



ENVIRONMENTAL TALK



Water Infrastructure



Water is essential for all life forms and therefore it is important that a consistent supply of quality water is available for all citizens. This task is the responsibility of the three tiers of government i.e. National, Provincial and Local government and they are constitutionally mandated to ensure that water is provided to all living in the country.

The ability of these state organs to supply water depends on a reliable infrastructure which includes raw water extraction, purification and distribution. South Africa has had a sharp increase in population numbers and the demand for water is putting pressure on the state organ's ability to supply. In addition to this the infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate as maintenance and upgrades have not been performed in recent years.

Bulk water is distributed in urban areas by means of high-volume pipelines which are then diverted to the various distribution points within the urban environment and eventually to the end user. The pipelines and water distribution networks experience regular failures due to lack of or poor maintenance and in some instances illegal connections. It is estimated that in South Africa approximately 40% of purified water is lost due to leakages in the system. This is drinking water that should have been supplied to households and businesses.

Rand Water, which is the main supplier of bulk water in the Gauteng region, estimated in November 2024 that 2,5billion litres of water was lost daily.

Raw water is sourced from rivers, dams and boreholes. It is imperative that we protect these sources and keep them free from pollution as this is the water that will be consumed by the end users. It is everyone's duty to ensure that these water sources are kept free of pollution and contamination. Our rivers are the lifeblood of the water supplies in our country.

Polluted / contaminated water can cause serious health effects such as diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. It is therefore very important that we prevent pollution of our water systems and protect the infrastructure to ensure a continued supply of good quality water.

OUR ACTIONS TODAY WILL DETERMINE OUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN.

REMEMBER EVERY DROP COUNTS!!!

