or equal to the value; and at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, 50 percent of values must be less than or equal to the value;

**"Present Ecological State"** means the current health or integrity of various biological attributes of the resource, compared to the natural or close to natural reference conditions;

**"Recommended Ecological Category"** means a category indicating the realistically attainable ecological management target for a water resource;

**"Resource Quality Objectives"** means descriptive qualitative statements and numerical values for the biological, physical, and chemical attributes of the significant water resources throughout the catchments;

**"Resource Unit"** means a basic unit of a water resource to which Resource Quality Objectives will apply;

**"Target Ecological Category"** means the ultimate target to achieve a sustainable system both ecologically and economically, considering the Present Ecological State and Recommended Ecological Category; and

**"Water Resource Classification System"** means the Regulations for the Establishment of the Classification System, 2010 as prescribed in Government Notice No. R. 810 of 17 September 2010;

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE WATER RESOURCE

- (1) The Water Resource Classes, Reserve and the Resource Quality Objectives are determined for all or part of every significant water resource within the Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma Water Management Area 7 (WMA7), excluding the Mzimvubu catchment (T31 – T36) as set out below:

Water Management Areas: Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drainage Region: | K80, K90, L10 - L90, M10 - M30, N10 - N40, P10 - P40, Q10 - Q90, R10 - R50, S10 - S70, T10 - T20, T60 - T90)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| River(s):        | K80 (Tsitsikamma and small coastal rivers)<br>K90 (Krom and small coastal rivers)<br>L10 - L90 (Gamtoos with main tributaries Groot, Baviaanskloof and Kouga)<br>M10 - M30 (Koega, Swartkops and small coastal rivers)<br>N10 - N40 (Sundays)<br>P10 - P40 (Kowie, Kariega, Boesmans and small coastal rivers)<br>Q10 - Q90 (Fish River with main tributaries of Little Fish, Koonap and Kat)<br>R10 - R50 (Keiskamma and small coastal rivers)<br>S10 - S70 (Great Kei River with main tributaries of Klipplaats, Indwe, White Kei, Black Kei)<br>T10 (Mbhashe)<br>T20 (Mthatha)<br>T60 (Small coastal rivers - Mtentu, Msikaba, Mzintlava)<br>T70 (Small coastal rivers - Mtakatye, Mngazi)<br>T80 & T90 (Small coastal rivers) |

- (2) The date from which the Resource Quality Objectives will apply shall be the date stipulated in the Gazette wherein the final approved Resource Quality Objectives for the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas within the Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma Water Management Area 7, excluding the Mzimvubu catchment (T31 – T36) will be published.

## 3 DETERMINATION OF THE CLASS OF WATER RESOURCES IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(1)(a) OF THE ACT

- (1) The proposed Water Resource Classes, which are in accordance with the Water Resource Classification System, for the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are as



listed in **Table 1** according to the overall class per integrated unit of analysis; and as illustrated in **Figure 1** in **Annexure A**.

- (2) The Integrated Units of Analysis in the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are listed in **Table 2** and illustrated in **Figure 2** in **Annexure A**.
- (3) The summary of Water Resource Classes per integrated unit of analysis and ecological categories for the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are as listed in **Table 3** in **Annexure A**.

#### **4 RESOURCE UNITS SELECTED WITH PROPOSED RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

- (1) **Table 4** in **Annexure A** provides:
  - (a) the listed Integrated unit of analysis in the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas for which Resource Quality Objectives are proposed;
  - (b) the selected Water Resources (Rivers, Dams, Wetlands, Groundwater, and Estuaries) for which Resource Quality Objectives are proposed; and
  - (c) reference to subsequent Tables that list the proposed Resource Quality Objectives per selected sub-components (quantity, quality, habitat, biota or groundwater, or estuary) per Resource Unit.
- (2) Resource Quality Objectives for rivers per Integrated unit of analysis and Resource Unit within the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are specified in **Table 5** (hydrological RQOs for priority Resource Units per Integrated Unit of Analysis (IUA), **Table 6** (habitat and biota RQOs for Priority Resource Units per IUA) and **Table 7** (water quality RQOs for priority Resource Units per IUA below in **Annexure A**.
- (3) Resource Quality Objectives for priority dams per IUA in the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are set out in **Table 8** in **Annexure A**.
- (4) Resource Quality Objectives for priority wetland clusters and systems in priority Resource Units per IUA in the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are set out in **Table 9** in **Annexure A**.
- (5) Regional and Resource Unit specific Resource Quality Objectives for groundwater in priority Groundwater Resource Units in the Keiskamma, Fish to Tsitsikamma catchment areas are set out in **Table 10** in **Annexure A**.
- (6) Resource Quality Objectives for Estuary components in priority Resource Units are as set out in **Table 11** and **Table 12** in **Annexure A** with supporting estuarine information in **Appendix A to C**.

**Annexure A** to this Notice, containing the proposed water resource classes and Resource Quality Objectives can be assessed from <https://www.dws.gov.za/RDM/WRCS/kft.aspx>

OR from

The Department of Water and Sanitation, Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala

Private Bag X 313 **PRETORIA** 0001

OR

Director: Water Resource Classification, Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala,

Ndinaye Building, 178 Francis Baard Street **PRETORIA** 001

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Email: [matlalal@dws.gov.za](mailto:matlalal@dws.gov.za)