

Water Act: Boreholes and Dams

Since the implementation of the current water legislation (29 August 2023), the NAU has continuously engaged with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

Ambiguities have been addressed and we have tried to gain understanding of various processes to simplify these for our members to enable them to comply with legislation. Repeated reporting has been shared with our members and we have even added an additional section to our website (www.nau.com.na/water) to share the information with our members and the general public. The licensing of boreholes was the first of these steps and was clearly outlined and the appropriate application forms widely distributed.

There are still some uncertainties and after renewed in-depth discussions with legal experts, geohydrologists, etc. the NAU continues its sustained effort to support the Ministry of Agriculture by following legislation to license boreholes and provide data to the Ministry. It has come to light that the licensing of dry boreholes is not a legal obligation, but this information is used by geohydrologists to determine the groundwater potential across the country. We therefore encourage members to continue to share dry borehole information on the Excel Sheet (Data Collection Sheet).

We further call on our members to proceed with firstly the licensing of their boreholes, and secondly the registration of all dams on their farms and to do so within the 18-month period which started running from 29 August 2023. According to the Act all applications for licenses are to be submitted by 28 February 2025. The NAU will share the appropriate application form for dams as soon as we receive it from the Ministry.

Attached are the application forms that may be required.