

Beaufort West Direct Potable Reuse Plant — Sewage-to-Drinking-Water in the Karoo

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Built in six months with R24m emergency funding, this 2011 plant became South Africa's first direct potable reuse facility, meeting about 16% of Beaufort West's water needs — though output fell to ~1 million litres/day in the 2017-2019 drought.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-06

Beaufort West Local Municipality, with South African National Treasury emergency funding — accessed 2026-09-06

TD Journal – Water shortages in Beaufort West: Lessons learnt and applied during the 2009-2011 and 2017-2019 droughts — accessed 2026-09-06

EWN – Beaufort West relies on boreholes & recycled sewage water for supply — accessed 2026-09-06

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