

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A DIRECTED WRC PROJECT

THEME:	Water Use
TITLE	Assessing the need for large water reuse, reclamation and recycling as an regulated activity to be licenced and approaches to setting tariffs
TOR NUMBER	1010015

Rationale

It is now become apparent that securing South Africa's water future and its uses, will require a diversification of the water mix to meet the future demands. The Department of Water and Sanitation launched the second edition of the National Water Resources Strategy, which includes a section setting out the department's vision for the implementation of further water reuse in South Africa. Recently, the National Planning Commission also reflected on a national pathway to water security up to 2050 and identified the need for a national facility for research, development, innovation and testing with a focus on water reuse and desalination. Amongst the options reuse, mainly direct, offers the biggest opportunity in already stressed water use areas mainly in the municipal and the industrial/mining sectors. Thus the reuse activity in South Africa is set to explode in the near future, yet it remains an unregulated activity which while having several benefits on the resource side, could lead to a very complex circumstances such as salinity and other concerns. Further, many catchments require returns flows as part of the allocation and licence requirements, and how this will impact on the water resource and the quality.

This study aims to examine this strategic question and build a strategy and research framework to address this issue. This with the foresight of macro/micro/localised water reuse interventions which may emerge.

Objectives

1. Examining whether there is a strategic need to regulate for large water reuse, reclamation and recycling as an regulated activity
2. An analysis of water use licences and conditions on unregistered water reuse in the current context.
3. If supported the necessary legislative requirements and process needed.
4. Establishing the need for tariffing for water reuse as a resource.
5. examine whether the current tariff regime is adequately poised to support greater reuse of water
6. Establishing new innovative tariffing processes which will support direct reuse.
7. Identify the policy gaps in the current tariffing processes and how they can be enhanced to support the above.

Expected Deliverables:

1. A high level evidence based position paper highlighting the pros and cons of regulating water reuse/reclamation/recycling of treated effluents for direct reuse.
2. Highlighting policy and regulatory gaps
3. Establishing tariffing process to support greater uptake of reuse water
4. Any specific guidelines and recommendation which may be required to support the regulation of water reuse/recycling/ reclamation.

Total Budget: R 1 200 000.00 (Including VAT)

Year 1: R 600 000.00 (Including VAT)

Duration: 14 months