



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Directorate: National Water Resource Planning**

**VAAL RIVER SYSTEM  
STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Terms of Reference**

# STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

## VAAL RIVER SYSTEM

### GENERAL INFORMATION AND TASK DESCRIPTION (TERMS OF REFERENCE)

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2009 the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS) and relevant Stakeholders, developed a strategy to the ongoing reconciliation of water supply and requirements for the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS). The Continuation of the Integrated Vaal River System Reconciliation Strategy (Phase 1), which followed the original strategy was finalised in 2015. One of the recommendations which came out of these studies was that a Strategy Steering Committee is required be established with a clearly defined mandate and scope of work.

The primary function of the Strategy Steering Committee will be is to ensure the implementation of the strategy and to make recommendations, on an annual basis, on long-term planning activities required to ensure ongoing reconciliation of requirement and available water supply in the Mbombela area Vaal River System.

The DWS has commenced with Phase 2 of the Continuation of the Integrated Vaal River System Reconciliation Strategy study in 2018 and will maintain the functioning of the Strategy Steering Committee through this phase.

A number of organizations receive water from the Integrated Vaal River System. The main role players to date being the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Eskom, Sasol, Rand Water, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc. These organizations must play a significant role in decisions regarding the operation of the Vaal River System and need a forum to ensure that their requirements can be met. Organizations represented on the Steering Committee must ensure that recommendations made in the Strategy documents are implemented and assume a collective responsibility for ensuring the ongoing reconciliation of supply and requirement.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Strategy Steering Committee are:

- Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy.
- To update and maintain the Strategy to ensure that it remains relevant.
- Ensure that the Strategy and its recommendations are appropriately communicated.

### 2.1 *Implementation of Strategy Recommendations*

- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the VRS Reconciliation Strategy (2015).
- Monitor and address the progress and compliance with set targets and objectives, e.g.
  - Water use compliance enforcement to eradicate unlawful water use
  - Implementation and effectiveness of Water Conservation and Water Demand Management interventions toward meeting set targets
  - Utilization of treated effluent and other discharges, especially those from the mines
  - Implementation of infrastructure augmentation options
  - Implementation of other interventions
  - Target dates for initiating and completing studies
- Assess the implications of deviations from targeted progress.
- Make recommendations on mitigation measures and adjustments to ensure the ongoing reconciliation of supply and requirements.

### 2.2 *Updating of the Strategy*

- Review and revise the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy as required.
- Monitor and update water requirements on an annual basis.
- Reassess the available resources and the existing system yield.
- Undertake an annual reconciliation of supply and requirements.
- Update the Scenario Planning Process to cater for changes in water requirements, yield and potential delays in the implementation of selected interventions.
- Finalize the process for the selection of interventions for implementation.
- Make recommendations to DWS and the relevant Water Services Authorities (WSAs) for further studies required to update the water requirement and system yield, as well as on the need to implement interventions.

### 2.3 *Communication*

- Communicate annually, as and when required, the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy Study to the following Authorities and Stakeholders:
  - DWS
  - Eskom
  - Sasol
  - Rand Water
  - Sedibeng Water
  - Midvaal Water
  - SALGA
  - Gauteng Provincial Government
  - Northern Cape Provincial Government
  - Free State Provincial Government
  - North West Provincial Government
  - Organised Agriculture
  - The general public

- Environmental NGOs
- Liaise with Departments involved in producing National and Provincial Strategies and provide input into Provincial Strategies.
- Brief relevant municipalities and Water User Associations (WUAs) on imminent decisions.
- Inform politicians of press releases relating to the reconciliation of supply and requirement.
- Receive input from the Annual Operations Forum as required.
- Provide information for the DWS websites.

### **3. ARRANGEMENTS**

The Vaal River System Strategy Steering Committee was formed to ensure ongoing water quality management and the reconciliation of water supply and requirement. Whilst the committee comprises representatives from national government, provincial government, local government, the CMAs and WUAs, the meetings will be facilitated and chaired by DWS: Integrated Water Resource Planning.

### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP**

An Administrative and Technical Support Group will be appointed to support the Strategy Steering Committee. The Support Group will provide administrative, scientific and technical support. This support will be facilitated through DWS: National Water Resource Planning.

### **5. REPRESENTATION**

The institution / agencies to be represented on the Strategy Steering Committee are listed in as follows:

- National, provincial and local government;
  - Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
  - Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
  - Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
  - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
  - Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
  - Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)
  - Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
  - Offices of the Premiers
  - Municipalities (metropolitan and local) in the study area
  - South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
  - National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
  - Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC)
- Relevant residents' associations, rates payers' organisations, community-based organisations, agricultural organisations and Non-government organisations (NGOs):
  - Agri SA
  - Farmers' Associations
  - Chamber of Mines South Africa

- Environmental and water bodies, forums, groups and associations:
  - Earthlife Africa
  - Federation for Sustainable Environment (FSE)
  - Gauteng Water Sector Forum
  - Birdlife Africa
  - Working for Water
  - Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance
  - Sub Catchment Forums
  - WESSA
  - Water User Associations
  - Rand Water
  - Sedibeng Water
  - Midvaal Water Company
  
- Private sector (business, industries, etc) in the study area:
  - Sappi
  - Sasol
  
- Parastatals:
  - Eskom
  - Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)
  - Water Research Commission (WRC)
  
- Other:
  - WITS
  - SAICE

## **6. STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It is envisaged that two meetings will be held, at six monthly intervals, each year:

- Meeting 1
  - To consider / review progress with implementation
  - To consider implications from the Annual Operations System Analysis
  - To update the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy
  - To identify further investigative work to be done
  - To deal with communication (media release)
  
- Meeting 2
  - To consider / review progress with implementation
  - To consider findings of investigations identified earlier
  - To deal with communications (media release and newsletter)