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DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 8111 **30 October 2026**

NOTICE REQUIRING PERSONS TO APPLY FOR A WATER USE LICENCE IN TERMS OF SECTION 43(1) OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO 36 OF 1998) FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPULSORY LICENSING

In terms of Section 43 (1) of the National Water Act, the responsible authority may issue a notice requiring persons to apply for licences for one or more types of water uses contemplated in section 21 of the National Water Act within a specific geographic area. I, Xolani Zwane, the Deputy Director-General: Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement, as delegated in terms of Section 75 of the National Water Act, Act No 36 of 1998, hereby request that all persons who wish to use water from one or more water resources within the Kaap River Catchment, for section 21 water uses as set out below, must submit a completed licence application for such water use no later than **90 consecutive days** after the publication of this notice.

This notice only affects the following water uses as set out in Section 21 of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 :

Section 21 (a) taking water from surface- and groundwater resources;

(b) storage of water; and

(d) engaging in a stream flow reduction activity as contemplated in section 36 (afforestation).

This notice is issued in terms of section 43 (1) in order:

(a) to achieve a fair allocation of water from a water resource in accordance with section 45-

(i) which is under water stress; or

(ii) when it is necessary to review prevailing water use to achieve equity in allocations;

(b) to promote beneficial use of water in the public interest;

(c) to facilitate efficient management of the water resource; or

(d) to protect water resource quality.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

The Kaap River forms part of the broader Crocodile Catchment, which is a strategically significant water resource area spanning approximately 10 446 km², encompassing key towns such as Mbombela, Barberton, White River, Malelane, and Komatipoort. Compulsory Licensing will be applied to the Kaap River quaternary catchments X23A to X23H, in Mpumalanga. Two maps showing the location and coordinates are presented in Figure 1, below.

