

RE-IMAGINE

RE-BUILD

REPEAT

FUTURE
PROOFING
WATER

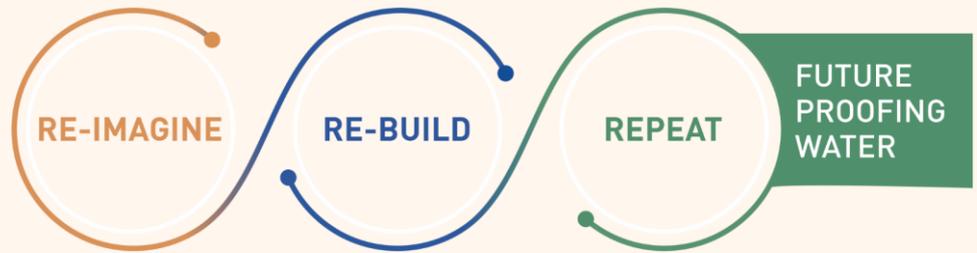


WATER SERVICES – SEARCHING FOR NEW PATHWAYS FOR EFFECTIVENESS

Tuesday, 21 September 2021 | 14:00-16:00 (CAT)

The advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994 set in motion a fundamental overhaul of the policy and legal frameworks pertaining to water. The Constitution enshrined the right to access to water and assigned local government the executive authority for provision of water and sanitation services. Within the new system of intergovernmental relations, responsibility was placed on national and provincial government to support and regulate the exercise of executive authority by local government. The 1997 Water Services Act established a system of Water Service Authorities (WSAs), in the form of municipalities that have primary responsibility for ensuring access to water and sanitation services. There are currently 144 metropolitan, district and local municipalities designated as WSAs. The Water Services Act interfaces with, and was partly superseded by, a subsequent suite of legislation that prescribes how the local government sphere will go about its business. As a result, the institutional landscape for the regulation and provision of water services includes the Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Cooperative Governance, water boards and municipalities.

Some WSAs have now been in place for over 15 years and clear signals have emerged that the WSA model requires revisiting. Yet no major review of the WSA model has been undertaken. Systemic factors influencing WSA performance have been identified and long-term trends have emerged. Linkages to broader governance and financing challenges facing local governments across the country have been made. Recent developments, such as the District Development Model and discussions around modalities for economic and performance regulation in the water sector, also require interrogating in the context of water service delivery. Considering the magnitude of the shift in governance arrangements brought about by the 1996 Constitution, and the steady evolution of these arrangements in the relatively short intervening time, there is much to learn from a thorough reflection on the WSA model to guide future improvements. This session shares some of these developments.



14:00	Welcome and introduction	Mr Jay Bhagwan
14:05	The State of Municipal and Water Services	Dr Cornelius Reuters
14:25	The risk and vulnerability of water services	Mr Grant Mckintosh
14:40	Responding to the rural water challenges	Dr Barbara van Koppen
14:55	Going with the social franchising flow	Mr Oliver Ive
15:10	Rural water services strategy options	DWS
15:25	Independent Water Services Providers – can do or will do?	Rajeev Prahlad
15:25-15:40	Discussion and close	All