**CITATION: Robert Alexander Pullen**

Robert (Bob) Pullen was born In Benoni and matriculated in Rustenburg. He obtained the degrees of BSc (Eng) in 1961 and MSc(Eng) in 1970 in Civil Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, and an MBL at the University of South Africa in 1978.

In 1963 he joined the Hydrological Research Unit (HRU) at Wits to work as a research engineer under Professor Des Midgely. His research was primarily related to the development of practical methods for addressing flooding problems which have devastating consequences, particularly for vulnerable communities. His major contribution was the development of procedures for synthesizing unit hydrographs for establishing design flood conditions, for which he was awarded his MSc (Eng). This work provided a major component of the seminal HRU publication “Design Flood Determination in South Africa”, which became the standard reference for flood analysis and the design of protection works in South Africa. The synthetic unit hydrograph method continues to be used and has been incorporated as a prescribed method in the “Drainage Manual” of the South African National Roads Agency. During his time with the HRU he also published work on estimating sediment yield from South African catchments.

In 1969 he joined the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, where he held management positions in planning and construction, including that of resident engineer on the Tugela-Vaal interbasin transfer project for augmenting the supply of water to the Witwatersrand. In addition to managing its construction, he made innovative contributions to the concept of this scheme and was also involved in the planning and design of the Drakensberg pumped storage scheme for incorporating hydroelectric power generation in the water transfer operation. In 1981 he was transferred to the post of Senior Planner in the Office of the Prime Minister. He left a promising career in the Public Service for private consulting in the water resources field and was a director of SRK Consulting from 1982 to 1985, director of Consultburo from 1985 to 1997 and director of BKS after its merger with Consultburo from 1997 to 2002. He became Deputy CEO of BKS Group in 2002. Although now officially retired he continues to contribute to the work of BKS.

During his professional career Bob Pullen was involved in investigations of major floods in South Africa and the development of national policy on flood management. He was instrumental in establishing the National Disaster Management Centre and its supporting legislation, covering floods as well as other disasters. He was the technical editor of the first major policy document published by the Department of Water Affairs in 1986 “Management of the Water Resources of the RSA”, which in updated form remains a standard reference for water resources in South Africa. He played a pioneering role in promoting consideration of the natural environment in engineering activities in South Africa, and was instrumental in the drafting of the policy document which led to the seven Built Environment Professions Acts of 2001. His outstanding professional achievements were rewarded by the award of a Gold Medal by the South African Institution of Civil Engineering in 2001.

In addition to his considerable achievements in practical engineering, Bob Pullen has served his profession with distinction. He was vice-president of the Engineering Council of South Africa from 1991 to 1993, and then became its longest serving president, for three terms from 1994 to 2006 (having been elected unanimously each time) and then its vice president again until 2008.

He was awarded the ECSA Merit Medal in 2001. He was a member of the Council of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers from 1972 until 1997 and its president in 1989, becoming an Honorary Fellow of the Institution in 1996. He is a Fellow and currently the President of the South African Academy of Engineering.

In May 2009 he was presented with the National Science and Technology Forum Award in Category C (for activities other than research and its outputs over the last five years or less) for 2008/9 by Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, for his contribution to the regulation of the engineering professions and his contribution to civil engineering and environmental practice.

Recognising the role of education in the development of the civil engineering profession, Bob has maintained contact with tertiary institutions through postgraduate supervision and by serving on the Council of the University of the Witwatersrand.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the practice of water resources engineering and especially to the wider engineering profession in South Africa, Wits University regards Bob Pullen as a worthy recipient of a Gold Medal.