DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 6869 **21 November 2025**

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

PROPOSED RESERVE DETERMINATION FOR WATER RESOURCES FOR USUTHU-MHLATHUZE CATCHMENTS IN THE INKOMATI-USUTHU AND PONGOLA-MTAMVUNA WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS.

I, **Pemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina**, in terms of section 16(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), hereby publish, for public comments the proposed Reserve determination for the water resources in the Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna Water Management Areas, as set out in the Schedule.

Any person who wishes to submit comments on the proposed Reserve determination must submit their comments in writing 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: Reserve Determination', Attention: Mr Yakeen Atwaru
Ndinaye Building
Private Bag X313
PRETORIA
0001;

OR

(b) Hand delivering such comments to the following address:
Department of Water and Sanitation
Director: Reserve Determination', Attention: Mr Yakeen Atwaru
Ndinaye Building
178 Francis Baard Street
PRETORIA
0001;

OR

(c) sending such comments electronically to the following e-mail address:
Email: AtwaruY@dws.gov.za

Comments must be addressed to the Director: Reserve Determination and marked for the attention of Mr Yakeen Atwaru. Comments received after the closing date shall not be considered.

MISS PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA (MP)
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 01 - 10 - 2025

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SCHEDULE

1. DESCRIPTION OF WATER RESOURCE

(1) The Reserve is determined for all or part of every significant water resource within the catchments of the Usuthu-Mhlathuze, as set out below:

Water Management Areas: Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna
Drainage Region: W Primary Drainage Region
River(s): W1 catchment (main river: Mhlathuze).
W2 catchment (main river: UMfolozi).
W3 catchment (main river: Mkuze).
W4 catchment (main river: Pongola) - part of this catchment area falls within Eswatini.
W5 catchment (main river: Usutu) - much of this catchment falls within Eswatini.
W7 catchment (Kosi Bay and Lake Sibaya).

(2) The Reserve is hereby determined for all or part of the water resource referred to in sub-clause 1.1, which classes have been determined in Government Notice No. 52814 of 06 June 2025.

(3) The Minister has in terms of section 12 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998), prescribed a system for classifying water resources by issuing Government Notice No. R. 810, published in Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010. In terms of section 16(1) of the Act, the Minister must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the class of all or part of a water resource has been determined, by Notice in the Gazette, determine the Reserve for all or part of that water resource.

(4) The Minister, in terms of section 16(3) of the Act, proposes, for the purpose of section 16(1) of the Act, the following Reserve determination for the water resources of the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchments in the Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna Water Management Areas.

2. ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

(1) Acronyms used in Annexure A

BHN	Basic Human Needs
BHNR	Basic Human Needs Reserve
EcoSpecs	Ecological Specifications
EIS	Ecological Importance and Sensitivity
EWR	Ecological Water Requirement
EWR_MLF	Ecological Water Requirement_Maintenance Low Flows
WARMS	Water Allocation Registration Management System
GRA II	Groundwater Resource Assessment Phase II
GRDM	Groundwater Resource Directed Measures

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MAR	Mean Annual Runoff
MCM	Million Cubic Metres
PES	Present Ecological Status
REC	Recommended Ecological Category
TEC	Targeted Ecological Category
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
EC	Electrical Conductivity
TIN	Total Inorganic Nitrogen
SRP	Soluble Reactive Phosphorus
RC	Reference Condition
WQU	Water Quality Unit
IUA	Integrated Unit of Analysis
RU	Resource Unit

(2) DEFINITIONS

In this Notice unless the context indicates otherwise –

"Baseflow" means a sustained low flow in rivers during dry or fair-weather conditions and includes contribution from delayed interflow and groundwater discharge;

"EWR" means Ecological Water Requirements and refers to the flow patterns (magnitude, timing and duration) and water quality needed to maintain a riverine ecosystem in a particular condition;

"Recharge" means the addition of water to the zone of saturation, either by downward percolation of precipitation or surface water and/ or the lateral migration of groundwater from adjacent aquifers; and

"the Act" means the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

3. RESERVE DETERMINATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 16(3) OF THE ACT

(1) The Reserve determination for the quantity component of the Rivers in the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment includes the EWR sites as shown in **Table 1** and illustrated in **Figures 1 to 5** of **Annexure A**, and the basic human needs are as set out in **Table 2** of **Annexure A.**

(2) The Reserve determination for the quality component of the Rivers at EWR sites in the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment is set out in **Tables 3.1 to 3.8** of **Annexure A**.

