



DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

OFFICE OF THE : **DIRECTOR: NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE PLANNING**
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Dear Stakeholder,

CROCODILE (WEST) MODELLING AND RECONCILIATION STRATEGY STUDIES: PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) recently completed the Internal Strategic Perspective (ISP) study for, amongst others, the Crocodile (West) River catchment. The ISP includes yield studies and a reconciliation strategy. The strategy for yield balance addresses the uncertainties, assumptions and unknowns of the availability of water (yield) and the water requirements. Based on the available knowledge a reconciliation strategy was drawn up to match demand requirements with adequate supply in such a way that growth is not compromised. As a consequence of developing the ISP, it became evident that the strategies developed need to be unpacked in finer detail to ensure that the water resources are effectively and efficiently managed to supply South Africa's economic hub, and that demand requirements and projections need to be firmed up. DWAF: National Water Resources Planning therefore initiated two projects in the Crocodile (West) River catchment; to update the modelling and to develop reconciliation strategies for the system.

The projects include stakeholder consultation processes with the overall purpose of providing information to and receiving inputs from interested and affected parties. The information and inputs will include the identification and discussion of alternative strategies that should be considered as well as issues and impacts related to the project.

Both the Crocodile West Modelling and Reconciliation Strategy projects take place in the same study area at the same time and involve many of the same people (from DWAF, in the PSP teams, and in the stakeholder bodies). The two projects also interlink with each other on key aspects. In order to use resources efficiently, it is therefore suggested that most of the stakeholder consultation processes are combined.

Cognisance is also taken of the fact that the DWAF is in the process of establishing a Catchment Management Agency (CMA) for the Crocodile (West)/Marico Water Management Area, and that a number of institutional structures have already been put in place. The project team intends to use these structures as far as is possible during the stakeholder consultation process. The intention is to involve the CMA Board and the Chief Executive Officer at the earliest possible opportunity, to the extent that they can become involved, should the CMA be established during the execution of these studies.

Public meetings have been scheduled for July 2005 in Pretoria, Rustenburg and Thabazimbi. The purpose of the meetings is to:

- Introduce the studies to stakeholders;
- Provide background information regarding the study area, issues already identified, and the planned execution of the study; and
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to raise issues related to water availability and requirements in the study area, that should be considered in the execution of the study.

The meetings schedule is as follow:

10:00 on 26 July 2005, Centurion City Hall, Centurion
10:00 on 27 July 2005, Civic Centre, Rustenburg
10:00 on 28 July 2005, Show Grounds Hall, Thabazimbi

Please confirm your intention to attend any of the meetings with Charles Mathoma at BKS (012 421 3502/ charlesm@bks.co.za), by 18 July 2005.

Yours faithfully,



DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 27 June 2005