



Water

Website content created for De Zalze © M Bond-Smith www.greenfuturesa.co.za
Picture: Noetzie River, Knysna



Water: the facts

'...South Africa is a water-scarce country...the removal of pollutants...(from water)...is critical...pollution affects the national economy, as well as the quality of life of the citizens of South Africa' Bosman and Kidd 'Water Pollution' in Strydom and King 'Environmental Management in SA Juta 2008 at 630.

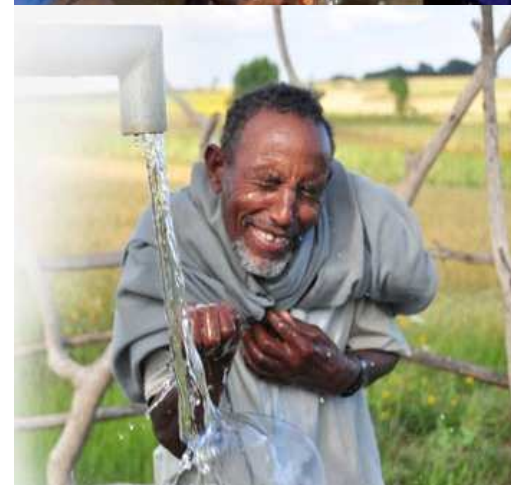
'Redeeming the constitutional promise of access to sufficient water for all will require careful management of a scarce resource. The need to preserve water is a responsibility that affects all spheres of government' O'Regan J at par 3 in Lindiwe Mazibuko and Others v City of Johannesburg and Others Case CCT 39/09 [2009] ZACC 28

'South Africa's natural resources, especially water, are scarce and under severe pressure.' Report of the Auditor-General to Parliament on a performance audit of the rehabilitation of abandoned mines at the Department of Minerals and Energy October 2009

'1.1 billion people lack access to clean water and freshwater ecosystems are more damaged than any others' WWF Annual Report 2010 at 16

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. ”

— [Thomas Fuller](#)



Pictures source: SA Water Stewardship council Trust website: www.wscsa.org



Water: the quotes

'When we had an energy crisis, we all rushed out to buy generators showing that there are alternatives to energy. There is no alternative to water.' (Source unknown, but not attributable to author).

*Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.*
- Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, 1798

*'Filthy water cannot
be washed'* West
African Proverb

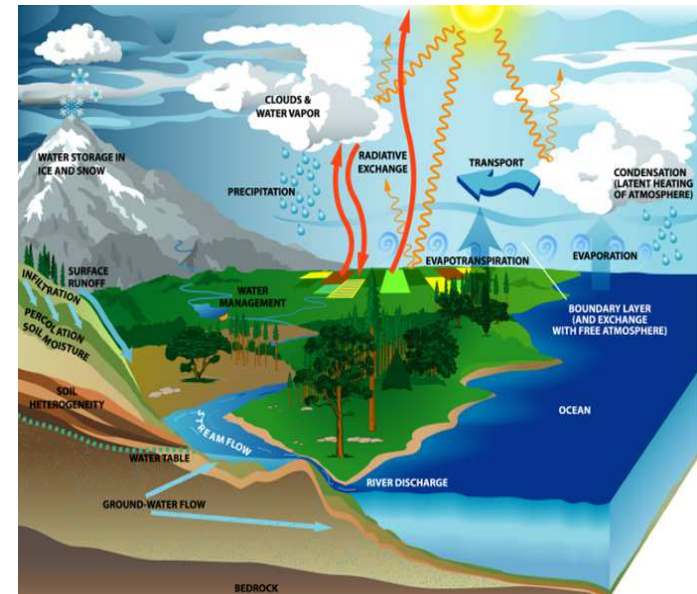
I bought some instant water one time but I didn't know what to add to it.

