

BID

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
OFF TAKE 1B POTABLE WATER
PIPELINE AS PART OF THE
LOWER THUKELA BULK WATER
SUPPLY AT SANS SOUCIS, ILEMBE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KZN**

A Project of iLembe District Municipality



10 December 2014

EDTEA REF NO: DC29/0037/2014

triplo4
sustainable solutions

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) regarding the proposed construction of Off Take 1B Potable Water Pipeline as part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply at Sans Soucis, iLembe District Municipality, KZN.

Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions (hereafter referred to as Triplo4) was appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner by Black Balance Projects (on behalf of their client, iLembe District Municipality) for the proposed construction of the Off Take 1B of the potable water pipeline.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The study site is located approximately 65km to the North of Tongaat, turning inland along the P110 towards Sans Soucis. The proposed project, Off Take 1B, falls within the KwaDukuza Local Municipality and iLembe District Municipality.

Co-ordinates of proposed development

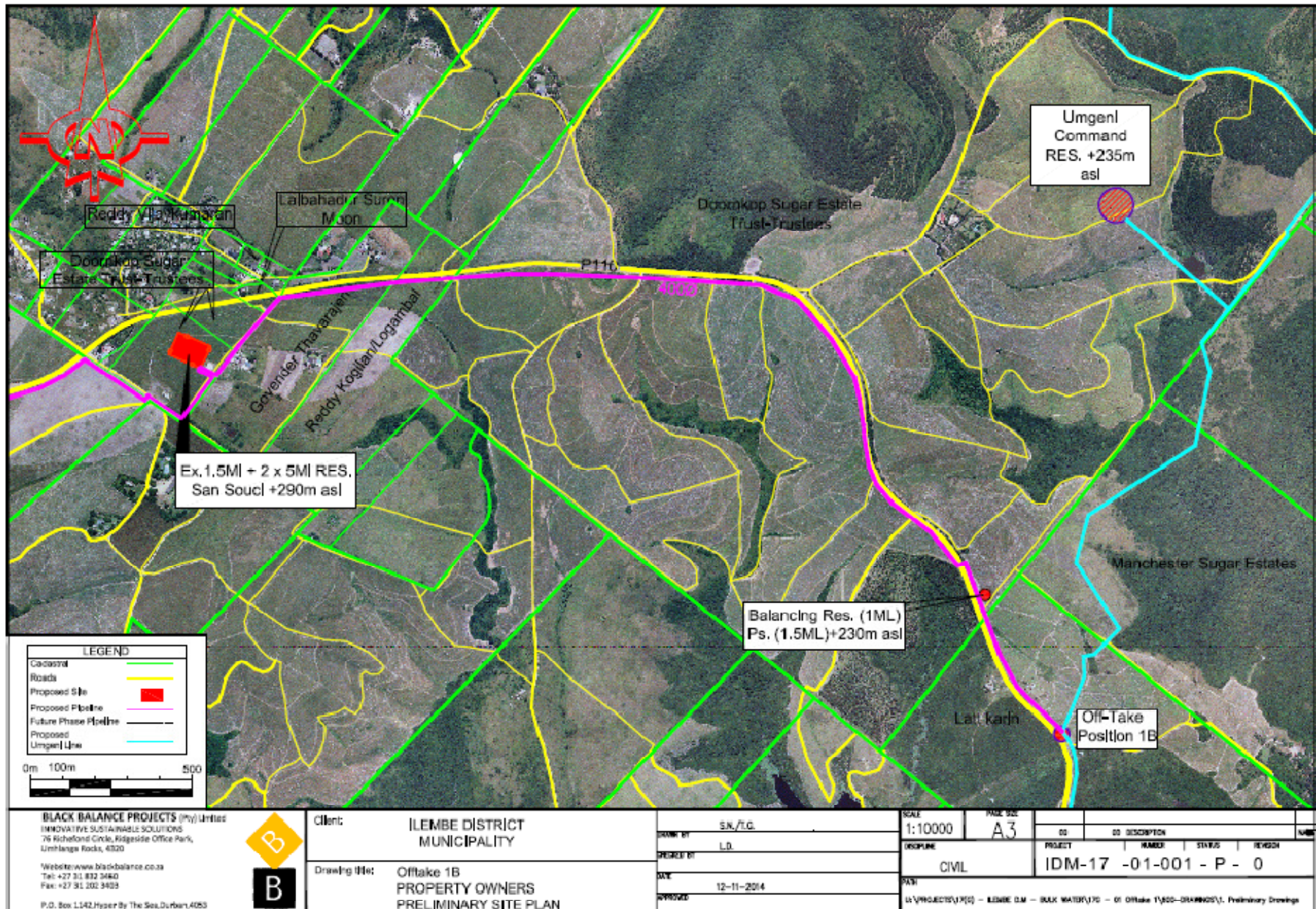
Pipeline starting point – From P110 towards Sans Soucis

