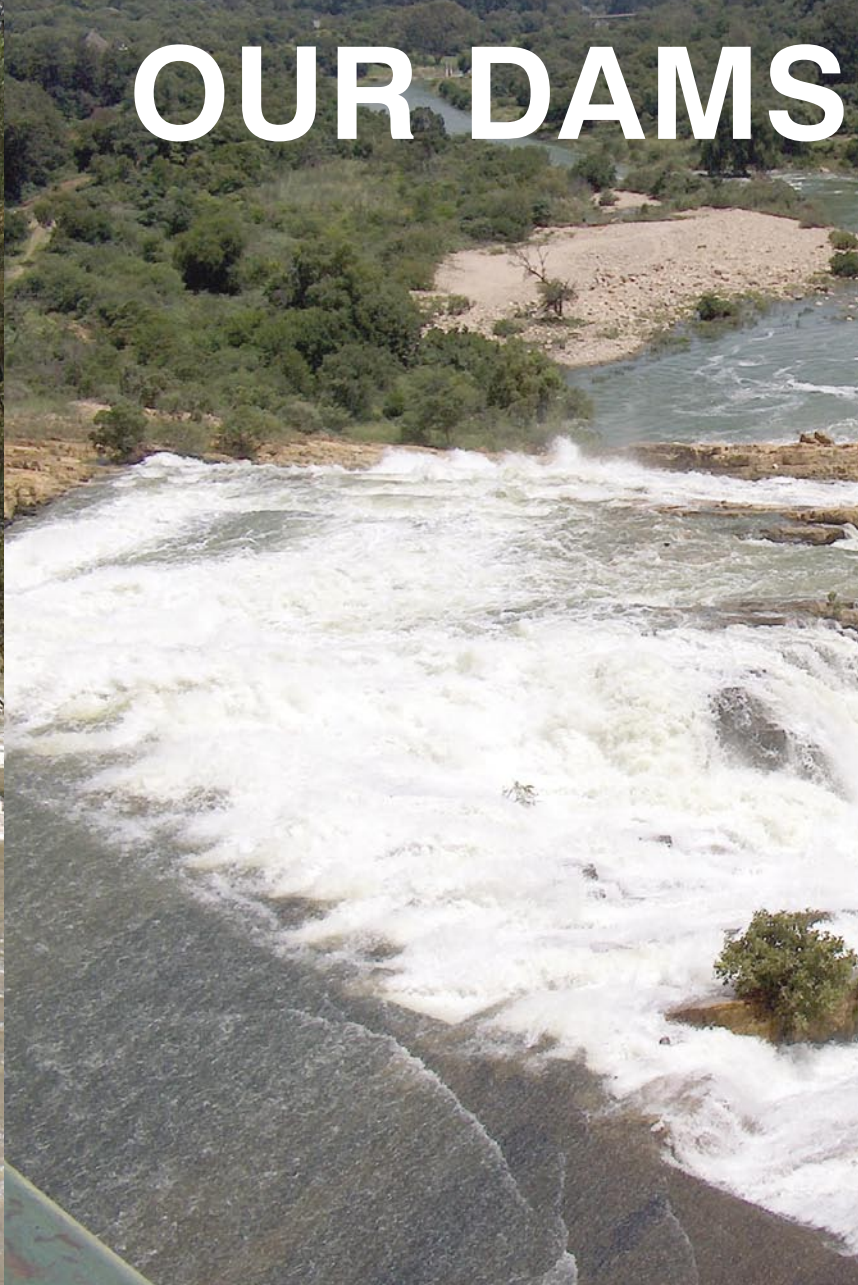


OUR DAMS



In February six of the Vaal Dam's sluices were opened to release water into the Vaal River. The last time water was released from a full Vaal Dam was in March 2002. The inflow peaked at 1 200 m³/s on 31 January, and gradually abated to the 300 m³/s once the dam level reached the 95% mark. The first sluice gate was opened on 1 February 2006. During the heavy rains in 2000 eight sluice gates had to be opened to release the excess water. As the water was released from the Vaal Dam the equivalent flow was released from the Vaal Barrage.



ARE FULL!



Tourists flocked to see the opening of some of the sluice gates at the Hartbeespoort Dam. Water sloshed generously into the Crocodile River downstream, which until recently been but a mere trickle.



Usually sedate rivers and streams in Gauteng were turned into deadly torrents after heavy rains, causing traffic delays and claiming several lives due to flash floods.