

Media release

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### **Call to waste water dischargers to register**

The Department of Water and Environmental Affairs is calling on all water users who discharge waste into a water resource or whose activities impact on a water resource, to register these activities by the 30th of August 2009.

As custodian of the nation's water resources the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs has to ensure that the water resource is protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in a sustainable and equitable manner for the benefit of all persons, and in accordance with its constitutional mandate.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, the Department published a government notice compelling all waste dischargers, to register these activities within 90 days. This applies to all municipalities, industries (including mines) or individuals whose activities impact on a water resource.

This registration focuses exclusively on those water uses that are waste discharge or waste disposal related, in other words, water uses as described in Sections 21 (e), 21(f), 21(g), 21(h) and 21(j) of the National Water Act. The registration process will assist the Department to close current information gaps related to waste discharge and to identify “hotspots” with regard to water quality deterioration of our water resources. This information is essential for the effective management of the catchments.

In order for the Department to fulfil its mandate of protecting the quality of water resources interests of all water users the call to register includes the following category of uses:

- discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource;
- Irrigating with waste or wastewater;
- disposing of waste in a manner that may detrimentally impact on a water resource;
- Disposing of water which contains waste from or which has been heated in a power generation process; and
- removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground

For detailed information taking the applicant step-by-step through the questions, the [registration guide](#) can be consulted. For queries, waste dischargers can phone the DWEA toll-free line on 0800 200 200 or send an e-mail to [warmsenquiries@dwaf.gov.za](mailto:warmsenquiries@dwaf.gov.za).

The registration process will be implemented in the regions/provinces by the DWEA regional offices.

For more information contact: Nndangi Musekene on (012) 336 7277.