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	12	1.09
East	31	22	26.78

End point – Sans Soucis Reservoir

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	11	24.42
East	31	20	47.53

Figure 1: A Map of the proposed Construction of the Off Take 1B Pipeline outlined in Pink



PROJECT DETAIL

The proposed construction for Off Take 1B forms part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme which is a project of the iLembe District Municipality and co-funded by the Department of Water Affairs. The construction of Off Take 1B is part of the sections of the potable water pipeline that forms part of the broader Bulk Water Supply Scheme in the lower Thukela Region. The proposed pipeline is located immediately outside the road reserve and is approximately 3km in length with an outside diameter of approximately 400 to 450mm. The proposed Off-Take 1b bulk water pipeline feeds into the reservoirs of Sans Soucis as the project makes provision for Bulk Supply of Potable water to communities that currently do not have access to reticulated potable water in the Lower Thukela Region.

PROJECT MOTIVATION

There is a growing need and urgency to provide adequate potable water to many communities that do not have access to the life sustaining resource particularly in rural areas. The proposed construction of the Off Take 1B pipeline forms part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme that has been developed to address the challenges associated with poor supply of reticulated potable water in Northern KZN. Overall there is an ongoing need to address the current and future water supply backlogs of which requires continued investment in new infrastructure to areas that lack access to safe water.

Thus the construction of the Off Take 1B Pipeline for Bulk water supply meets the objectives of addressing the challenges of inadequate water service provision. The project also brings about socio-economic benefits as it promotes healthier and uplifted communities as the number of people that have access to clean water will increase and the risk associated with use of untreated water will be reduced significantly. The proposed construction of the Off Take 1B pipeline is in the interest of the greater public as improving water service provision to those who currently do not have access to safe potable water is indeed a priority that is on top of the development agenda for KZN.

SPECIALIST EVALUATION

An independent Wetland and Ecological Habitat Assessment was conducted by Mr Clayton Cook, and the following is a summary of the findings with an additional figure (figure 3) to indicate the sensitivity of the proposed site:

Ecological Habitat Assessment:

An ecological assessment was conducted by Mr. Clayton Cook. Preliminary ecological aspects were provided as per below summary. Full ecological report will be submitted with the draft BAR.

- The proposed pipeline route is dominated by current sugarcane plantations and old agricultural lands with secondary succession grasslands and pioneer weedy plant species.
- High levels of human disturbance as well as habitat transformation and degradation on the site and surrounding wetlands and drainage lines were noted.
- The proposed alignment should not impact on the closed woodlands and major drainage features as the alignment is proposed outside these areas.

Wetland Assessment:

- The proposed Off-take 1B bulk water pipeline bisects historically transformed hillslope seepage wetlands which feed into an incised artificially created drainage channel. The proposed pipeline alignments are situated mainly within the temporary wet zones above the drainage lines. The water pipeline alignment bisects an artificially created seasonally inundated dam.

BID for the Proposed construction of Off Take 1B Potable Water Pipeline, iLembe District Municipality, KZN

- A Heritage Impact Assessment is being conducted during the week of 08 December 2014.

The report will be included in the draft BAR.

