

**National Water Act: Chapter 2 - Water Management Strategies; Part 1 - National Water Resource Strategy****Establishment of national water resource strategy**

5. (1) Subject to subsection (4), the Minister must, as soon as reasonably practicable, by notice in the *Gazette*, establish a national water resource strategy.

(2) The notice must state the address where the strategy may be inspected.

(3) The water resources of the Republic must be protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in accordance with the national water resource strategy.

(4) A national water resource strategy -

(a) may be established in a phased and progressive manner and in separate components over time; and

(b) must be reviewed at intervals of not more than five years.

(5) Before establishing a national water resource strategy or any component of that strategy in terms of subsection (1), the Minister must -

(a) publish a notice in the *Gazette* -

(i) setting out a summary of the proposed strategy or the component in question;

(ii) stating the address where the proposed strategy or the component in question is available for inspection; and

(iii) inviting written comments to be submitted on the proposed strategy or the component in question, specifying an address to which and a date before which comments must be submitted, which date may not be earlier than 90 days after publication of the notice;

(b) consider what further steps, if any, are appropriate to bring the contents of the notice to the attention of interested persons, and take those steps which the Minister considers to be appropriate; and

(c) consider all comments received on or before the date specified in paragraph (a)(iii).

**Contents of national water resource strategy**

6. (1) The national water resource strategy must, subject to section 5(4)(a) -

(a) set out the strategies, objectives, plans, guidelines and procedures of the Minister and institutional arrangements relating to the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources within the framework of existing relevant government policy in order to achieve -

(i) the purpose of this Act; and

(ii) any compulsory national standards prescribed under section 9(1) of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997);

(b) provide for at least -

(i) the requirements of the Reserve and identify, where appropriate, water resources from which particular requirements must be met;

(ii) international rights and obligations;

(iii) actions to be taken to meet projected future water needs; and

(iv) water use of strategic importance;

(c) establish water management areas and determine their boundaries;

(d) contain estimates of present and future water requirements;

(e) state the total quantity of water available within each water management area;

(f) state water management area surpluses or deficits;

(g) provide for inter-catchment water transfers between surplus water management areas and deficit water management areas;

(h) set out principles relating to water conservation and water demand management;

(i) state the objectives in respect of water quality to be achieved through the classification system for water resources provided for in this Act;

(j) contain objectives for the establishment of institutions to undertake water resource management;

(k) determine the inter-relationship between institutions involved in water resource management; and

(l) promote the management of catchments within a water management area in a holistic and integrated manner.

(2) In determining a water management area in terms of subsection (1)(c), the Minister must take into account -

(a) watercourse catchment boundaries;

(b) social and economic development patterns;

(c) efficiency considerations; and

(d) communal interests within the area in question.

**Giving effect to national water resource strategy**

7. The Minister, the Director-General, an organ of state and a water management institution must give effect to the national water resource strategy when exercising any power or performing any duty in terms of this Act.