(3) A summary of the Water Quantity & Quality Reserve for selected Wetlands for the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment is set out **in Tables 4.1 to 4.7** of **Annexure A.**

(4) The Reserve determination for the Estuaries in the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment is set out in **Tables 5.1** and the Threshold of Potential Concerns (TPC's) associated with each of the ecological specifications are provided in **Table 5.2 to 5.9** of **Annexure A.**

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(5) The Reserve determination for the groundwater contribution to the Reserve for Water Quantity for the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment is set out in **Table 6.1** of **Annexure A**.

(6) The Reserve determination for the groundwater contribution to the Reserve for Water Quality for the Usuthu-Mhlathuze catchment is set out in **Tables 7.1 to 7.9** of **Annexure A**.

4. COMMENCEMENT

The Reserve determinations made in this Notice commence on and apply from the date of publication hereof.

The Annexure to this Notice, containing the Reserve determination for the quantity and quality component of the rivers at EWR sites and the extrapolated nodes, estuaries, wetlands, groundwater contribution to the Reserve for water quantity and quality for the Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna Water Management Areas, can be accessed from:

https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/currentstudies/gazettedreserves.aspx

or requested from:

Director: Reserve Determination
Attention: Mr. Yakeen Atwaru
Department of Water and Sanitation
Ndinaye Building 5082
178 Francis Baard Street
Private Bag x 313
Pretoria
0001

E-mail: Atwaruy@dws.gov.za

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ISAZISO JIKELELE

ISAZISO Nombolo._____ SIKA-2025

UMNYANGO WEZAMANZI NOKUTHUTHWA KWENDLE

UMTHETHO WAMANZI KAZWELONKE, 1998

PRUKUNQUNYWA KWENDAWO YOKUGCINA OKUHLONGOZWAYO KWEMITHOMBO YAMANZI EZINDAWENI EZIPHATHA AMANZI E-USUTHU-MHLATHUZE EZINDAWENI ZOKULAWULWA KWAMANZI E-INKOMATI-USUTHU KANYE NASE-PONGOLA-MTAMVUNA.

Mina, **Pemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina**, ngokwesigaba 16(3) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, ka-1998 (uMthetho Nombolo 36 ka-1998), ngalokhu ngishicilela, ukuze abantu baphawule ngokunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina yemithombo yamanzi yase-Inkomati-Usuthu kanye Nezindawo Zokulawulwa Kwamanzi zase-Pongola-Mtamvuna, njengoba kubekiwe Ohlelweni.

Noma imuphi umuntu ofisa ukuletha imibono ngokunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina kumele alethe imibono yakhe ngokubhaliwe ezinsukwini ezingu-60 kusukela ngosuku lokushicilelwa kwalesi Saziso ngoku-

(a) Ngokuthumela imibono enjalo ekhelini elilandelayo:
Umnyango Wezamanzi Nokuthuthwa Kwendle
Umqondisi: Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina,
Ukunakwa: Mnu. Yakeen Atwaru
Ndinaye Building
Private Bag X313
PRETORIA
0001;

NOMA

(b) Ukuhambisa ngokwakho leyo mibono ekhelini elingezansi:
Umnyango Wezamanzi Nokuthuthwa Kwendle
Umqondisi: Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina,
Ukunakwa: Mnu. Yakeen Atwaru
Ndinaye Building
178 Francis Baard Street
PRETORIA
0001;

NOMA

(c) Ngokuthumela leyo mibono nge- elekthronikhi ku-imeyli elandelayo:
i-Imeyli: AtwaruY@dws.gov.za

Imibono kumele ibhekiswe kuMqondisi: Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina futhi kubekwe uphawu lokunakwa nguMnu Yakeen Atwaru. Imibono etholwe ngemuva kosuku lokuvala ngeke icatshangwe.

NKOSAZANA PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA (ILUNGU LEPHALAMENDE)
UNGQONGQOSHE WEZAMANZI NOKUTHUTHWA KWENDLE
USUKU: 01 - 10 - 2025

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UHLELO

1. UHLELO LOMTHOMBO WAMANZI

(1) Indawo Yokugcina inqunyelwa yonke noma ingxenye yemithombo yamanzi emikhulu ezindaweni eziphatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze, njengoba kubekwe ngezansi:

Indawo Yokulawulwa Kwamanzi: Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna

Izifunda Zamapayipi Okudonsa Amanzi: Isifunda Sepayipi Lokudonsa Amanzi Esiyinhloko e-W

Imifula: Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W1 (umfula omkhulu: iMhlathuze).
Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W2 (umfula omkhulu: i-UMfolozi).
Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W3 (umfula omkhulu: iMkuze).
Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W4 (umfula omkhulu: iPongola) – ingxenye yalendawo ephatha amanzi iwela ngaphansi kwase-Eswatini.
Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W5 (umfula omkhulu: i-Usutu) - ingxenye yalendawo ephatha amanzi iwela ngaphansi kwase-Eswatini.
Indawo ephatha amanzi i-W7 (i-Kosi Bay kanye neChibi laseSibaya).