Steven Wright

'Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.' Carl Sagan

Water is the driving force of all nature.
Leonardo da Vinci

'Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live...' Luna Leopold



Source: Wikipedia

'The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.'
Native American proverb accessed via <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/dd5980.html>

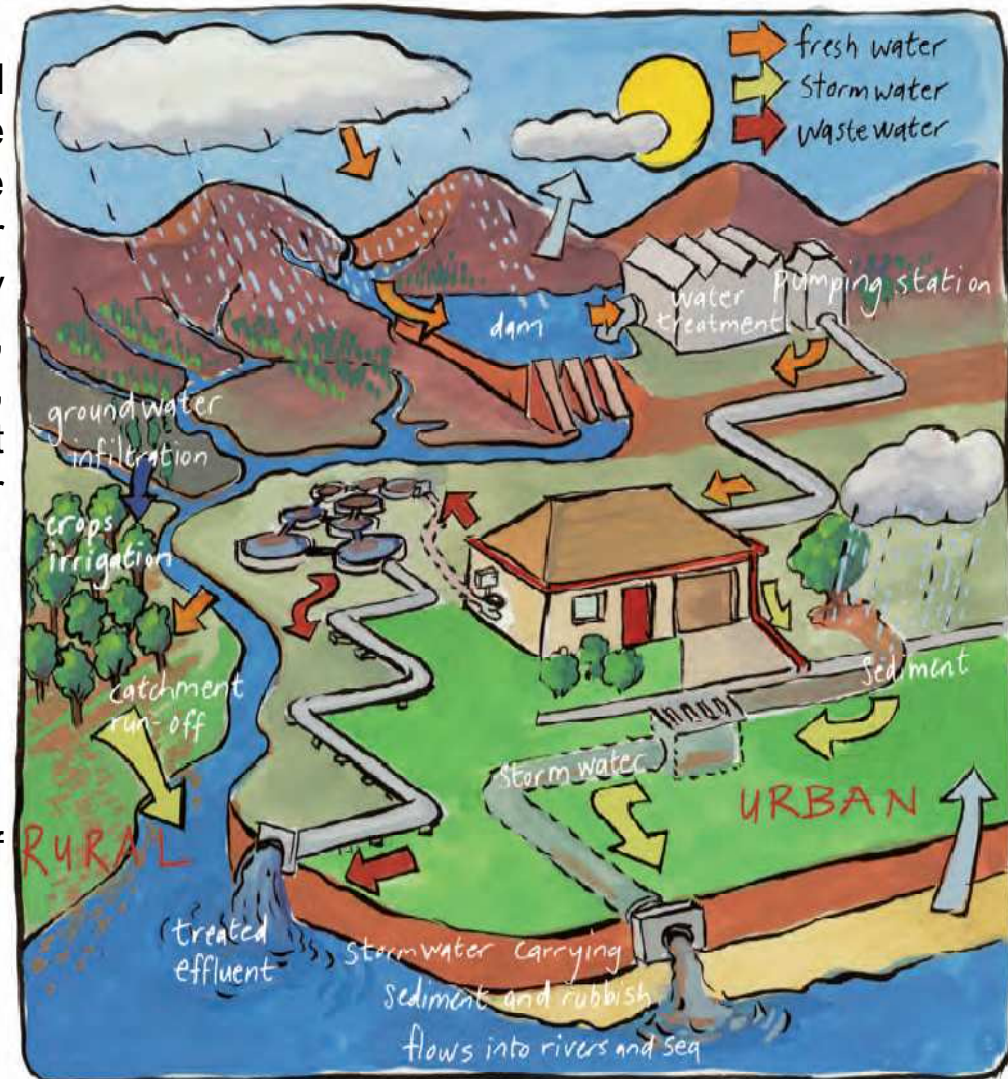
Water: what's the issue?

South Africa is a water stressed country expected to experience chronic water shortages by 2025. The Western Cape is one of the drier provinces, a situation exacerbated by fact that we are a winter rainfall area, with peak demand during summer, when rainfall, rivers and dams are at their lowest. Issues facing our water supply and quality are:

- Population growth
- Inappropriate land use planning
- Pollution of our water sources
- Encroachment of alien vegetation
- Over-utilisation of riparian zones
- Poor or inadequate regulation of water abstraction
- Lack of cooperative management.

