



WNNR / CSIR
Building 4
Meiring Naude Rd
Brummeria
Pretoria
35889, Menlopark, 0102
+ 27 12 349 1237 / 8/ 9
+ 27 12 349 1240
info@rmaa.co.za
www.rmaa.co.za

2018.02.08

Ms Lindiwe Lusenga
Acting Director General
Department of Water and Sanitation

Water restriction in the Western Cape (Breede Gouritz and Berg Olifants water management areas)

Dear Lindiwe

The Red Meat Abattoir Association have noted with concern the restriction posed on the use of water in the agricultural and industrial environment by way of the publication of Government notice No 15 of 12 January 2018.

The notice has created some concern in the abattoir and feedlot environment as to the possible effect on livestock welfare. This restriction cannot be achieved without dramatic reduction in livestock numbers or without an effect on the welfare of stock.

It would not be possible to maintain any similar level of food production in this environment and such an intervention will lead to excessive job losses. The abattoir industry is a very competitive market with low profit margins. The production of safe meat is paramount for the abattoir industry, and despite some proposed interventions to minimize water usage, a minimum amount is required for safe production.

The red meat industry is obviously sensitive to the serious effect of the current drought on the country and specifically in these regions.

It is however of some concern that no consultation took place with e.g. the Department of Agriculture as a number of abattoirs are registered in the province and the restriction will directly affect slaughter capacity in these facilities.

Industry is however investigating all possible option to save water in abattoirs. In terms of wastewater treatment and water recovery options for red meat abattoirs, technologies under consideration and being implemented are as follows:

- Mechanical screen – removal of large solids.
- Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) – removal of suspended solids (insoluble COD)
- Anaerobic Digestion – removal of soluble COD.
- Activated sludge – removal of nutrient and soluble COD.
- Ultra-Filtration – polishing of water for potable use.

Your guidance to the implementation of the requirement will be highly appreciated as a matter of urgency.

Kindest Regards

Gerhard Neethling
General Manager
Red Meat Abattoir Association