

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

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**BID for the Proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline, uMuziwabantu Local Municipality, Ugu District Municipality, KZN.**

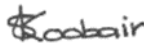

**A Project of Ugu District Municipality**

**February 2022**

## DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

<b>Client / Applicant:</b>	Ugu District Municipality
<b>Report name:</b>	BID for the Proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline, uMuziwabantu Local Municipality, Ugu District Municipality, KZN
<b>Report type:</b>	Background Information Document (BID)
<b>Project name:</b>	Bazini Water Supply Pipeline Project
<b>Project number:</b>	WG1.21084
<b>Version:</b>	1

### Compiled and authorised by:

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) regarding the proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline. Wallace and Green (Pty) Ltd. has been appointed by JTN Consulting on behalf of the Ugu District Municipality to provide Independent Environmental Consulting Services for the proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline.

## LOCATION OF PROPOSED PIPELINE PROJECT

The proposed pipeline will be installed in Bazini, a rural area west of Harding, which is situated within Ward 9 of the uMuziwabantu Local Municipality, Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. The land use surrounding the proposed pipeline route is predominantly rural dwellings, subsistence agriculture and grazing.

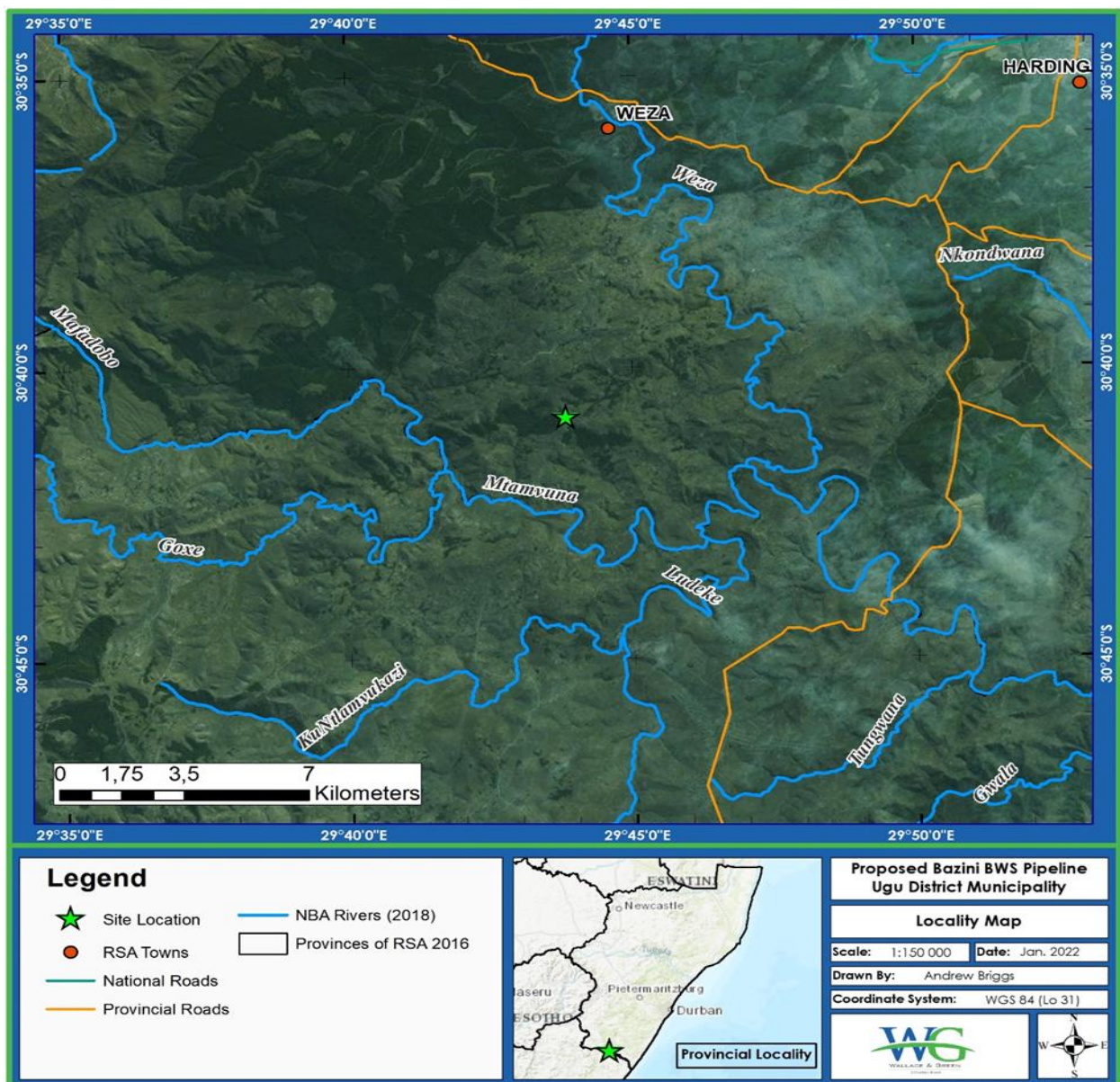
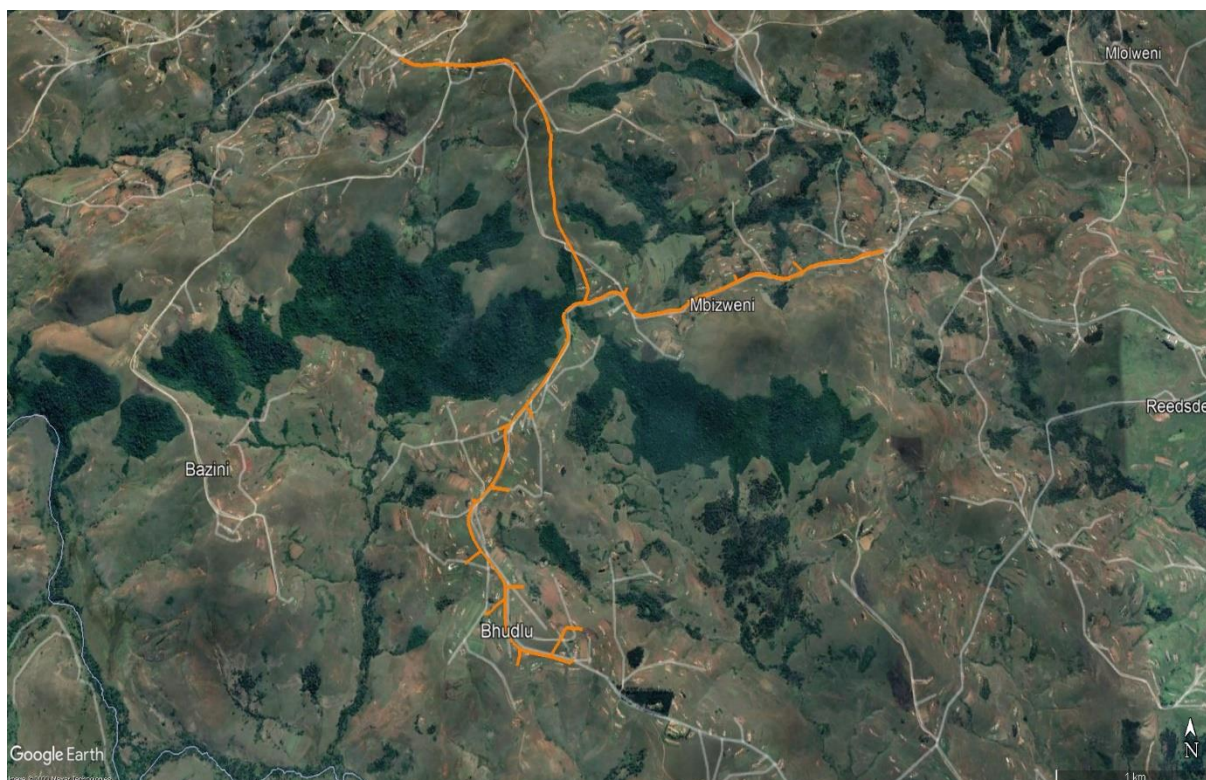


Figure 1: Locality Map illustrating the location of the Proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline





