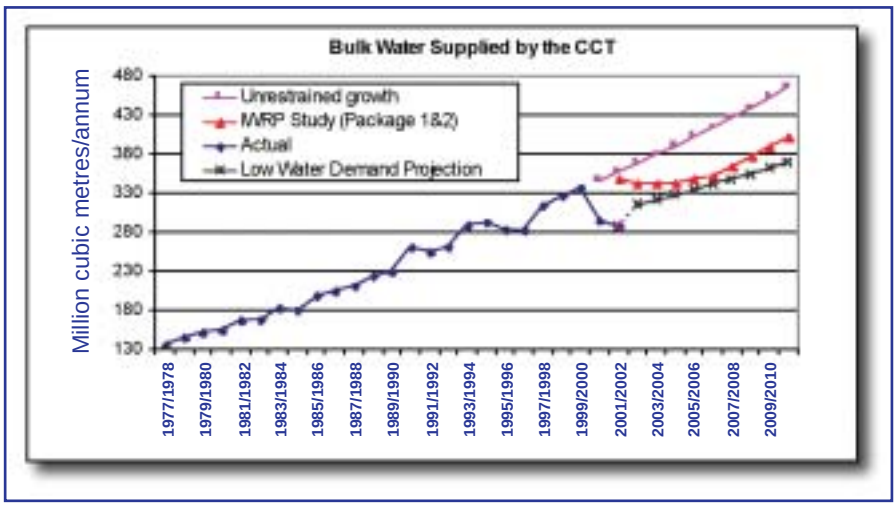
WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

The implementation of the Berg Water Project was approved by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry as a parallel process to the City of Cape Town implementing Water Demand Management.

The historic growth rate of the total bulk water supplied by the City between 1973 and 2000 was between 3% to 4% per annum. In order to ensure a sustainable supply of water for the future, the City initiated an Integrated Water Resource Planning (IWRP) Study to best assess how to manage its water demand. The results of the IWRP Study indicated that the City has to actively implement Water Demand Management (WDM) measures, whilst at the same time investigate and implement additional water augmentation schemes. The implementation of the WDM recommendations contained in the IWRP Study include inter alia pressure management, user education, elimination of automatic flushing urinals, leakage repair, tariffs, metering and credit control. The City through its WDM strategy and programme, which has been accepted and adopted by the City, has committed itself to the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the IWRP Study. The objective of the WDM Policy and Strategy is to reduce the projected demand for water by 20% by the year 2010. The City through its Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) has also committed itself to ensuring a sustainable supply of water for the future (WSDP website: www.capetown.gov.za/water/wsdp). The Comprehensive WSDP of the City was approved by its Executive Committee on 23 April 2002. The figure below shows the historic growth in water demand, the water savings which could be realised according to the IWRP study and the low water demand projection for the City. The low water demand projection ties in with the 20% reduction in water demand objective stated in the WDM Policy and Strategy.



Water demand projections of the City of Cape Town

The City has already achieved numerous successes with respect to Water Demand Management. Following the period of water restrictions in the summer of 2000/01, the City was awarded the Green Trust Award for its water awareness media campaign. More recently the City's Khayelitsha Pressure Management Project won the South African Institution of Civil Engineering Award for the most outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement for 2001.

The City has embarked on a balanced approach which seeks to minimise consumptive water demands without negatively affecting socio-economic growth and at the same time increase our water supply to meet those managed demands.