



WINE CELLAR WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT – A GUIDE FOR WINEMAKERS

Discharge of wine cellar waste water is regulated by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and IPW

The National Water Act specifies permissible water quality limits for discharge of treated effluent to the environment. The Act identifies two discharge routes; a) beneficial reuse via irrigation and b) discharge to a river catchment area. The treated water quality is determined by the discharge option chosen.

As a general guide to waste water management, the following steps should be taken

1. DWAF expects each cellar to submit a Water Quality Management Report (WQMR). This is a lengthy exercise and is usually compiled by a consultant. The WQMR is structured around a set of guidelines issued by DWAF.
 - During the compilation of the WQMR, the available discharge routes will become apparent.
 - To achieve the necessary standards, various treatment processes will be required.
 - If no treatment facilities are in place, measures need to be taken to install such facilities.
 - In the past DWAF has issued Authorisations to discharge non-compliant effluents. These Authorisations are gradually expiring and will have to be updated. The WQMR does not need to be rewritten in such instances, but rather amended.
2. Water usage in the cellar should be measured and recorded on a weekly basis
3. Once a month, treated waste water grab samples must be taken to a laboratory for analysis. These results should be filed and be made available to DWAF if requested.
4. Steps should be taken to ensure that the treated waste water remains compliant with the limits specified in the WQMR