**Figure 2: Proposed Bazini Pipeline Route**

**Table 1: Start and End Co-ordinates of the Proposed Bazini Water Supply Pipeline**

Latitude /Longitude		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
<b>Bazini Pipeline Water Supply (Northern Boundary)</b>				
<b>(Start Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	39	59.58
	<b>East</b>	29	42	59.88
<b>(End Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	40	50.87
	<b>East</b>	29	43	49.20
<b>Bazini Pipeline Water Supply (Eastern Boundary)</b>				
<b>(Start Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	40	50.87
	<b>East</b>	29	43	49.20
<b>(End Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	40	39.05
	<b>East</b>	29	45	4.80
<b>Bazini Pipeline Water (Southern Boundary)</b>				
<b>(Start Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	40	50.87
	<b>East</b>	29	43	49.20
<b>(End Point)</b>	<b>South</b>	30	41	55.73
	<b>East</b>	29	43	46.66

## PROJECT DETAIL

The Ugu District Municipality intends to construct a 10.2km water pipeline within Bazini Heights. The design comprises of a proposed 90mm diameter HDPE gravity main pipeline which is 1.6km in length and a 110mm, 75mm, 63mm as well as 50mm diameter reticulation pipeline which will be 8.6km in length. Furthermore, the proposed development will also entail pump upgrades

and associated valves and chambers. The proposed pipeline seeks to address a lack of water supply to the Bazini area.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities, thus requiring an Environmental Authorisation from KZN EDTEA **(to be confirmed)** in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

GNR	Activity Number	Activity as per legislation	Activity applicability
(GNR) No. 327	Activity 19	<p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</i></p> <p><i>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</i></p> <p><i>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i></p> <p><i>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</i></p> <p><i>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i></p> <p><i>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</i></p>	<p>The proposed pipeline will cross three (3) watercourse units (Units R01, R02a and R03).</p> <p>The cumulative excavation of more than 10m<sup>3</sup> from the watercourse will be undertaken (7.88m<sup>3</sup> will be excavated per watercourse).</p>
(GNR) No. 324	Activity 12	<p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>d. KwaZulu-Natal</i></p> <p><i>i. Trans-frontier protected areas managed under international conventions;</i></p>	<p>A portion of the proposed pipeline is located within CBA Irreplaceable area.</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 8560m<sup>2</sup> of degraded Midlands Mistbelt Grassland</p>

		<p>ii. Community Conservation Areas;</p> <p>iii. Biodiversity Stewardship Programme Biodiversity Agreement areas;</p> <p>iv. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>(v) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(vi) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas</p> <p>vii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning;</p> <p>viii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>ix. World Heritage Sites;</p> <p>x. Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>xi. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose;</p> <p>xii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; or</p> <p>xiii. In an estuarine functional</p>	<p>vegetation will be undertaken</p>
(GNR) No. 324	Activity 14	<p>The development of—</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p>	<p>The proposed pipeline will be more than 10 square metres within a watercourse, located within a CBA Irreplaceable area. This will be assessed in the Draft Basic</p>

	<p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</i></p> <p><i>i. In an estuarine functional zone;</i>  <i>ii. Community Conservation Areas;</i>  <i>iii. Biodiversity Stewardship Programme Biodiversity Agreement areas;</i>  <i>iv. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i>  <i>v. World Heritage Sites;</i>  <i>vi. Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</i>  <i>vii. Critical biodiversity areas or ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i>  <i>viii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i>  <i>ix. Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i>  <i>x. Outside urban areas:</i>  <i>(aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any terrestrial protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; or</i>  <i>(bb) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined; or</i></p>	<p>Assessment Report (DBAR).</p>
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A person who wishes to commence with a Listing Notice 1 or 3 activity must conduct a Basic Assessment according to the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This process, inclusive of public participation, is described below.

## **OUTLINE OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Basic assessment process being followed comprises of the following:

- Submission of an Application for Authorisation to EDTEA;
- Public Participation Process;
  - Notification and distribution of the Background Information Document (this document) to identified stakeholders and I&AP's to announce the project and inviting stakeholders to register as an I&AP and participate in the public participation process;
  - An advertisement in the local newspaper;
  - Placement of a site notification at the site notifying I&AP's of the proposed activity and inviting them to register; and;
  - Relevant I&AP's consultation to address issues and concerns raised;
- Compilation of a Draft Basic Assessment Report for I&APs to review and comment.
- Submission of a Final Basic Assessment Report and details of I&AP consultation to the EDTEA, for a decision;
- Communication to I&APs regarding the decision made by EDTEA on the application for Environmental Authorisation.