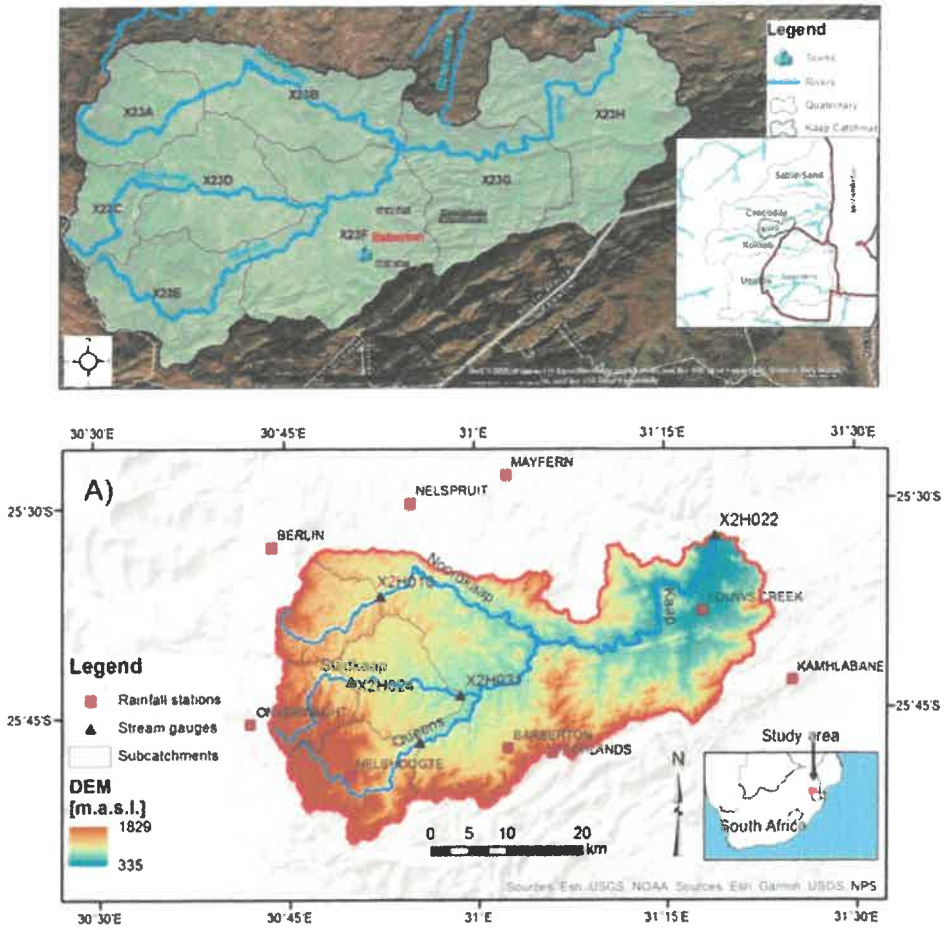


Figure 1: Kaap River catchment and sub-catchments (top) with local towns and coordinates (bottom)

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

All water users in the Kaap river catchment and its tributaries are required to apply. This is inclusive of:

i. All water users whose use is considered an existing lawful water use in terms of Section 32 of the Act, must submit a licence application.

ii. Water users who exercise an entitlement in terms of General Authorisation No 538 as published in the Government *Gazette No. 40243 dated 2* September 2016, must apply for a licence.

iii. Water users who have a valid water use licence issued in terms of the National Water Act 36 of 1998, which is five (5) years and older or that will expire by 31 December 2030, must also apply for a licence.

It is important that any potentially unregistered or unverified water users utilise this 90-day notice period to contact the Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency to confirm their Existing Lawful Use status, and to apply for a licence during this period.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

All water users will be required to provide the information and supporting evidence needed to complete their e-WULAAS water use licence application during the 60-day notice period. This is inclusive of the following:

i. ***Evidence of Existing Lawful Use (ELU):*** to provide a confirmation letter issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation or Inkomati-Usutu Cathcment Management Agency as evidence of ELU.

ii. ***General Authorisations (GAs)***: information showing the registered use and property details.

iii. ***Valid water use licences***: copy of the licence.

iv. ***Monthly water requirements***: applicants will need to distribute their water use requirements over the course of the year.

v. ***Groundwater use:*** ELU or new applicants will only submit the purpose of use, borehole water use information, borehole depth, location and volumetric abstraction.

HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY?

Licence applications must be submitted via the Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAS). This system can be accessed at the following website: https://ewulaas.dws.gov.za/ewulaasprod/house.aspx

- All applications must be made via the e-WULAAS.
- No printed applications will be accepted.
  Payment of the licence processing fee of R 115.00, which fee includes VAT, is to be paid into the below banking details, using reference generated by the system during application and proof of payment be loaded through the e-WULAAS site.
  Account Holder**: Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency**
  Bank Name: **Standard Bank**
  Account Number: **253367328**
  Branch code: **054952**
  Branch code **(electronic payments): 051001**
  Account Type: **Business Current account**
- All queries regarding the application process should be directed to Mr Sipho Magagula of the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency at telephone number 013 753 9027 and email address magagulas@iucma.co.za or kaapcl@iucma.co.za

The application of a licence must be submitted on-line via the e-WULAAS. Support during the application process will be made available via:

(i) the IUCMA Offices upon request; or
(ii) during the e-WULAAS support clinics to be held in Barberton on the dates tabulated below, where assistance will be provided to fill in the forms on e-WULAAS and to address any queries. These practical support sessions will assist on application readiness and e-WULAAS navigation. Personnel will be available to support applicants with application submission preparation and completeness checks.

Date	Purpose	Venue
17 – 19 November 2026	**e-WULAAS Clinic Sessions 1**	**Barberton Municipal Town Hall**
19 - 22 January 2027	**e-WULAAS Clinic Sessions 2**	**Barberton Municipal Town Hall**

After the closing date for the submission of the licence applications, all the applications will be evaluated in terms of section 45(1) of the Act and a proposed allocation schedule reflecting the quantity of water to be assigned or allocated from the water resource(s) will be published in the *Gazette* inviting written objections.

XOLANI ZWANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: REGULATION COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
DATE: