AGRISA MEMBER NOTICE

20 October 2026

Dear Members,

APPROVED RAW WATER USE CHARGES FOR THE 2027/28 FINANCIAL YEAR

AgriSA wishes to inform members that the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has published the approved raw water use charges for the 2027/28 financial year in the attached *Government Gazette*, dated 16 October 2026.

The approved charges will generally take effect from 1 April 2027, with certain exceptions applicable to specific water infrastructure projects.

The tariffs include water resource management charges for agricultural water users, which differ according to the relevant water management area, as well as increases in water resource infrastructure charges ranging between 0% and 4.8%.

Waste discharge-related charges and the Water Research Levy

The published notice also provides for the extension of waste discharge-related water use charges to the agricultural sector from the 2027/28 financial year.

AgriSA has previously raised concerns regarding the introduction of these charges, including their applicability, calculation and potential financial implications for agricultural water users.

AgriSA will accordingly seek further clarification from DWS regarding the implementation and application of waste discharge-related charges, as well as the applicable tariffs and implementation arrangements relating to the Water Research Levy, which are not expressly addressed in the published notice.

AgriSA remains committed to ensuring that raw water tariffs are determined transparently, equitably and with due consideration of the affordability and sustainability of agricultural production.

AgriSA will continue engaging with the Department on these outstanding matters and will keep members informed of further developments and clarification received.

Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the approved tariffs applicable to their respective water management areas.

Kind regards,
AgriSA

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