

The Department of Water Affairs published a Legal Notice on 6 May 2009 calling for the registration of waste discharge related water users. These users, defined in terms of section 21 of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998, are:

Water Use	Description	Examples applicable to the Agricultural Sector
21(e)	Irrigating with waste or water containing waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irrigating with treated effluent • spraying of waste or effluent onto land • includes use of sewage sludge as a fertilizer and irrigating with wastewater generated from feedlots, piggeries etc
21(f)	Discharging waste or water containing waste (effluent) into a water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any discharge of effluent directly into a water resource • includes discharges from aquaculture related activities
21(g)	disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposing of waste or effluent in land-based facilities such as evaporation ponds commonly uses in wineries • disposal of wastewater generated through washing-down processes such as dairy farms, abattoirs etc • disposal of sludge including sludge lagoons • manure storage facilities • disposal of waste or wastewater from Intensive animal husbandry • waste or wastewater disposal from aquaculture activities
21(h)	disposing of waste or wastewater that has been heated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharge of heated effluent directly into a water resource • heated effluent is usually generated from distilleries, dairies etc
21(j)	dewatering of water found underground	not applicable to agricultural sector

The agricultural sector is regarded as primarily a non-point source contributor (21 e, g).