

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BE A MEMBER OF A WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION
NATIONAL WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THEME	Water Advisory Services
TOR NUMBER	1010032

Background

South Africa faces increasing challenges related to water quality, stemming from urbanization, agricultural runoff, industrial activities, and inadequate wastewater management. In recognition of the urgent need for a coordinated and evidence-based approach to address water quality challenges in South Africa, the Water Research Commission seeks to establish a National Water Quality Advisory Committee. This Advisory committee aims to provide a structured platform for delivering actionable guidance to policymakers, local authorities, industry stakeholders, and communities. This initiative will bridge the gap between scientific research and practical decision-making, ensuring sustainable and adaptive management of the country's water resources. The WRC invites qualified and interested parties to submit applications to be member of the WRC National Water Quality Advisory Committee.

1 Scope of work

The broad scope of work for the advisory will include, but not limited to:

- Reviewing and assessing existing water quality management frameworks and identifying gaps.
- Develop and recommend evidence-based water quality guidelines for known and emerging contaminants of concern for various water uses (e.g., drinking water, industrial use, agriculture, ecosystems).
- Provide thought leadership, advisories and expert guidance on water quality issues of national importance
- Respond to water quality emergencies and provide timeous advisories during water quality crises, such as contamination events or natural disasters
- Promote the uptake of research and innovative solutions for addressing water quality challenges, and identify knowledge gaps in emerging areas, including CECs and climate change impacts on water quality.
- Facilitating training and capacity-building initiatives for key stakeholders.
- Delivering targeted policy recommendations and strategies to address water quality challenges.

2 Composition of the WRC National Water Quality Advisory

2.1 Lead and secretariat

The lead and secretariat roles of the National Water Quality Advisory shall be determined by the Water Research Commission.

2.2 WRC National Water Quality Advisory members

Members of the WRC National Water Quality Advisory shall constitute of a distinguished group of engineers, scientists, and practitioners who are nationally recognized experts in their respective fields. Interested parties responding to this EOI must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Deep understanding of water quality governance and policy development; expert knowledge of water quality standards development, compliance frameworks, and enforcement mechanisms.
- Demonstrated technical and scientific expertise in one or more of the following areas: hydrology and water resources quality management; water quality modelling; water quality monitoring and assessment; water safety planning; epidemiology; ecotoxicology; microbiology; environmental chemistry; GIS and remote sensing; data science and statistical modelling
- Expertise in cost-benefit analysis for water quality interventions, economic valuation of water resources, and financing mechanisms for water management.
- Expertise in public health; social, behavioural and decision sciences; environmental impact assessment; sustainability, etc.
- Skills in developing and disseminating materials to educate and train stakeholders about water quality issues and solutions.
- Capacity to engage with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, industry representatives, and community organizations.
- Proficiency in preparing clear, concise, and actionable advisory reports for decision-makers.
- Strong track record of implementing national or regional water quality initiatives.

2.3 Specialist and working groups

To address specific issues and advance targeted initiatives, the WRC may establish specialist and working groups, drawing from the pool of members within the National Water Quality Advisory.

2.4 Submission process

All EOI applications must be submitted electronically in PDF format to Ms Charmaine Dladla (charmained@wrc.org.za) using the subject Line: Expression of Interest – National Water Quality Advisory Programme. The WRC template to be used for this submission can be downloaded here: http://wrcwebsite.azurewebsites.net/mdocs-posts/panel-of-experts-application-form_word/.

2.5 Evaluation criteria and appointment

EOI submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Expertise in water quality and track record in related fields

- Given the complexity of water quality management, applicants capable of integrating perspectives across environmental sciences, public health, agriculture, industry and mining, urban planning and infrastructure will be given high priority.

This EOI is issued solely for the purpose of gathering information and identifying qualified parties. Submission of an EOI does not constitute a commitment by the WRC to award any contract or proceed with the programme. Formal appointment to serve on the WRC's National Water Quality Advisory shall be in writing and shall be for a specific term (not more than three years) and on remuneration terms determined by the Water Research Commission.

Total budget: R 500 000 (Including VAT)

Duration: 3 years