

## TREASURE KAROO ACTION GROUP

Department of Water Affairs  
Republic of South Africa  
Comment on National Water Strategy 2012

Dear Minister Molewa,

### Call for Written Submissions on the National Water Resources Strategy - 2012

We have received the National Water Resources Strategy and wish to take this opportunity to submit our comment especially with reference to our detailed knowledge of the shale gas mining (SGM) technology currently proposed for licencing in South Africa.

1. There are three primary considerations in connection with water and SGM:
  - Where will water for the very thirsty process be sourced?
  - How do applicants guarantee to drill through underground water sources without damage and pollution?
  - Where and how will toxic waste be disposed of?
2. These questions raise a myriad of other questions which in our opinion, need to be addressed in a very cautious and scientific manner before any form of water licences are issued for SGM. As an example, I highlight two questions:
  - Will the department insist on baseline testing of underground and surface water in a significant radius area (at least 100km) around any exploration or production of of SGM?
  - Will the department consult with the affected landowners and indeed local communities (at least 100km radius – even for exploration) who could be affected by a polluting incident of the underground water system before issuing any water permits to applicants for SGM?

Our review of the National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS) has not revealed an acknowledgement of what we view as a very significant threat to the water supplies of South Africa, and we respectfully place on record, that we believe that SGM, more especially in terms of the vast scope and scale of the applications, and new Technical Cooperation Permits registered with PASA, requires a very detailed study and response. As an organisation that noe represents directly circa 80 000 persons, and logically many more, vicariously, it is incumbent on us to bring this to your attention. We do not feel that the NWRS 2012 addresses SGM as a huge potential threat to South Africa's water supplies.

I thank you for taking the time to receive and read our submission, which is submitted to you before the commencement of the next working day after the deadline. I apoligise for the late entry, and believe that you will still accept our comment as an important observation on this vital issue.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Deal - Chairman

## Tyhileka madubela - SUBMISSION ON NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

---

**From:** TKAG <natcoordinator@treasurethekaroo.co.za>  
**To:** <tmadubela@parliament.gov.za>  
**Date:** 2012/10/19 06:23 AM  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION ON NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY  
**CC:** Cormac Cullinan <cormac@greencounsel.co.za>, "greg@greencounsel.co.za" <...>  
**Attachments:** Dept of Water Affairs Comment on National Water Strategy.docx

---

Dear Ms Tyhileka Madubela

Please would you be so kind as to receive and include this submission in respect of the above Proposed National Water Resource Strategy.

TKAG is a volunteer staffed and donation-funded NPO, and as such is not in a position to maintain a staff capable of attending to the myriad issues surrounding our response to the proposed shale gas mining in South Africa.

We have recently enjoyed a meeting with your department's Mr. Peter Lukie, and believe that there is much common ground for a shared interest in South Africa's water resources, between the DWA and TKAG.

The document is attached for your perusal and I will be most delighted to receive your confirmation by return email that it has been accepted.

With best wishes



Jonathan Deal  
Chairman



THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION TO FRACKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

**2012 WINNER OF THE NPO CATEGORY – MAIL & GUARDIAN GREENING THE FUTURE AWARD  
FINALIST – 2012 ECO-LOGIC AWARDS – ECO WARRIOR CATEGORY**

**SMS KAROO TO 42030 TO DONATE R30 TO TKAG**

(Cell +27 76-838-5150) alternates: (Karoo Landline +27 23-358-9902) (Karoo Fax +27 23-358-9903)

Skype: Jonnifoto Facebook: ChaseShellOiloutoftheKaroo Web: [www.treasurethekaroo.co.za](http://www.treasurethekaroo.co.za) Twitter: @timelesskaroo

Administration, mail and media enquiries: [natcoordinator@treasurethekaroo.co.za](mailto:natcoordinator@treasurethekaroo.co.za) (Office +27 21 979-2768) (Fax +27 21 979-2768)