

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 7862

28 August 2026

NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

PROPOSED WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE LOWER ORANGE CATCHMENT

I, Pemmy 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 associated resource quality objectives, in the Schedule hereto 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 written 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 hereof by -

- (a) Posting such comments to the following address:
Department of Water and Sanitation
Private Bag X 313
Pretoria
0001

or

- (b) Emailing such comments to the following address: Ms Lebogang Matlala
Email: 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 MAJODINA
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE:

06 - 08 - 2026

SCHEDULE PROPOSED WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE LOWER ORANGE CATCHMENT

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 which is minimally used; and 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 Regulation;

“Class II water resource” means a water resource which is moderately used; and 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 Regulation;

“Class III water resource” means a water resource which is heavily used; and 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 Regulation;

“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” 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 of a set of data *i.e.*, at the 95th percentile, 95 percent of values must be less than or equal to the water quality RQO numerical limit; and at 50th percentile, 50 percent of values must be less than or equal to the water quality RQO numerical limit.

“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.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE WATER RESOURCE

- (1) The water resource classes and resource quality objectives are determined for all or part of significant water resources within the Lower Orange Catchment area set out below:

Water Management Area:	Vaal-Orange
Drainage Region:	C92B, C92C, D41B—D41M, D42, D51- D58, D61, D62, D71, D72, D73, D81, D82, F10, F20, F30, F40, F50, F60A-E
River(s):	Lower Orange, Brak, Kuruman, Buffels, Holgat, Swartlintjies, Spoeg, Bitter, Groen, Sout

- (2) The date from which the resource quality objectives (RQOs) will apply shall be the date stipulated in the *Gazette* wherein the final approved RQOs for the Lower Orange catchment in the Vaal-Orange 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 per Integrated Unit of Analysis (IUA), which are in accordance with the Water Resource Classification System, for the Lower Orange Catchment are as listed in Table 1 and as illustrated in Figure 1 of Annexure A.
- (2) The IUAs in the Lower Orange Catchment are listed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 2 of Annexure A.
- (3) The surface water resource units (RUs) and quaternary catchments are listed in Table 3 and indicated in Figure 3 of Annexure A.
- (4) The groundwater resource units (GRUs) and quaternary catchments are listed in Table 4 and indicated in Figure 4 of Annexure A.
- (5) The priority wetlands are listed in Table 5 and indicated in Figure 5 of Annexure A.
- (6) The catchment estuaries are listed in Table 6 and indicated in Figure 6 of Annexure A.
- (7) A summary of the proposed Water Resource Classes per IUA and Ecological Categories are listed in Table 7 of Annexure A.

4 WATER RESOURCES WITH PROPOSED RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES DETERMINED

- (1) Table 8 of Annexure A provides:
 - (i) the listed Integrated Unit of Analysis in the Lower Orange for which proposed Resource Quality Objectives have been determined.
 - (ii) the selected Water Resources (Rivers, Wetlands, Groundwater and Estuaries) for which Resource Quality Objectives are presented; and
 - (iii) reference to subsequent tables within the gazette that list the proposed Resource Quality Objectives per selected sub-components (quantity, quality, habitat, biota or groundwater) per Resource Unit.
- (2) Resource quality objectives for rivers per integrated unit of analysis and resource units within the Lower Orange catchment are specified in Tables 9 – 14 of Annexure A.
- (3) Resource quality objectives for priority wetland clusters and systems in selected resource units in the Lower Orange catchment are set out in Table 15 of Annexure A.
- (4) Resource quality objectives for groundwater in priority Groundwater Resource Units are as specified and set out in Tables 17 - 25 of Annexure A.
- (5) Resource quality objectives for Orange Estuary and smaller estuaries are set out in Table 26 - 30 of Annexure A.

