



MEDIA STATEMENT

Update on the release of water from Berg River Dam to Misverstand Dam

24 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in collaboration with the Joint Operations Center established at the West Coast District Municipality, wishes to update water-users about the status of water release from the Berg River Dam to Misverstand Dam.

DWS, through its National Water Resource Infrastructure (NWRI) Branch, began the process of releasing 5 million cubic litres of water from the Berg River Dam into the Misverstand on 18 April 2018. The release was necessitated by the low dam levels of the Misverstand Dam due to lower-than normal rainfall.

The latest report from DWS hydrological team suggests that the total release of water at Berg River Dam is 5.066 million cubic metres. The release of water from the Berg River Dam was stopped at 3:30 am on Monday, 23 April 2018. At 13:00 pm, on the same day, the volume of water which passed the Paarl measuring point was 4.0 million cubic metres.

Water released from the Berg River Dam is still flowing and is being monitored between the different telemetric points. The flow rate at Hermon and Zonkwasdrift is both 7 cubic metres per second and the bulk of water is consistently flowing between Hermon Bridge and Drie Heuwels gauging stations.

Water reached the Drie Heuwels gauging station yesterday morning with a flow rate of 10 cubic metres per second. This means that water has reached the tail end of the Misverstand Dam. The calculated volumes will be supplied as soon as the information becomes available. It is anticipated that the calculated water volumes will reach the dam on Wednesday, 25 April 2018.

Ms Boniswa Hene, Director Regulations at DWS Western Cape, commends the joint enforcement efforts between DWS and the various representatives from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, South African Polices Services, Cape Winelands, West Coast District, Stellenbosch, Drakenstein, Swartland, Bergrivier and Saldanha Bay local municipalities in ensuring that unlawful water use activities are minimised. The effort will strengthen the regulatory framework of the water and the environmental sectors.

Property owners and the broader community along the Berg River are urged to cross rivers with caution as water runs at a higher volume and there remains the possibility of localised flooding.

Whilst the release process will bring some stability at the Misverstand Dam and much needed relief, the drought conditions still persist. However, there must still be continued water conservation and minimal use. The final replenishing process is anticipated to be completed by 30 April 2018.

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