

# Basin management committees - focused group discussion

IWRM Plan  
Kuisseb & Omaruru Basin Management  
Committees

23 September 2009

# Purpose of meeting

- Share information/progress on the IWRM Plan
- Get inputs from existing BMC – to ensure that BM approach is meeting expected results

# Functions of BMC (Act 2004)

- To ***promote community participation*** in the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources in its water management area through education and other appropriate activities;
- To ***prepare a water resources plan for the basin*** which must be submitted to the Minister for consideration when developing the National Water Master Plan;
- To ***make recommendations regarding the issuance or cancellation of licences*** and permits under the Water Act;

# Functions of BMC (Act 2004)

- To promote community self-reliance, including the **recovery of costs** for the operation and maintenance of waterworks;
- To facilitate the establishment of an operational system and maintenance system of waterworks and the accessing of technical support for water management institutions within its water management area;
- To **monitor and report on the effectiveness of policies and action** in achieving sustainable management of water resources in its water management area;

# Functions of BMC (Act 2004)

- To ***collect, manage and share such data*** as is necessary to properly manage the basin in co-ordination with the Water Resources Management Agency when established, and/or with the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry in the interim;
- To ***develop a water research agenda***, together with the Water Resources Management Agency, appropriate to the needs of water management institutions and water users within its water management area;
- To ***help resolve conflicts*** relating to water resources in its water management area;
- To perform additional functions as the Minister may direct in terms of the Water Act.

# Challenges with implementation

- Water Act has not commenced
- Consequently limited budget and ministerial support structure (BMCCU) for implementation
- BMC not able to implement functions as outlined in the Act
- Limited technical and management capacity at basin level
- Limited stakeholder engagement to date – unclear benefits
- Political decentralisation and basin management areas are not aligned

# What's working well

## Stakeholders:

- are talking to one another
- have greater access to information
- can voice and discuss their concerns
- can contribute to problem identification
- can contribute to planning and decision making

# Objectives for BMC in the Plan

- BMCs will be formalised and their contributions will be evolving and deepening – ***should we set targets as was done for CBM?***
- BMCs will have a recognised ***statutory/advisory role?***
- Community participation in BMCs will be strengthened
- Functional delineation of sub-basins (for management purposes) will be undertaken on need basis



# Proposed actions

- Establish BMCs where needed
- Provide adequate income from abstraction charges and enhance financial situation of BMCs
- Encourage and facilitate community engagement by strengthening government and public recognition of role of BMCs
- Strengthen management capacity of BMCs
- Review delineation of BMCs as need arises, with stakeholders, with focus on functional and effective management

**What else do you suggest?**

# Implementation

– Divide country in water management basins

Used with a wider connotation, includes both surface and ground water systems, rearrangements of natural or artificial links