• Source: http://www.westerncape.gov.za/Text/2005/12/05_soer_inland_water

[optimised.pdf](#)





Water: use it sparingly...

OUTDOORS:

- Collect rainwater for re-using on the garden or washing the car
- Use a broom instead of a hosepipe when cleaning driveways or patios
- Do not use automatic top-up systems for your swimming pool.
- Cover your swimming pool to reduce water evaporation.
- Read your water meter and know how much water you use monthly.
- Use a pool cover to prevent evaporation (ensure necessary precautions to avoid drownings).
- Avoid hosing down hard surfaces or paved areas with potable water.
- Wash your car on a grassed area, not in your driveway or in the road.
- Divert swimming pool backwash into the sewer only, not into the storm water drain.

GARDENS:

- Plant water-wise indigenous plants
- Water gardens only in early morning or the evening and only when necessary
- Install garden drip irrigation on flower beds and sprayers on lawns
- Attach an automatic shut-off spray fitting to your garden hosepipe.
- Design a roof garden to capture rainwater and manage storm water or sewer runoff naturally.
- Lay permeable paving around your home to encourage natural rainwater filtering and drainage.
- Install rainwater harvesting tanks to store water for use in your garden and house.
- Protect and keep your local freshwater ecosystems pollution-free.
- Identify and remove invasive alien vegetation from your garden and local wetland.



Pictures: Knysna Lagoon and Noetzie
© M Bond-Smith



Picture: Churchhaven
© A Grutter



Picture: Thames at Hampton court
© M Bond-Smith



Water: use it sparingly...

INDOORS

- Conduct a water audit at home to determine where you use the most water.
- Shower in stead of bathing: this can save up to 50 litres at a time.
- Install low-flow shower heads
- Install tap aerators on all taps
- Flush toilets only when necessary
- Install a multi-flush or dual-flush mechanism in the toilet. A multi-flush device allows the user to choose exactly how much water goes to waste when pressing the handle. A dual-flush device has a short flush button for liquids and a longer flush button for solids. This can save up to 140 litres for 16 flushes.
- Insulate hot water pipes so that not too much water is wasted when waiting for water to get hot
- Check for and fix all leaks or dripping taps.
- Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher and washing machine.
- Recycle grey water from the bathroom for watering your garden and plants.
- Install a grey water recycling system in your home.
- Do not throw solid objects down the toilet or into the storm water drain.
- Do not pour toxic paint, solvents, chemicals, poisons or pesticides into storm water or sewer drains.



Picture: De Zalze © M Bond-Smith



Picture: Salmonsdam © A Grutter

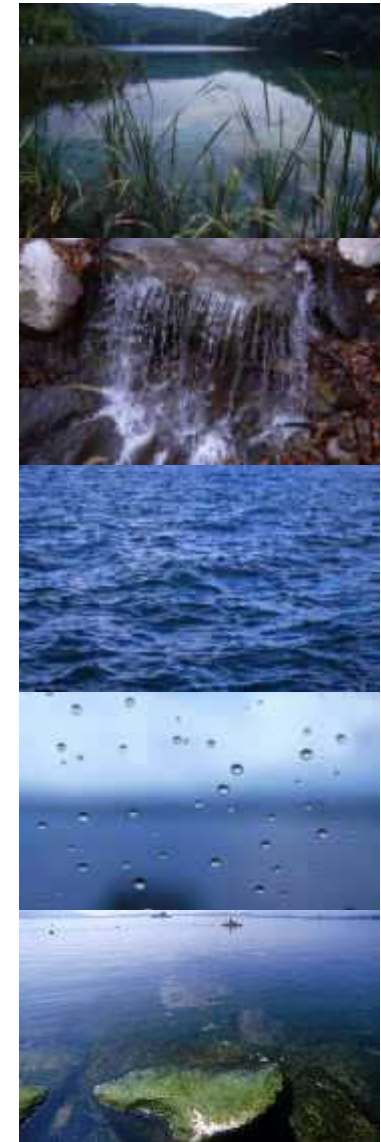


Picture: City of Cape town Smart Living guide



sources

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- <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/water>



Pictures: Wikipedia