

**DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL
GUIDELINE FOR THE
PROVISION OF WATER FOR
SMALL SCALE MULTIPLE USES**

WSSLG :21-22 November 2006

Background

- A guideline was developed to assist Local Government in providing water for small scale multiple use systems.
- The need for the guideline was a result of the North West DWAF Regional Offices raising a concern about the provision of water for stock watering.

Multiple Uses Within the Context of Government Policy

- **The 2003 Strategic Framework for Water Services** - The Strategic Framework for Water Services, 2003 (SFWS) acknowledges that water for small scale multiple uses is necessary for the reduction of poverty and the improvement of livelihoods ;
- **The Water Services Act (Act 108 of 1997)** - The overall objective of the Water Services Act (Act 108 of 1997) is to legislate the municipal function of ensuring water supply and sanitation services. DWAF is currently undertaking a review of the Act to ensure that it is aligned with the Strategic Framework for Water Services as well as other legislation that governs the sector.

Structure of the Guideline

The guideline addresses the following areas:

- Determining **Roles and Responsibilities** of different government departments to ensure integration, co-ordination and the long-term sustainability of the system;
- **Water Demand Considerations** in terms of determining the types of small scale multiple uses in an area of supply, how much water is required for small scale multiple uses, establishing whether the resource can support the demand, etc;
- **Water Supply Considerations** in terms of design criteria for new systems, upgrade of existing systems, efficient use of alternative sources and technologies, etc;
- **Operation and Maintenance of the MUS** – who is responsible for operating the system and maintaining the system.
- **Financial Planning** addresses cost recovery, use of government funds such as the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Equitable Share Grant, Resource Poor Irrigation Farmers Fund, Rain Watering Harvesting Fund and Local Economic Development Fund
- **Monitoring and Regulation System** – Establishing effective M&R systems and regulating the use of water for small scale MUS's

Highlights of the Guideline

- Apart from providing guidance to Local Government on how to provide water for MUS, the guideline provides clarity on the following issues:
 - There is no national definition for small scale MUS. For the purposes of the guideline document small scale MUS's is defined as, "the use of water by the poor to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth to support a sustainable livelihood".
 - The guideline addresses the water sector hence includes both WR and WS issues when planning water for MUS's.
 - The guideline is informed by initiatives undertaken by other stakeholders such as the Dept of Agric, the WRC, certain municipalities, the National Development Agency, DPLG, CMA's, Water Boards, WSA's, LED projects, etc.

Status Quo Report

- Two workshops have been held with key roleplayers in the field;
- The team still needs to visit case studies in four provinces;
- A draft guideline was prepared. The guideline was circulated to key stakeholders for comments;
- The comments have been included in the document however the guideline is still in draft form;
- The investigation into the use of MIG funds for the provision of water for small scale MUS needs to be finalized.

Summary of Comments Received

- The guideline has been well received. There were no comments received which fundamentally changed the structure or the content of the document
- Below is a summary of the key comments received:
 - The document should focus more on funding options;
 - The document should be more prescriptive;
 - The section on stakeholder consultation must be expanded and,
 - The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder must be more clearly defined, especially the Dept of Agriculture.

Input from Municipalities

Before the guideline can be finalized DWAF encourages all municipalities to provide details of small scale multiple use projects that they may be involved in. Further, it would be appreciated if we could receive input on the following issues:

- What are the main problems experienced by municipalities in terms of providing water for small scale uses?
- What additional issues would you like to see in the guideline that is not already addressed in the document?
- How are small scale multiple use projects currently being funded?
- Who is responsible for the maintenance and operation of these systems?
- How is cost recovery mechanisms implemented?
- Who are the key stakeholders and how are they involved in the projects?
- What support do you need from DWAF for implementing small scale MUS's?

Way Forward

- Case studies in the remaining provinces will be visited.
- The guideline will be finalized after receiving final comments from stakeholders.
- The final document will be circulated for comments.
- The guideline will be rolled out in the provinces.
- The guideline will be piloted in one of the provinces.