(2) Indawo Yokugcina ngalokhu inqunyelwa yonke noma ingxenye yemithombo yamanzi okubhekiselwa kuyo esigatshaneni 1.1, osigaba saso sinqunywe kwiSaziso sikaHulumeni Nombolo 52814 sika-06 Juni 2025.

(3) Ungqongqoshe ngokwesigaba 12 soMthetho Wezamanzi Kazwelonke, ka-1998 (Umthetho Nombolo 36 ka-1998), unqume uhlelo lokuhlukaniswa kwemithombo yamanzi ngokukhishwa kweSaziso sikaHulumeni Nombolo R. 810, eshicilelwe kuMbiko kaHulumeni No. 33541 wangomhlaka 17 Septhemba 2010. Ngokwesigaba 16 (1) soMthetho, uNgqongqoshe kufanele, ngokushesha uma kungenzeka ngemuva kokunqunywa kwesigaba sayo yonke noma ingxenye yomthombo wamanzi, ngeSaziso embikweni sikaHulumeni, anqume Indawo Yokugcina yawo wonke noma ingxenye yalowo mthombo wamanzi.

(4) Ungqongqoshe, ngokwesigaba 16(3) soMthetho, uhlongoza, ngenjongo yesigaba 16(1) soMthetho, ukunqunywa okulandelayo Kwendawo Yokugcina kwemithombo yamanzi ezindaweni eziphatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze ezise-Inkomati-Usuthu kanye Nezindawo Zokulawulwa Kwamanzi zase-Pongola-Mtamvuna.

2. Ama-AKHRONIMI NEZINCAZELO

(1) Ama-akhronimi asetshenziswe kuSithasiselo A

i-BHN	Izidingo Zabantu Eziyisisekelo (i-Basic Human Needs)
i-BHNR	Indawo Yokugcina Yezidingo Zabantu Eziyisisekelo (i-Basic Human Needs Reserve)
i-EcoSpecs	Ukucaciswa Kwemvelo (i-Ecological Specifications)
i-EIS	Ukubaluleka Kwemvelo Nokuzwela (i-Ecological Importance and Sensitivity)
i-EWR	Izidingo Zamanzi Emvelo (i-Environmental Water Requirement)

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i-EWR_MLF	Izidingo Zamanzi Emvelo_Ukusebenza Kokunakekelwa Okuncane (i-Ecological Water Requirement_Maintenance Low Flows_
i-WARMS	Uhlelo Lokulawulwa Kokubhaliswa Kokwabiwa Kwamanzi (i-Water Allocation Registration Management System)
i-GRA II	Isigaba II Sokuhlolwa Kwemithombo Yamanzi Angaphansi Komhlaba (i-Groundwater Resource Assessment Phase II)
i-GRDM	Izinyathelo Eziqondiswe Emithonjeni Yamanzi Angaphansi Komhlaba (i-Groundwater Resource Directed Measures)
i-MAR	Isilinganiso Sonyaka Kokugeleza (i-Mean Annual Runoff)
i-MCM	Ama-Cubic Mitha Ayizigidi (i-Million Cubic Metres)
i-PES	Isimo Sezemvelo Samanje (i-Present Ecological Status)
i-REC	Isigaba Semvelo Esiphakanyisiwe (i-Recommended Ecological Category)
i-TEC	Isigaba Semvelo Esihlosiwe (i-Target Ecological Category)
i-DWS	UMnyango Wezamanzi Nokuthuthwa Kwendle (i-Department of Water and Sanitation)
i-DWAF	UMnyango Wezamanzi Namahlathi (i-Department of Water Affairs and Forestry)
i-EC	Ukudluliselwa Kukagesi (i-Electrical Conductivity)
i-TIN	Ingqikithi ye-Nitrogen Yezinto Ezingaphili (i-Total Inorganic Nitrogen
i-SRP	I-Phosphorus Esebenzayo Encibilikayo (i-Soluble Reactive Phosphorus)
i-RC	Isimo Sokubhekiselwa (i-Reference Condition)
i-WQU	Iyunithi Yezinga Lamanzi (i-Water Quality Unit)
i-IUA	Iyunithi Yokuhlaziya Edidiyelwe (i-Integrated Unit of Analysis)
i-RU	Iyunithi Yomthombo (i-Resource Unit)

