



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
*Our Future - make it work*

# Progress on the National Water Resource Strategy 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

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Date: 29 November 2022



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# Contents

- Purpose
- Background
- Overview of the National Water Resource Strategy 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- Progress to date
- Way forward

# Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to brief the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation on progress made towards the review of the National Water Resource Strategy and the development of the National Water Resource Strategy, Third Edition (NWRS-3)

# Background and legislative framework

- Part 1 of Chapter 2 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) requires the progressive development, by the Minister after consultation with society at large, of a National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS)
- The NWRS is a legal instrument that operationalises the National Water Act (NWA) (Act No 36 of 1998) and it is binding on all authorities and institutions implementing the National Water Act (NWA)
- The NWRS provides the framework for the protection, use, development, conservation, management, and control of water resources for the country; and
- The NWRS provides the framework within which water will be managed at regional or catchment level, in defined Water Management Areas
- The NWRS must be formally reviewed within a period not exceeding five years.

# Reflection of the review of the NWRS

- Persistent Water Concerns and Challenges
  - Implementation of Water Conservation & Water Demand Management
  - Transformation (lack of equitable access to water hinders efforts to eradicate poverty, and limits sustainable economic growth),
  - Water pollution and lack of protection and restore of ecological infrastructure and vandalism,
  - Effectiveness of water sector institutions,
  - Poor service delivery and performance among municipalities, including Dysfunctional WWTW's,
  - Illegal water abstraction and illegal discharge of effluent into the water resource
  - Skills and capacity
  - Security of power supply for critical water supply
  - Increased water demand due to population growth and rapid urbanisation

# NWRS-3 Overview

- The NWRS-3 builds on the NWRS-2 with the following key considerations:
  - Focus on priorities of the 6th Administration of the Government
  - Alignment with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa's Agenda 2063, National Water Security Framework Version 5.0, DWS Strategic Plan (2020 to 2025)
  - Focus on Integrated Water Quality Management and setting of stricter minimum requirements for WWTW effluent discharges
  - Support for technological advances in new knowledge and real time data acquisition for Water Resources Management (WRM)
  - Improved audit compliance of self-regulating water and sanitation sector institutions as per their Water Use Authorization conditions
  - Alignment with the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP) as the "execution arm" of the NWRS-3 (*i.e.*, timelines, responsibilities, budgets per Strategic Action)

# NWRS-3 Overview

## NWRS-3 VISION

The protection and management of water resources to enable equitable and sustainable access to water and sanitation services to support socio-economic growth and development for the well-being of current and future generations.

### GOAL 1:

Water and sanitation must support development and the elimination of poverty and inequality

5. Increasing water supply

7. Managing effective water and sanitation services

8. Regulating the water and sanitation sector

### GOAL 2:

Water and sanitation must contribute to the economy and job creation

4. Reducing water demand

6. Redistributing water for transformation

10. Promoting international co-operation

### GOAL 3:

Water must be protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled sustainably and equitably

12. Protecting and restoring ecological infrastructure

11. Improving raw water quality

9. Managing water and sanitation under a changing climate

## NWRS-3 CHAPTERS PER OVERARCHING GOAL

13. Creating effective water sector institutions

14. Data collection, analysis & information management for effective M, E & R

15. Building capacity for action

16. Ensuring financial sustainability

17. Enhancing research, development and innovation

18. Addressing legislative and policy gaps

## NWRS-3 CHAPTERS ENABLING OVERALL EXECUTION

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# NWRS-3 Chapters

**4. REDUCING WATER DEMAND**

**5. INCREASING WATER SUPPLY (*new*)**

**6. REDISTRIBUTING WATER FOR TRANSFORMATION**

**7. MANAGING EFFECTIVE WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES (*new*)**

**8. REGULATING THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

**9. MANAGING WATER AND SANITATION UNDER A CHANGING CLIMATE**

**10. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

**11. IMPROVING RAW WATER QUALITY (*new*)**

**12. PROTECTING AND RESTORING ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**13. CREATING EFFECTIVE WATER SECTOR INSTITUTIONS**

**14. DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND INFO MANAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE M, E & R**

**15. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ACTION**

**16. ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**17. ENHANCING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION**

**18. ADDRESSING LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY GAPS**

- Three additional chapters included

- All other chapters revised and updated

- All chapters aligned with the NW&S Master Plan

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# NWRS-3 Chapter Flow & Master Plan Link

Each chapter of the NWRS-3 has been structured as follows for better flow and implementation:

NWRS-3

**1. Context and Current Challenges** (*sets the picture*)



**2. Guiding Principles** (*parameters within which to work*)



**3. Baseline and Status Quo** (*where we currently are*)



**4. Strategic Objectives (+/- 7) and Strategic Actions**  
(*what we want to achieve*)



The **Strategic Objectives (SO)** and **Strategic Actions (SA)** from the Strategy are linked to the **National Water and Sanitation Master Plan** where they are carried forward for resourcing and execution.

**Baseline, Targets, Time Frames, KPIs, Accountability, Responsibility, Resources Required** and a **Reporting Framework** comprising of **Progress & Outcomes, Impact Achieved** and **Narrative** should all be included per SO and SA in the NW&SMP Volume 3.

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# NWRS-3... Progress to Date (1)

- The department started the review of the NWRS in 2016 with an intention of finalizing the review by August 2018
- Since the promulgation of the Department of Water & Sanitation in 2014, the Sanitation function was moved from Department of Human Settlements to the DWS
- In response to this development, the DWS reviewed the National Sanitation Policy that was approved by Cabinet in December 2016
- The Department commenced a legislative review process which was intended to merge the National Water Act (NWA) and the Water Services Act (WSA) into one piece of legislation
- The Department took a decision to develop a National Water and Sanitation Resources and Services Strategy (NWRSS)
- There were challenges with the approach to merge the NWA and WSA and the DWS decided to proceed with the legislative review but with the two Acts remaining separated
- Development of the NWSRSS had to be discontinued and the department proceeded with the review of the NWRS

## NWRS-3... Progress to Date (2)

- Issues of Water and Sanitation Services were addressed under the Strategic Framework for Water Services and incorporated into the NWRS.
- Delays in the finalization of the review were experienced due to these developments
- The DWS however continued to protect, use, develop, conserve, manage and control the country's water resources under the NWRS-2 as the Strategy is still operational and valid legally
- DWS gazetted the Draft NWRS-3 on 29 July 2022 for public comments after obtaining approval from Cabinet
- The department has held 10 external stakeholder consultation sessions in all 9 Provinces as well as at a national level to solicit inputs into the draft NWRS-3
- The department is currently reviewing all the inputs received and will incorporate them into the final draft of the Strategy (NWRS-3)

# Way Forward

- DWS will finalize the review, incorporate all the inputs received and produce a final draft by December 2022
- After finalizing, the NWRS-3 will be submitted to the Social Protection, Community and Human Development (SPCHD) cluster and the Economic Sector Investment, Employment and Infrastructure Development (ESIEID) cluster for endorsement of implementation
- After approval by the clusters, the final NWRS-3 will be submitted to Cabinet for final approval for implementation
- The Minister will then issue a gazette notice to inform the public of the new NWRS-3 for implementation by March 2023

# THANK YOU

