



MARYKE MALAN
HEAD OF THE EMALAHLENI
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (EWRP)

THUNGELA

Maryke Malan, Head of the Emalahleni Water Reclamation Plant (EWRP), has been instrumental in advancing sustainable water management within Thungela. With a background in metallurgical and chemical engineering, her expertise has transformed the EWRP into a world-class operation that not only treats acid mine water but also provides potable water to both mining operations and local communities facing severe water shortages.

Maryke's leadership has driven key technological advancements, including a modification that increased the plant's treatment capacity. This enhancement allows the EWRP to manage higher acidity levels, mitigate overflow risks, and support tailings rehabilitation efforts—improving water conservation, site stability, and land rehabilitation. Her forward-thinking approach extends to pioneering a passive treatment pilot plant in collaboration with Mintek, aiming to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions while purifying highly contaminated water.

Beyond water treatment, Maryke is spearheading efforts to repurpose gypsum byproducts for land rehabilitation, addressing topsoil shortages through innovative soil enhancement techniques. Her commitment to sustainable solutions ensures that the EWRP remains a benchmark for responsible mining practices. Through her leadership, Thungela continues to advance environmental stewardship, demonstrating how mining operations can create long-term benefits for both ecosystems and communities.

**WOMEN
IN MINING
SUSTAINABILITY
HEROES
2024**

#MiningMatters