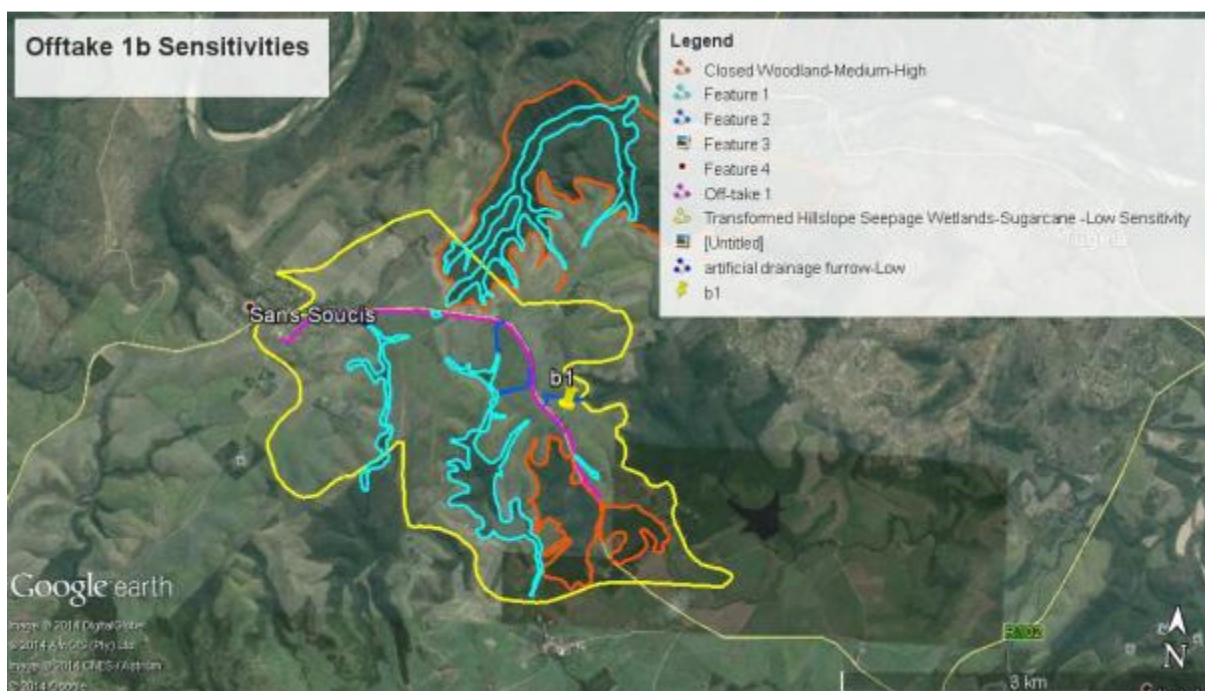


Figure 2: Preliminary Ecological Sensitivity Map for the Proposed Off-take 1b Bulk Water Pipeline Project, indicating seepage wetlands, woodlands and drainage lines

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES

Relevant Environmental Legislation (EIA Regulations, 2010. The project was registered prior to 08 December 2014).

The below mentioned environmental activities are triggered by the proposed development, requiring an Environmental Authorisation from KZN Department of EDTEA:

Listing Notice 1 (GNR 544, 2010):

Activity No.	Listed activity as per the project description
Activity 9	The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000m in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage to storm water with an internal diameter of 0.36m or more. The proposed pipeline has an internal diameter of 0.4 – 0.45m
Activity 11	The construction of infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse. The proposed pipeline occurs within 32 m of a watercourse
Activity 18	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from a watercourse. It is anticipated that more than 5 cubic meters of soil, sand or rock will be excavated or moved during the construction of the pipeline.

A person who wishes to commence, undertake or conduct an activity listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, or NEMA EIA Listing Notice 1 activities must conduct a basic assessment process.

Legal requirements for the proposed construction of Off Take 1B Pipeline

This development triggers activity 9, 11 and 18 of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations and Triplo4 will conduct a Basic Assessment process as per The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations, 2010. A Water Use Authorisation is required for the proposed construction of the Off Take 1B pipeline. A Water Use Authorisation is a legal process governed by the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) requiring the authorisation of all water uses defined in section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) [NWA]. The above mentioned project requires Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses. The NWA defines a Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses as: Section 21 (c) – Impeding and diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, Section 21 (i) – Altering the bed, bank, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

Basic Assessment Process

The basic assessment process being followed comprises of the following:

- Submission of an Application for Authorization to KZN Department of EDTEA;
- Public Participation Process:
 - Submission of a Background Information Document (this document) to identified stakeholders;
 - An advertisement in the local newspaper (Stanger Weekly);
 - 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 Draft Basic Assessment Report for I&AP's review and comments, which will be available for review and comment at Sundury for a period of 40 days from **30 January 2015 to 10 March 2015**
- Submission of a Final Basic Assessment Report and details of I&AP consultation to the KZN Department of EDTEA, for a decision;
- Communication to I&AP's regarding the Environmental Authorisation.

Public Participation Process

The public participation process and time frames are summarized as follows:

Announcing the opportunity to participate and register by 15 January 2015

- Distribution of the Background Information Document to all identified stakeholders to announce the project and inviting stakeholders to register as an I&AP and participate in the public participation process;
- Posting of the site notice at the site;
- Advertisement in the "Stanger Weekly" which will be available on **10 December 2014**

Obtaining initial comment,

- Providing this BID and comment sheets to stakeholders; and
- Capturing all comments in a Comment and Response Report / Issues Trial.

Draft BA Report (30 January to 10 March 2015)

- Availability of the draft BA report at Sundury Store, Triplo 4 Ballito Offices and website (www.triplo4.com), which will contain a full project description, alternatives considered, and relevant information.

Submitting the Final BA report to registered I&AP's, Authorities and EDTEA for consideration and communicating the decision to I&AP's.

Your contributions are important

You can get involved in the process:

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and e-mailing, posting or faxing it to Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions;
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 40-day review period.

In terms of the NEMA Regulations (GN 543) you are invited to formally register as an I&AP. Please note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), I&AP's need to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Please register by **15 January 2015** by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.

REGISTRATION FORM:
**Proposed Construction of Off Take 1B Potable Water Pipeline as
 Part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply at Sans Soucis,
 iLembe District Municipality, KZN**

Attention: Melissa Padayachee

Tel: 032 946 3213; E-mail: melissa@triplo4.com

Fax: 032 946 0192

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

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

<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.

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:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

I have the following queries/comments:

