



WET GOLD: A drill rig bores a 70m borehole which will provide the Bryanston Country Club with water.

PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

Boreholes are the way to go

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DRILL a borehole where possible to avoid water restrictions. This is the message from Joburg Water and the Borehole Water Association (BWA).

At a ceremony today announcing a partnership between Joburg Water and BWA, Joburg Water managing director Lungile Dhlamini said water savings of between 60 and 80 percent could be realised for an average middle-income household if the borehole water was used in the garden.

"A borehole is an investment which enhances your property

asset," he said.

The association conducted a hydro-geological survey in relation to total township water demand within the City of Joburg to get an idea of groundwater usage.

"We have current hydro-geological data to assist households who can afford drilling boreholes to make informed decisions in encouraging responsible use of groundwater," said Dhlamini.

Joburg Water will assist households with the registration of their boreholes as required in terms of the National Water Act.

Although it is difficult to ascertain costs, the average price of drilling is about R1 000/m. Holes

can be between 36m and 120m.

On average, South Africans use only 10 percent of potable water for drinking – the rest is used for washing, bathing, topping up pools, washing cars and watering gardens.

"This is a huge waste of good water. Borehole water can easily be used for the other functions."

Boreholes cannot be drilled everywhere, it all depends on the geology of the land, and that determines the costs.

People consuming a lot of water and those building new houses should consider drilling boreholes.

Borehole water can be used for drinking, but it should be tested.