



## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A DIRECTED WRC PROJECT

<b>KEY STRATEGIC AREA</b>	<b>3 &amp; BDI</b>
<b>THRUST</b>	<b>Sustainable Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation</b>
<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>Application of appropriate technologies and tools</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Understanding the Policy and Regulatory Barriers for Water &amp; Sanitation RDI Implementation in South Africa</b>

**Objectives:** To examine and provide insight to the policy and regulatory factors and barriers for water sector RDI uptake in South Africa.

**General:**

South Africa's water sector is faced with many challenges due to natural and man-made causes. These complex and often interrelated issues provide an opportunity for the development of a wide range of innovations which are crucial for sustainable water management and socio-economic development under conditions of increasing water and energy demands, climate variability, requirement to replace ageing infrastructure and more stringent water quality control. Engagements with innovators and some stakeholders have shown that despite the robust research and development of water innovations in South Africa and very strong legislative framework has ensured that water is given high research priority, many of these innovations have struggled to move beyond the *Research, Development & Innovation* (RDI) stage due to various challenges that are encountered by those involved in the innovation ecosystem. There is a need to ensure that innovation receives the necessary support from the research and development stages to achieve uptake. This proposed project will provide key insights to policy and regulatory barriers to water sector RDI with a focus on municipal water and sanitation services.

**Specific Aims:**

The main objective of the proposed project is as follows:

1. Explore issues of governance and culture and policy and regulatory environment to facilitate water sector RDI uptake;
2. Provide case studies about innovations that have failed to reach the deployment and /or scalable stage. The WRC's "The South Africa Water Innovation Story" (Report SP 126/18) can be used as source of some case studies.
3. Develop dissemination material based on case studies to provide opportunities for other innovators.

**Rationale:**

The information generated from this project will enable the water sector to understand processes that drive or hinder the adoption of water innovations.

**Deliverables:**

1. Desktop evaluation of policy and regulatory framework.
2. Case Studies Report with barriers for water sector RDI uptake.
3. Final Report including learning material.

**Expected outputs**

1. Examination of drivers and/or barriers the adoption of water sector innovations
2. Selected case studies
3. Final Report including learning material.

**Lighthouse:**

- Not specific to WRC Lighthouse

**Impact Areas:**

- Policy and Decision-making

**Knowledge Tree**

- Inform Policy and Decision-making; Sustainable Development Solution

**Time Frame:** 1-year

**Total Funds Requested:** R 300,000 inclusive of VAT (R300,000 available in year 1).