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/lo.aspx>

Or requested from:

Director: Water Resource Classification
Attention: Ms Lebogang Matlala
Department of Water and Sanitation
Ndinaye Building 5046
178 Francis Baard Street
Private Bag x 313
Pretoria
0001
E-mail: matlalal@dws.gov.za

DEPARTEMENT VAN WATER EN SANITASIE

NO. 7862

28 Augustus 2026

**VOORGESTELDE WATERHULPBRONKLASSE EN
HULPBRONKWALITEITSDOELWITTE VIR DIE LAER ORANJE
OPVANGSGEBIED**

Ek, Pemmy Majodina, in my hoedanigheid as Minister van Water en Sanitasie, en behore gemagtig ingevolge artikel 13(4) van die Nasionale Waterwet, 1998 (Wet Nr. 36 van 1998), publiseer hiermee vir openbare kommentaar die kennisgewing oor die voorgestelde Waterhulpbronklasse en die gepaardgaande hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte, in die Aanhangsel hiervan en bedoel om uitgereik te word ingevolge artikel 13(1) van die Nasionale Waterwet, 1998 (Wet Nr. 36 van 1998).

Enige persoon wat skriftelike kommentaar wil indien in verband met die voorgestelde waterhulpbronklasse en hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte word hiermee uitgenooi om dit te doen binne 60 dae vanaf die datum van publikasie hiervan deur -

- (a) Plaas sulke kommentaar na die volgende adres:
Departement van Water en Sanitasie
Privaatsak X 313
Pretoria
0001

of

- (b) Stuur sulke kommentaar per e-pos na die volgende adres: Me. Lebogang Matlala
E-pos: matlalal@dws.gov.za

Kommentaar moet gerig word aan die Direkteur: Waterhulpbronklassifikasie en gemerk word vir die aandag van Me. Lebogang Matlala. Kommentaar wat na die sluitingsdatum ontvang word, sal nie oorweeg word nie.



ME PEMMY MAJODINA
MINISTER VAN WATER EN SANITASIE

DATUM: 06.08.2026

SKEDULE VOORGESTELDE WATERHULPBRONKLASSE EN HULPBRONKWALITEITSDOELWITTE VIR DIE LAER ORANJE OPVANGSGEBIED

1 DEFINISIES

In hierdie Skedule het enige woord of uitdrukking waaraan 'n betekenis in die Wet toegeken is, sal die betekenis wat aldus toegeken is, en tensy die konteks anders aandui -

“Klas I-waterhulpbron” beteken 'n waterhulpbron wat minimaal gebruik word; en waarin die samestelling van ekologiese kategorieë van die waterhulpbronne binne 'n Opvangsgebied lei tot 'n algehele toestand van daardie waterhulpbron wat minimaal verander is vanaf sy toestand voor ontwikkeling, en soos gedefinieer in die Waterhulpbronklassifikasiesetel Regulasie;

“Klas II-waterhulpbron” beteken 'n waterhulpbron wat matig gebruik word; en waarin die samestelling van ekologiese kategorieë van die waterhulpbronne binne 'n Opvangsgebied lei tot 'n algehele toestand van daardie waterhulpbron wat matig verander is van sy toestand voor die ontwikkeling en soos gedefinieer in die Waterhulpbronklassifikasiesetel Regulasie;

“Klas III-waterhulpbron” beteken 'n waterhulpbron wat swaar gebruik word; en waarin die samestelling van ekologiese kategorieë van die waterhulpbronne binne 'n Opvangsgebied lei tot 'n algehele toestand van daardie waterhulpbron wat aansienlik verander is van sy toestand voor ontwikkeling en soos gedefinieer in die Waterhulpbronklassifikasiesetel regulasie;

“Waterhulpbronklassifikasiesetel” beteken die Regulasies vir die Vestiging van die Klassifikasiesetel, 2010 soos voorgeskryf in Goewermentskennisgewing Nr. R. 810 van 17 September 2010;

“Ekologiese kategorie” beteken die ekologiese toestand van daardie waterhulpbron in terme van die afwyking van sy biofisiese komponente van 'n toestand voor ontwikkeling;

