



DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

18 September 2006

Dear Stakeholder

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT POSITION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (WRCS) AND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Two months ago, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) invited you to participate in a process to develop a Water Resource Classification System (WRCS) for the country. A Background Information Document (BID) providing the rationale to the process accompanied the invite letter. Subsequently, a "**Position Paper on the Development of a Water Resource Classification System (WRCS)**" was developed. The "**Position Paper**" serves as the basis for the stakeholder consultation during the development of the WRCS. The Department hereby wishes to thank you for your comments on the process, and also to invite you to participate in the forthcoming workshops to discuss the content of the attached "**Position Paper**".

The "**Position Paper**" presents a draft framework for the proposed WRCS that is being developed. It highlights the legal basis for the WRCS, draws a distinction between the WRCS and the process of classification (Classification Process), and outlines the principles being used to guide the development of the system. Since the National Water Act requires that the nation's water resources be protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways which facilitate social and economic development, the document also discusses the need for, and development of a system that integrates economic, social and ecological goals using a proposed seven-step procedure. Furthermore, issues raised by a wide range of stakeholders during an extensive public consultation process for the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) and the subsequent intradepartmental processes, are also considered.

You are invited to attend any of the two stakeholder workshops that will be held in Johannesburg and Durban on 26 and 27 October 2006 respectively. Please use the enclosed reply sheet to advise us of your choice of workshop. Email or fax your response to the Stakeholder Involvement Office at wmosupye@zitholele.co.za or (011) 801 2100 before or on Friday 20 October 2006. Further information on the workshop may be obtained from the Stakeholder Involvement Office at (011) 254-4905.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. M. M. M.', written over a horizontal line.

CHIEF DIRECTOR: RESOURCE DIRECTED MEASURES