

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDELINE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Jacqueline Burke, SRK Consulting, PO Box 55291, Northlands, 2116, South Africa,
jburke@srk.co.za

This Water Research Commission (WRC) and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) funded project focuses on the development of guidelines for implementing Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in Local Authorities (urban areas) in South Africa. The focus of the guideline is the development of an IWRM Plan (IWRMP). DWAF is currently responsible for water resource management (WRM) and has developed the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS), which sets out the means for achieving IWRM.

In many Local Authorities integration between development planning and the management of the collective impact of all urban-related water processes including sanitation, waste disposal, urban stormwater, urban runoff and water reticulation is minimal and requires the implementation of an IWRMP. The development of the IWRMP has been divided into three phases.

The objectives of Phase 1 of the guideline development project were to review the applicable literature, to collate input from stakeholders and consider the technical and legal issues that may influence the implementation of an IWRMP in Local Authorities. The objectives of Phase 2 were an assessment of the legal issues, and the development of the IWRMP Guideline to support the implementation of IWRM in Local Authorities. Phase 3 will be the piloting of the IWRMP Guideline once it has been finalised.

The project methodology included a literature review, consultation with DWAF and stakeholder participation. Findings of the project, the outline of the IWRMP Guideline and the future of the project will be presented. Implementation of the Local Authority IWRMP will be a positive step forward in ensuring that Local Authorities achieve sustainable IWRM. In turn, sustainable IWRM will be to the benefit of all communities in the Local Authority, ensuring them of a safe environment and a certain level of dignity.