“Ekologiese watereise” met betrekking tot 'n waterhulpbron beteken die hoeveelheid en die kwaliteit van water van daardie hulpbron wat nodig is om die betrokke waterhulpbron in sy vermoë te handhaaf toegekende ekologiese kategorie;

“Geïntegreerde eenheid van analise” beteken 'n waterhulpbronOpvangsgebied wat 'n sosio-ekonomiese sone insluit, maar deur 'n Opvangsgebied gedefinieer word;

“Persentiel” beteken die nie-oorskrydingswaarskynlikheid van 'n datastel, d.w.s. by die 95^{ste} persentiel moet 95 persent van die waardes minder as of gelyk wees aan die numeriese limiet vir watergehalte-RQO; en by die 50^{ste} persentiel moet 50 persent van die waardes minder as of gelyk wees aan die numeriese limiet vir watergehalte-RQO;

“Huidige ekologiese toestand” beteken die huidige gesondheid of integriteit van verskeie biologiese eienskappe van die hulpbron, in vergelyking met die natuurlike of naby-natuurlike verwysingstoestande;

“Aanbevole ekologiese kategorie” beteken 'n kategorie wat die realisties haalbare ekologiese bestuurstreke vir 'n waterhulpbron aandui;

“Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte” beteken beskrywende kwalitatiewe stellings en numeriese waardes vir die biologiese, fisiese en chemiese eienskappe van die beduidende waterbronne dwarsdeur die Opvangsgebiede;

“Hulpbroneenheid” beteken 'n basiese eenheid van 'n waterhulpbron waarop Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte van toepassing sal wees;

“Teiken-ekologiese kategorie” beteken die uiteindelijke teiken om 'n volhoubare stelsel te bereik, beide ekologies en ekonomies, met inagneming van die huidige ekologiese toestand en aanbevole ekologiese kategorie.

2 BESKRYWING VAN DIE WATERBRON

- (1) Die waterhulpbronklasse en hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte word bepaal vir al of 'n deel van beduidende waterbronne binne die Laer Oranje Opvangsgebied soos hieronder uiteengesit:

Waterbestuursgebied:	Vaal-Oranje
Dreineringsgebied:	C92B, C92C, D41B—D41M, D42, D51 tot D58, D61, D62, D71, D72, D73, D81, D82, F 10, F20, F30, F40, F50, F60A-E
Rivier(e):	Laer -Oranje, Brak, Kuruman, Buffels, Holgat, Swartlintjies, Spoeg, Bitter, Groen, Sout

- (2) Die datum vanaf waarop die hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte (HKV's) van toepassing sal wees, is die datum wat in die *Staatskoerant* bepaal word waarop die finale goedgekeurde HKV's vir die Laer -Oranje-Opvangsgebied in die Vaal-Oranje-waterbestuursgebied gepubliseer sal word.

3 BEPALING VAN DIE KLAS VAN WATERHULPBRONNE INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 13(1) (a) VAN DIE WET

- (1) Die voorgestelde waterhulpbronklasse per Geïntegreerde Eenheid van Analise (IUA-Aanvanklike Ondeelbare Bedrag), wat in ooreenstemming is met die Waterhulpbronklassifikasiesistelsel, vir die Laer Oranje Opvangsgebied word in Tabel 1 gelys en in Tabel 1 van Aanhangel A geïllustreer. Figuur 1 gelys Tabel 2 gelys Tabel 3 gelys en in Figuur 4 van Aanhangel A.
- (2) Die prioriteitsvleilande word in Tabel 5 gelys en in Figuur 5 van Aanhangel A aangedui.
- (3) Die opvangsriviermondings word in Tabel 6 gelys en in Figuur 6 van Aanhangel A.
- (4) 'n Opsomming van die voorgestelde Waterhulpbronklasse per IUA en Ekologiese Kategorieë word in Tabel 7 van Aanhangel A gelys.

