

2nd Round of Public Engagements

Downstream Water Users (Dingley Dale) Public Meeting Minutes

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
PROPOSED CASTEEL DAM SAFETY REHABILITATION PROJECT, FARM KASTEEL 231-KU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Project name	Casteel Dam Safety Rehabilitation Project
Date & Time Meeting	13 July 2023, 10:00
Venue	Faith Mission Church, Dingley Dale A
Chairperson	Marissa Botha, Naledzi Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (Naledzi)
Translator	Mr. Laudrick Selowe - Sepedi and Xitsonga translator Pastor, Dingley Dale Faith Bible Church
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naledzi Environmental Consultants - National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS): Strategic Infrastructure Asset Management (SIAM). - Chairperson of the New Forest Irrigation Scheme - Chairperson of the Dingley Dale Irrigation Scheme - Chairperson of Champagne Citrus Board/Irrigation Scheme - Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) - Bushbuckridge Local Municipality - Ward Committee members for Ward 32 - Community representatives from Dingley Dale, Chochocho, New Forest - Dingley Dale Development Forum <p>Please refer to the attached signed attendance register as Annexure A.</p>
Circulation	The minutes were distributed to the participants via email (where addresses have been provided), through the tribal council offices, Chairpersons of the Irrigation Schemes including the relevant ward councillors.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome and introductions. ▪ Basic Assessment and public participation process. ▪ Project motivation and description. ▪ Specialist Studies. ▪ Key impacts. ▪ Key issues raised during the 1st round of engagements. ▪ Way forward and discussions <p>The full PowerPoint presentation is attached as Annexure B.</p>
Contents of Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions 2. Identified action items. 3. Photographic proof of meeting

1. DISCUSSIONS

No	Agenda Item	
1.1	Presentation	
<p>M Botha welcomed the participants and introduced the project team (i.e., Naledzi and DWS) and translator, Mr. Laudrick Selowe. The meeting was opened with a prayer, followed by stakeholder introductions (see attendees above).</p> <p>It was noted that the meeting presentation would be provided in English with Sepedi and Xitsonga translation provided by Mr Selowe. Opportunity for questions and queries would be provided after the presentation.</p> <p>MB briefly recapped the status quo of the project i.e.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice was given to the public of the commencement of the BA process and called for registration of the I&APs by means a Background Information Document from 17 October until 15 November 2022. • The 1st round of public engagement meetings took place on 25 and 26 October 2022. Naledzi shared the minutes via email to the traditional councils and ward councillors. • The application for environmental authorisation and draft Basic Assessment Report was submitted to DFFE on 28 June 2023. • The DFFE issued the following project reference number 14/12/16/3/3/1/2789. • The Draft BAR is available for public review until 31 July 2023. 		
<p>The purpose of the meeting was highlighted i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To confirm the final project details. ▪ Discuss the key identified impacts and management measures. ▪ Give feedback on key issues raised at the 1st round of public meetings. ▪ To record any further comments for inclusion in the final BAR and EMPR to DFFE. <p>The project information was shared by means of a PowerPoint Presentation. Refer to Annexure B for the presentation.</p>		
1.2	Discussion Session	All
1.2.1	<p>Dingley Dale Development Forum explained that it would be difficult for community members to review the Draft Basic Assessment Report at the public venues.</p> <p>Marissa Botha (Naledzi) explained that a hard copy of the report was available at the Faith Mission Church alternatively it could be downloaded from the Naledzi website for review on one's smartphone or laptop. The main findings of the Draft Basic Assessment Report were already summarised and presented to the participants at the meeting.</p>	
1.2.2	<p>Ernest Selowe (Dingley Dale) acknowledged the presence of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. He stated that there was a water scarcity in the area. Dingley Dale residents were consuming water directly from the Casteel Dam irrigation canal.</p> <p>He was concerned that the use of cement and fill material during the rehabilitation works might pollute the water released through the irrigation canal downstream. He requested that the municipality test the water quality during the rehabilitation works to confirm that it's fit for human consumption.</p> <p>Charity Mkhonto (Bushbuckridge Local Municipality) confirmed that the canal supplies water to a booster pump then to a purification plant where the water is purified for human consumption.</p> <p>Daniel Selowe (Chairperson, Champagne Irrigation Scheme) mentioned that he attended a meeting at the purification plant with the local municipality where it was confirmed that Phase 2</p>	

	of the purification plant will commence on 1 July 2023. The Chochoco residents will receive drinking water from the upgraded purification plant.		
1.2.3	<p>Khulekani Sibiyi (Bushbuckridge Local Municipality) asked why Naledzi was stating that the number of job opportunities to be created by the project is unknown, yet the Draft Basic Assessment Report indicates a construction workforce of 150-200 people.</p> <p>He requested that the DWS also consider employing skilled labour from the local communities.</p> <p>Marissa Botha (Naledzi) explained that Naledzi had to assume a number to calculate the potential impact from the construction phase traffic on the local road network. The stated workforce was assumed based on similar but larger projects. The Casteel Dam rehabilitation would be a much smaller project therefore its required workforce is unknown.</p> <p>Jethro Monareng (DWS) explained that the DWS project managers overseeing the rehabilitation works would engage the project steering committee (PSC) if/when semi-skilled labour is required.</p> <p>DWS intend to return to the community during the project procurement phase to determine what skills sets are available locally. During the meeting DWS would establish a project steering committee (PSC) to advise and recommend the labour to be used.</p>		
1.2.4	Headman Mica Mashego highlighted that the project must be completed as soon as possible without any hiccups.		
1.2.5	<p>Samuel Malatjie (Chairperson, Dingley Dale Irrigation Scheme) asked the DWS to make the dam valve more accessible to the scheme members. Up to now it had been difficult to control the release of the water to downstream water users.</p> <p>Rodney Siwelane (DWS) explained that the dam intake tower would be expanded and upgraded as part of the proposed rehabilitation works to allow for ease of access.</p>		
1.3	Way Forward and Closure	Presenter	Marissa Botha (NEC)
	<p>The way forward was recapped. Naledzi would prepare the minutes of the meeting and make it available to participants via the municipality, tribal council offices, councillor, and irrigation scheme chairpersons. The Draft Basic Assessment Report would be available for comment until 31 July 2023. Comments may be submitted by completing the Comments Sheets at the meeting, alternatively it can be emailed to Naledzi after the meeting.</p> <p>Naledzi would respond to all public submissions and would incorporate it into the final Basic Assessment Report for submission to the DFFE. I&APs will be notified of the DFFE's decision once issued.</p> <p>MB highlighted it to be the last project meeting by Naledzi. Once the project is approved, the DWS: SIAM would engage with the community going forward through the project steering committee (PSC).</p> <p>Participants were thanked for their comments and the meeting was closed.</p>		

2. IDENTIFIED ACTION ITEMS

None recorded.

3. ATTACHMENTS

Annexure A- Signed attendance register

Annexure B - PowerPoint Presentation