

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

IF YOU ARE TIRED OF POLLUTED RIVERS, SHOCKING CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT, LACK OF WATER RELATED COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCEMENT, ENDLESS PLANS FOR MORE BIG DAMS, IMPACTS ON IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES : now is your chance to rectify things and have a say in the future of South Africa's water resources. If you don't participate, the bottom line is that you have NO right in the future to bemoan the declining health of our rivers.



The draft National Water Resources Strategy is out for comment. There is a stakeholders meeting in Durban on 8 November and comment is due on 6th December.

I have just been given a CD containing the World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report. This report was reviewed over a period of 3 years by a high powered multi stakeholder group in South Africa, and they made comments and various recommendations, most of which supported the WCD. They released the report in November 2004, and basically the report was shoved into file 13 and seems to have been largely ignored. I have read through the SA Stakeholder report which I will happily send to you if you contact me – pennyduct@vodamail.co.za .(DAMS – SA Substantive Report). To save you reading all 118 pages, I have highlighted pertinent points in yellow, and made a couple of my own comments in capitals. Text in red is when I feel something is extremely important. The draft document they refer to is superseded by the one to be discussed at next Fridays meeting I feel very strongly that the recommendations of the Dam report should be included in the National Water Resource Strategy, and **I beg you to register as an IAP** and take part to ensure that they ARE included. (Remember that there are 2 dams planned on the Umkomaas and another two on the Tugela for yet more inter catchment transfer schemes).



Some other items that desperately need inclusion in the report are :

Fracking Climate Change Desalination Rain water harvesting policy change

– illegal as per some municipal bye laws! Sewage to fresh water recycling

Management of water quality Interbasin transfers Monitoring &

Compliance issue. I have, thanks to Vodacom, been unable to access the

draft doc on the website yet, so have been unable to check if any of the

recommendation re dams have been included, and also assume that the

draft is a massive tome. I was thinking that if any of you are prepared to

register as IAPs, if we could maybe “share” the task of reading thro the draft

document, each taking on a section, summarising it for the others, ie pool

our time, knowledge etc etc. I will be attending the meeting in Durban & am

happy to summarise & report back to you all. You can register as an IAP

(Interested & Affected Party) either as an organisation or as an individual.

Perhaps some individuals could get together and register as a group. This registration would be via the contact details above. – I am happy to advise / help. The draft document is available on www.dwa.gov.za. Please let me know if you are interested on becoming involved so we can all work together to ensure clean healthy rivers in South Africa – and please pass this on ASAP to anyone who may be interested in taking part.



Source: <https://umngeniriverwalk.wordpress.com/2012/11/03/national-water-resources-strategy/>