

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 6633

19 September 2025

## NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

**PROPOSED WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE LEPHALALA, MOGALAKWENA, SAND, NZHELELE AND LUVUVHU CATCHMENTS IN THE LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA AND THE SHINGWEDZI CATCHMENT IN THE OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

I, Pemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina, in my capacity as Minister of Water and Sanitation, 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 resource classes and the associated Resource Quality Objectives, as set out in the Schedule and intended to be issued in terms of section 13(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Any person who wishes to submit comments in connection with the proposed water resources classes and Resource Quality Objectives is hereby invited to do so 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  
Private Bag X313  
Pretoria  
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Or

- (b) Delivering such comments by hand to the following address:

Department of Water and Sanitation  
Ndinaye Building  
178 Francis Baard Street  
Pretoria

Or

- (c) Emailing such comments to the following email address: Ms Lebogang Matlala

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 will not be considered.



MS PEMMY CASTELINA PAMELA MAJODINA

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE:

31/08/2025

## SCHEDULE

### PROPOSED WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE LEPHALALA, MOGALAKWENA, SAND, NZHELELE AND LUVUVHU CATCHMENTS IN THE LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA AND THE SHINGWEDZI CATCHMENT IN THE OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

In this Schedule any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act must 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;

**“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;

**“Ecological category (EC)”** means the ecological condition of that water resource in terms of the deviation of its biophysical components from a predevelopment condition;

**“Ecological Water Requirements (EWR)”** 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 (PES)”** 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 (REC)”** means a category indicating the realistically attainable ecological management target for a water resource;

**“Resource Quality Objectives (RQO)”** 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 (TEC)”** means the ultimate target to achieve a sustainable system both ecologically and economically, considering the Present Ecological State and Recommended Ecological Category.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WATER RESOURCE

- (1) The Water Resource Classes and Resource Quality Objectives are determined for all or part of every significant water resource within the secondary catchments A5-A9 in the Limpopo Water Management Area and B9 in the Olifants Water Management Area as set out below:

Water Management Areas:	Limpopo and Olifants
Drainage Region:	A and B Primary Drainage Region
River(s):	A5 catchment (main river: Lephala).
	A6 catchment (main river: Mogalakwena).
	A7 catchment (main river: Sand).
	A8 catchment (main river: Nzhelele).
	A9 catchment (main river: Luvuvhu).
	B9 catchment (main river Shingwedzi).

- (2) The date from which the Resource Quality Objectives will apply must be the date stipulated in the *Gazette* wherein the final approved Resource Quality Objectives for the Lephala, Mogalakwena, Sand, Nzhelele And Luvuvhu Catchments in the Limpopo Water Management Area and the Shingwedzi Catchment in the Olifants Water Management Area will be published.

## 3. DETERMINATION OF THE CLASS OF WATER RESOURCE 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 secondary catchments A5, A6, A7, A8 and A9 in the Limpopo Water Management Area and B9 in the Olifants Water Management Area are listed in Table 1 of and illustrated in figure 1 of Annexure A.
- (2) The integrated units of analysis in the secondary catchments A5, A6, A7, A8 and A9 in the Limpopo Water Management Area and B9 in the Olifants Water Management Area are listed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 2 of Annexure A.

- (3) The summary of the water resource classes per integrated units of analysis and ecological categories for the delineated resource units in the for secondary catchments A5, A6, A7, A8 and A9 in the Limpopo Water Management Area and B9 in the Olifants Water Management Area as listed in Table 3 of Annexure A.

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

- (1) Table 4 and Figure 3 in Annexure A provides:
- The listed Resource Units in the secondary catchments A5, A6, A7, A8 and A9 in the Limpopo Water Management Area and B9 in the Olifants Water Management Area for which Resource Quality Objectives are proposed;
  - The selected Water Resources (Rivers, Wetlands and Groundwater) for which Resource Quality Objectives are proposed.
- (2) Resource Quality Objectives for the selected rivers are specified in Table 5 to Table 34.
- (3) Resource Quality Objectives for the selected wetlands are provided in Table 35.
- (4) Resource Quality Objectives for the selected groundwater Resource Units are set out in Table 36 to Table 54.
- (5) Resource Quality Objectives for the quantity of flow to be released from the selected Dams for a site immediately downstream of the dam is set out in Table 55 to Table 58 and for water quality and biota is provided in Table 59 to Table 62.

The Annexure to this Notice, containing the proposed water resource classes and Resource Quality Objectives can be accessed from:

<https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/WRCS/lvhv.aspx>

Or requested from:

Director: Water Resource Classification

Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala

Department of Water and Sanitation

Ndinaye Building

178 Francis Baard Street

Private Bag X313

Pretoria 0001

E-mail: [matlalal@dws.gov.za](mailto:matlalal@dws.gov.za)