

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS
DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE**

No. 546

20 July 2012

BREDE-OVERBERG CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY**GOVERNMENT NOTICE****PROPOSED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency was established in 2005 in terms of Chapter 7 of the National Water Act, 1998 (NWA). One of the initial functions of a catchment management agency, as stipulated in section 80 of the NWA, is to develop a Catchment Management Strategy.

After a comprehensive stakeholder participation process, a Catchment Management Strategy was drafted for the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) and submitted to the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs. The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs has given her written consent, in accordance with section 8(4) of the NWA, to publish the Catchment Management Strategy for comment.

The Catchment Management Strategy is available on the BOCMA website, www.bocma.co.za and at the offices of the BOCMA at 51 Baring Street, Worcester.

The BOCMA will also ensure that copies of the Catchment Management Strategy are available at accessible locations throughout the Breede-Overberg area. These locations will be advertised in the regional and local newspapers of the Western Cape.

In accordance with section 8(5)(a) of the NWA, the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency hereby invites comments to be submitted on the proposed Catchment Management Strategy.

Written comments must be submitted to the BOCMA by 15 October 2012 to the following address:

The Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency
Attention: Chief Executive Officer
Private Bag X3055
Worcester
6849

Email Address: info@bocma.co.za

**PHAKAMANI BUTHELEZI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BREDE-OVERBERG CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

SUMMARY OF THE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA), established in terms of the National Water Act of 1998, is the lead agent for water resource management within the Breede Water Management Area. As lead agent, BOCMA plays a central role in protecting, using, developing, conserving, managing and controlling water resources while also coordinating with government, sector partners and stakeholders. The Breede Water Management Area is situated in the south-west corner of South Africa and falls entirely within the Western Cape Province. While the water management area derives its name from the largest river within its boundaries, namely the Breede River, a significant portion of the water management area consists of the rivers of the Overberg.

The BOCMA is responsible for the development of a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS). The CMS guides the actions of the BOCMA and as well as other institutions conducting water resources related activities, and participation and coordination with partners is key to the success of the strategy. This CMS is a step towards safeguarding our water resources to meet our aspirations, while considering the complexities that future generations will face.

There is a compelling social, economic, environmental and water resources motivation for a Catchment Management Strategy in the Breede-Overberg at this time, given the convergence of historical developments, future uncertainties and the changing environment for water resources management in this area.

Water resources are stressed with current requirements approaching or exceeding average available water resources. The situation is exacerbated by the region being a winter rainfall region where the timing of water availability does not coincide with the timing of peak demand. Development of new storage infrastructure or supply sources is expensive, with the increasing requirements from Cape Town and potential climate change effects placing additional pressure on the system.

The fundamental challenge in these stressed catchments is to support the desperately needed social redress and economic development, while maintaining the environmental functioning of the nationally important aquatic ecosystems found in this region. This must be done while recognizing broader changes, including shifting policy in South Africa, an unstable economy, uncertain climate, and evolving technology.

While there are numerous challenges, there are also opportunities that may be leveraged from a proactive and holistic approach to the planning and management of water resources in this region. These include a focus on representivity where all demographic groups are involved in the transformation process, participatory decentralization where decision-making reflects local understanding and needs, cooperative management between sector participants, and using water as a catalyst for growth and development.

The Vision for the Breede-Overberg catchment was developed through a series of work sessions with a broad and diverse range of stakeholders, and was formulated in the context of a broader development vision for the region. The Vision for the Breede-Overberg Water Management Area is captured by:

“Quality water for all, forever”

Stakeholders expanded this into the following three vision statements reflecting the balance between protection and development achieved through joint action:

- Protecting our rivers, groundwater, wetlands and estuaries in a healthy and functioning state for nature, people and the economy
- Sharing our available water equitably and efficiently to maintain existing activities, support new development and ensure redress, while adapting to a changing climate and world.
- Cooperating to jointly nurture, take responsibility and comply, so that our water resources are well managed, under the leadership of a strong Breede-Overberg CMA.

These statements are based on an understanding that water will shape the growth and development of the Breede Valley and Overberg region, and that the future of the region is linked to that of Cape Town, the Western Cape and the country as a whole. It also recognises that responses to the challenges and opportunities of change in the natural and social environment will determine how residents live and work together.

The vision statements around protecting, sharing and cooperating, provide the unifying framework for the CMS by serving as the Strategic Areas of focus for development of the strategy. The Strategic Areas and corresponding visions are given effect through supporting Measures, Objectives and Actions. The Measures to support each Strategic Area are represented as follows:

Protecting

- Preliminary classification of water resources
- Determination of environmental flow requirements
- Water quality management
- Groundwater protection
- Natural asset conservation
- Catchment and land use management

Sharing

- Water resource assessment
- Water conservation and water demand management
- Water supply availability augmentation
- Water allocation reform
- Water allocation
- Determination of climate change resilience

Cooperating

- Establish institutional arrangements and form strategic partnerships
- Water use compliance (control & enforcement)
- Manage financial and economic instruments
- Manage monitoring and information
- Climate adaptation disaster risk management

This CMS provides a way forward in terms of ensuring that we manage water resources in a sustainable manner to support growth and development. It recognizes that water is fundamental to growth and development and it emphasises the interconnectedness of the various plans and actions needed to support the implementation of this strategy.