4 WATERBRONNE MET VOORGESTELDE HULPBRONKWALITEITDOELWITTE BEPAAL

(1) Tabel 8 van Aanhangel A bepaal:

- (i) die gelyste Geïntegreerde Eenheid van Analise in die Laer Oranje waarvoor voorgestelde Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte bepaal is.
 - (ii) die gekose waterbronne (riviere, vleilande, grondwater en riviermondings) waarvoor hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte aangebied word; en
 - (iii) verwysing na daaropvolgende tabelle in die staatskoerant wat die voorgestelde Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte per geselekteerde subkomponente (hoeveelheid, kwaliteit, habitat, biota of grondwater) per Hulpbroneenheid lys.
- (2) Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte vir riviere per geïntegreerde eenheid van ontleding en hulpbroneenhede binne die Laer -Oranje-Opvangsgebied word in Tabelle 9 – 14 van Aanhangel A gespesifiseer.
- (3) Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte vir prioriteitsvleilandgroepe en -stelsels in geselekteerde hulpbroneenhede in die Laer Oranje-Opvangsgebied word in Tabel 15 van Aanhangel A uiteengesit.
- (4) Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte vir grondwater in prioriteitsgrondwaterhulpbroneenhede is soos gespesifiseer en uiteengesit in Tabelle 17 - 25 van Aanhangel A.
- (5) Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte vir die Oranjeriviermonding en kleiner riviermondings word in Tabel 26 - 30 van Aanhangel A uiteengesit.

Die Aanhangel tot hierdie Kennisgewing, wat die voorgestelde waterhulpbronklasse en Hulpbronkwaliteitsdoelwitte bevat, kan verkry word vanaf:

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

Of aangevra van:

Direkteur: Waterhulpbronklassifikasie
Aandag: Me Lebogang Matlala
Departement van Water en Sanitasie
Ndinaye -gebou 5046
178 Francis Baardstraat
Privaatsak x 313
Pretoria
0001
E-pos: matlalal@dws.gov.za

MOLAO WA BOSETŠHABA WA METSI, 1998**DITLHOPHA TSE DI TSHITSHINNGWANG TSA METSWEDI YA METSI LE MAIKAELELO A
BOLENG JWA METSWEDI YA METSI MO KGAOLONG E E KWA TLASE YA ORANGE**

Nna, Pemmy Majodina, mo maemong a me jaaka Tona ya Metsi le Kgeleloleswe, mme ke letleletswe ka tshwanelo go ya ka karolo 13(4) ya Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Metsi, 1998 (Molao No. 36 wa 1998), ke phasalatsa kitsiso ka ga ditlhopho tse di tshitshinngwang tsa metswedi ya metsi le maikaelelo a boleng jwa metswedi e e golaganeng, mo Lenaneong le le fano le le ikaeletsweng go phasaladiwa go ya ka karolo 13(1) ya Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Metsi, 1998 (Molao No. 36 wa 1998).

Motho mongwe le mongwe yo o eletsang go romela dikakgelo tse di kwadilweng tse di amanang le ditlhopho tsa metswedi ya metsi tse di tshisintsweng le maikaelelo a boleng jwa metswedi ya metsi o lalediwa go dira jalo mo malatsing a le 60 go tloga ka letlha la go phasaladiwa ga seno ke-

- (a) Go romela dikakgelo tseo kwa atereseng e e latelang:

Lefapha la Metsi le Kgeleloleswe
Kgetsana ya Sephiri X 313
Pretoria
0001

kgotsa

- (b) Go romela dikakgelo tse di ntseng jalo ka imeili kwa atereseng e e latelang: Mme

Lebogang Matlala
Email: matlalal@dws.gov.za

Dikakgelo di tshwanetse go lebiwa kwa go Motsamaisi: Tsamaiso ya Metswedi ya Metsi mme di tshwaiwe go tlhokomelwa ke Mme Lebogang Matlala. Dikakgelo tse di amogetsweng morago ga letlha le le beilweng ga di tsewe tsia.



MME PEMMY MAJODINA
TONA YA METSI LE KGELELOLESWE
LETLHA:

06. 08. 2026