(2) IZINCAZELO

Kulesi Saziso ngaphandle uma isimo sibonisa okuhlukile –

"ukugeleza okuyisisekelo" kusho ukugeleza okuphansi okuqhubekayo emifuleni phakathi nezimo zezulu ezomile noma ezilungile futhi kuhlanganisa umnikelo osuka ekubambezelekeni kokugeleza nokuphuma kwamanzi angaphansi komhlaba;

"i-EWR" isho Izidingo Zamanzi Ezemvelo futhi ibhekisela kumaphethini okugeleza (ubukhulu, isikhathi nobude) kanye nezinga lamanzi elidingekayo ukuze kugcinwe imvelo yomfula esimeni esithile;

"Ukugcwaliswa" kusho ukwengezwa kwamanzi endaweni yokugcwala, kungaba ngokungena phansi kwemvula noma kwamanzi angaphezulu kanye/noma ukufuduka kwamanzi angaphansi komhlaba avela eziphethwini ezingomakhelwane; kanye

"uMthetho" usho uMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho Nombolo 36 ka-1998).

3. UKUNQUNYWA KWENDAWO YOKUGCINA NGOKUPHATHELENE NESIGABA 16(3) SOMTHETHO

(1) Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina yengxenye yenani Lemifula endaweni ephatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze kuhlanganisa izindawo ze-EWR njengoba kuboniswe

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kuThebula 1 futhi kufanekisiwe **Kwimifanekiso 1** kuya ku-**5** **yeSithasiselo A**, futhi izidingo zabantu eziyisisekelo zibekwe **kuThebula 2 leSithasiselo A.**

(2) Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina yengxenye yezinga Lemifula endaweni ephatha amanzi ezindaweni ze-EWR e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze kubekwe **kumaThebula 3.1 kuya ku-3.8 eSithasiselo A**.

(3) Isifinyezo Sendawo Yokugcina Yenani kanye Nezinga Lamanzi Ezindaweni Ezingamaxhaphozi ezikhethiwe endaweni ephatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze sibekwe **kumaThebula 4.1 kuya ku-4.7 eSithasiselo A.**

(4) Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina Yezizalo Zemifula endaweni ephatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze kubekwe **kuThebula 5.1** futhi Izinkinga Ezingaba Khona (ama-Threshold of Potential Concerns) (ama-TPC) Izinkinga ezihambisana nokucaciswa kwemvelo ngayinye nazo zinikezwe **kumaThebula 5.2 kuya ku-5.9** of **eSithasiselo A.**

(5) Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina ekufakeni isandla kwamanzi angaphansi komhlaba Endaweni Yokugcina Kwinani Lamanzi endaweni ephatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze kubekwe **kuThebula 6.1 weSithasiselo A**.

(6) Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina ekufakeni isandla kwamanzi angaphansi komhlaba Endaweni Yokugcina Ezingeni Lamanzi endaweni ephatha amanzi e-Usuthu-Mhlathuze kubekwe **umaThebula 7.1 kuya ku-7.9 eSithasiselo A**.

4. UKUQALA

Ukunqunywa Kwezindawo Zokulondoloza okwenziwe kulesi Saziso kuzoqala futhi kusebenze kusuka ngosuku lokushicilelwa kwalokhu.

Isithasiselo salesi Saziso, esiqukethe ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina yengxenye yenani nezinga lemifula ezindaweni ze-EWR kanye nezindawo ezandisiwe, izizalo zemifula, izindawo zamaxhaphozi, igalelo lamanzi angaphansi komhlaba Endaweni Yokugcina yenani nezinga lamanzi e-Inkomati-Usuthu kanye Nezindawo Zokulawulwa Kwamanzi zase-Pongola-Mtamvuna, singatholakala ku-:

https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/currentstudies/gazettedreserves.aspx

noma sicelwe ku-:

Umqondisi: Ukunqunywa Kwendawo Yokugcina
Ukunakwa: Mnu. Yakeen Atwaru
Umnyango Wezamanzi Nokuthuthwa Kwendle
Ndinaye Building 5082
178 Francis Baard Street
Private Bag x 313
Pretoria
0001

i-Imeyli: Atwaruy@dws.gov.za

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