



## Targeting 'blue drop'

Isolated cases of low water quality in small treatment plants do occur but the district is aiming for the Blue Drop standard – in April/May, a score of 95% was achieved.



Ugu District Municipality has installed thousands of standpipes in rural and peri-urban communities in the past five years.

The use of these meters has substantially reduced the number of pipe failures and extends the life of the pipework. The plan is to install these meters throughout the urban coastal strip. In addition, pressure-reducing valves are being used on main feed pipelines to break pressure gravity fed from inland to the coastal strip. An asset-management plan is being drawn up to identify areas for long-term pipe replacement at an acceptable rate. The district municipality has appointed suppliers with high-tech equipment, on an annual-contract basis, to identify leaks in the network and to repair small leaks to enable them to pinpoint high-volume leaks, which will be repaired by Ugu's own maintenance staff.

**Project 7 – Water quality.** Mawandiwa says, while there have been isolated cases of low water quality in small treatment plants, the district runs at a

mean of 98%. The district is aiming for the Blue Drop standard – in April/May, a score of 95% was achieved but further work is needed on the water-quality management system. Poor test results earlier this year were the result of torpidity and salt in the water abstracted from a river.

"We have problems with pollution from populations upstream of our works and from illegal dumping into rivers and streams," says Mawandiwa. "We have our own laboratory to undertake quality tests and, in addition, we use an independent registered lab to do water quality tests every month. Even the wastewater that we discharge is of superior quality to the water found in our rivers and estuaries.

**Project 8 – Rural standpipes serve villages.** A total of 35 000 people received potable water in the period ending July 31 last year.