



Agri SA Centre of Excellence:

Natural Resources

WATER DESK

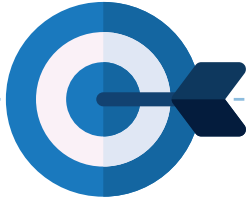


Water for Food Security



VISION

Security of water for food security in South Africa



MISSION

Elevating the South African agricultural sector's water interests

AGRI SA's WATER MANDATE

Agri SA and its affiliated members are committed to actively supporting and participating in any and all initiatives aimed at:

- Ensuring that water uses by Agri SA's affiliated members are **lawful** in accordance with the National Water Act and that the illegal use of water is not tolerated
- Promoting **water use efficiency**, including through the use of appropriate metering and other technology, in order to minimise water losses and the wastage of water
- Preventing the **pollution** of water and the deterioration of the **infrastructure** which enables its use
- Enabling and assisting with the rapid finalisation of the **verification and validation** of existing lawful water use entitlements of the agricultural sector
- Progressively advancing a fully inclusive and **representative** agricultural sector which contributes to a prosperous and stable State and region
- Promoting and assisting in the identification and rapid development of unutilised water resources for **transformation** purposes
- Assuming the rightful place of agricultural users in well-capacitated and fully functional **catchment management agencies** and **local water management institutions**
- Fostering and **strengthening** a **relationship** of responsible citizenry, accountability and mutual trust with **government**

ACTIVITIES

- Policy Analysis and Influence
- Research and development
- Informing and advising members
- Representation at relevant forums
- Engagement with government
- Informing public perception
- Thought leaderships and media engagements
- Strategic litigation
- Networking and Collaboration
- Advocacy and Negotiation



KEY FOCUS AREAS



1. Water management

- Promote the delegation of water resource management to the regional or catchment level and to involve local communities
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2. Validation and Verification

- Monitor status throughout South Africa
 - Lobby for the completion of the process
 - Assist government where possible
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3. Water Use Efficiency

- Promote the implementation of water use measurement and metering
 - Lobby for responsible regulation and enforcement
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4. Transferability of water use entitlements

- Support the continued ability to permanently and temporarily transfer water use entitlements in accordance with the National Water Act
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5. Water affordability

- Participation in Raw water tariff consultations
- Negotiate affordable tariffs
- Assist in addressing billing and debt irregularities

6. Deteriorating water quality and infrastructure

- Lobby for national monitoring and reporting of the quality of water resources
- Support specific projects or interventions to assist government in fulfilling its obligations

7. Lawful use of water

- Promote correct implementation and adherence to the National Water Act in the interests of all agricultural water users

8. Water Allocation Reform

- Contribute towards the development of a Transformation Charter for Water
- Investigate underutilised and non-utilised water throughout the country

9. Relationship with government and other stakeholders

- Cement partnerships and formal working relationships
- Cultivate productive relationships

VOLUNTARY WATER FUND

1. Agri SA receives an annual voluntary levy from various provinces, water users' associations and irrigation boards for use in water-related matters affecting irrigation farmers
2. In performing its functions, Agri SA's Water Desk draws from the shared resources and expertise of contributors to the VWF as well as Agri SA's provincial-, commodity- and corporate affiliates
3. Through Agri SA's Water Desk, Agri SA continuously resolves issues which includes, amongst other things:
 - i. Participation in the negotiations on the annual national raw water tariff dispensation
 - ii. The derogation of existing lawful water use entitlements
 - iii. Institutional arrangements with respect to water management in South Africa, including the creation of Catchment Management Agencies (**CMA's**) en Local Water Management Institutions (**LWMI's**)
 - iv. Government's responsibilities with respect to water quality
 - v. The criteria to be applied by government when granting or refusing water use entitlements
 - vi. Participation in negotiations and providing comments in relation to proposed statutory or policy amendments with respect to water

UTILISATION OF THE VWF



Contribution to the legal fees in respect of two court cases pertaining to the permanent and temporary transfers of water use entitlements

Contribution to a water quality testing and action project along the lower Orange river

Agri SA's Annual Water Symposium

KEY STAKEHOLDERS



- Water Research Commission
- The South African Association of Water User Associations
- Strategic Water Partners Network
- South African National Council for Irrigation and Drainage
- South African Weather Service
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
- Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

THREATS



Competing demands
for water



Illegal
water use



Pollution



Infrastructure
decline



Policy and
regulatory uncertainty



Climate
Change



Public
perception

STRENGTHS



Specialist knowledge
and expertise



Excellent
network



Strong relationship
with government
and sector role players



Pre-eminent authority
on water policy
related matters



Strong media
presence



A dedicated
fund



Access to a well developed
research community



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