



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Necessity for water use licensing

23 April 2018

To protect one of our most precious resources, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as the custodian of water resources is mandated to ensure that bulk water users are registered and billed as per the volumes registered on their licences.

Registration of water use is required in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). The National Water Act (NWA) aims to ensure that the water in South Africa is protected, used, controlled, managed, conserved and developed sustainably and equitably for the benefit of all persons in South Africa.

The reasons why water users are required to register their water use with the Department is to manage and control water resources for planning and development; to protect water resources against over-use, damage and adverse impacts; and to ensure fair allocation of water among users.

The NWA requires that water licencing be attained through a Water Use Licence or General Authorisation. These two water uses are designed to prevent pollution or changes in the water resource that could render the water resource harmful or unfit for its purpose. The NWA and subsequent licence requirements are applicable to all persons in South Africa.

If you are planning to extract water, store water, reduce the flow of water resource, discharge or dispose waste water into a water resource (or if you are simply planning to use water for recreational purposes, you may be required to obtain authorisation prior to engaging with the task.

Consult the DWS to determine whether your planned activity requires authorisation. The Department will provide a list of required information and specialist studies if the activity requires a licence.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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