## **SPECIALIST EVALUATION**

To inform the Basic Assessment Report, specialist studies have to be undertaken. The Terrestrial Biodiversity, Watercourse Assessment and Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment have been undertaken and the key findings have been summarised below. ***The full specialist reports will be made available for public comment as part of the Draft Basic Assessment Report.***

### **Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment:**

A Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment was undertaken by Ms. Leigh -Ann de Wet from LD Biodiversity Consulting in January 2022. The site comprises mainly of Midlands Mistbelt Grassland that has undergone various stages of degradation, along with a small section of Southern Mistbelt indigenous forest located near the centre of the proposed pipeline. Grazing and frequent burning has resulted in the reduced species richness of the grassland. Majority of the flora were found to be Alien Invasive Plants. Although no red listed, endemic or Threatened or Protected species (TOPs) species were recorded on site, mammal species were likely to be present. The possible mammal species included the Cape Mole-rat and Rough-haired Golden Mole. It is of the specialist's opinion that the proposed Bazini water supply pipeline can be undertaken on condition that the mitigations and recommendations provided in the report are followed along with the section of indigenous forest area being avoided.

### **Watercourse Assessment:**

A Watercourse Assessment was undertaken in January 2022. Three (3) HGM/watercourse units were identified. The stream units were classified as mountain headwater streams namely HGM units R01, R02a and R03. The ecological sensitivity associated with Unit R01 was determined to be of moderate Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS) whereas Units R02a and R03 were rated as 'moderately modified' and 'largely modified', respectively. Overall, the ecosystem services provided by the three units were low, with the exception of R1 having a moderately biodiversity maintenance compared to R02a and R03. It is of the specialist's opinion that the



proposed Bazini water supply pipeline be undertaken on condition that the potential impacts associated with the project are effectively addressed through the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in the report being implemented during the construction and operational phases of the proposed pipeline.

**Phase 1 Heritage Assessment:**

A Phase 1 Heritage Assessment was undertaken by Ms. Jean Beater from JLB Consulting in January 2022. Graves identified were situated away from the water pipeline with the exception of one being found 8 metres west of the proposed pipeline route. The eastern portion of the pipeline route was found to have a few homesteads that appeared to be newly constructed. It is of the specialist's opinion that the lack of graves is due to the homesteads being fairly new along with the topography on either side of the road being steep in certain places. The remains of a structure that appears to be below 60 years old was found approximately 30 metres west of the proposed pipeline route, well away to be impacted by the proposed Water Supply Pipeline. It is of the specialist's opinion that the proposed Bazini water supply pipeline is approved on condition that the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in the report and in the desktop palaeontological report are implemented and adhered to.

**Your contributions are important**

You can get involved in the process:

1. By responding (by phone or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and e-mailing it to Wallace and Green;
3. In writing contacting or telephoning consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the BA Report within the allowed extended 30-day review period.

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) you are invited to formally register as an I&AP. Please note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), I&APs need to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

As per the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act, which came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021, consent must be granted to the EAP to use personal information provided. The information received will be made available to several competent authorities.

**Please register by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022** by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.

**REGISTRATION FORM:**  
**Proposed Bazini water supply pipeline, uMuziwabantu Local Municipality,  
Ugu District Municipality, KZN.**

**Attention: Simitha Koobair**

**Office No: 031 563 4466**

**E-mail: [simitha@wallaceandgreen.co.za](mailto:simitha@wallaceandgreen.co.za)**

**Fax No: 086 613 8535**

<b>Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Name</b>		<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Organisation / Interest</b>		<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Signature</b>			

Please tick the appropriate circle and confirm your contact details above:

Registration

<input type="radio"/>	I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the BA process for this Project
<input type="radio"/>	Non stakeholder: I would like you to take me off your distribution sheet for the Proposed. I would not like to receive any further information regarding this process.
<input type="radio"/>	I grant the EAP consent to use my personal information provided

Other

*If you know of any other individual or organisation that would be interested in registering as an Interested and Affected Party please provide their contact details:*

<b>Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Name</b>		<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Organisation / Interest</b>		<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Signature</b>			

