



BENDE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Amathole District Municipality (ADM) has identified that the Bende area community is not served with sustainable water infrastructure. Sontinga Consulting has been appointed to undertake a feasibility study in order to investigate the provision of water and sanitation services to the study area. ADM is planning to serve the Bende area from the Mbashe North Water Supply Scheme which will gravitate treated water from the Mgwali River in the vicinity of the Clarkebury Mission via the existing Mgwali North and Dutywa East schemes.

Construction of the bulk infrastructure of the Mbashe North scheme has been completed. Bulk pipelines of the Mgwali North scheme is currently under construction. From a duty point provided by the above scheme, the Dutywa East WSS will connect their bulk pipelines and subsequently provide connection for the proposed Bende scheme. It will take approximately 2 years before bulk water supply to the Bende area becomes available. The area is approximately 109km² and there are 24 rural type villages with an estimated population of 15,273.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed by Sontinga Consulting Services to undertake the necessary Environmental Authorisations required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998, as amended) on behalf of the applicant, Amathole District Municipality.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed project.

Please review this BID and submit your comments on the proposed project by **14 October 2014**. To comment, write a letter/fax, call or e-mail Ayanda Mpambani at the contact details at the end of this document.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The primary objective for the project is to provide a bulk domestic water supply to the communities in the Bende Area at Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

Standards. Description of the proposed works is listed below:

1. The supply of bulk water will be from the existing Dutywa East Water Supply Scheme.
2. Construction of bulk supply line from Dutywa East water Supply Scheme to Bulk Storage Reservoir.
 - 110mm dia uPV pipeline 3100m long.
3. Construction of a Bulk Storage Reservoir.
 - 1ML Reservoir.
4. Construction of bulk supply lines between Service Reservoirs.
 - 50mm to 110mm dia uPVC and steel pipelines 23 319m long.
5. Construction of Service Reservoirs.
 - 7 reinforced concrete reservoirs ranging from 20kl to 110kl in size.
6. Village reticulation and standpipes.
 - 32mm to 90mm dia uPVC pipelines 135 805m long.
 - Stainless Steel break pressure tanks.
 - Standpipes.

PROPOSED LOCATION

Bende is situated in the Eastern Cape in the former Transkei area. The area starts in the North at the Dwesa road just outside Dutywa and neighboured by the Mhlohloza Water Supply Scheme (Fort Malan) on the east and the Nqadu Water Supply Scheme (Willowvale) in the south. The R408 between Dutywa and Willowvale forms the western boundary of the proposed Bende scheme (see locality map attached).

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

National Environmental Management Act

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Regulations 544, 545 and 546) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (No. 107 of 1998) (as amended), identify certain activities, which “*could have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment*”. These listed activities require environmental authorisation from the competent environmental authority, i.e. the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), prior to commencing.

The Sundwana water supply scheme (Phase 1) triggers a number of listed activities in terms of NEMA and accordingly requires environmental authorisation from DEDEAT. The activities listed are as follows:

Activity	Description
R544 (9)	Construction of bulk water supply of approximately 3.1 km in length.

	<p>The construction of facilities of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or stormwater –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) with an internal diameter of 0.36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more, <p>excluding where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) such facilities or infrastructure are for bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water or storm water drainage inside a road reserve; or <p>where such construction will occur within urban areas but further than 32 metres from a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</p>
R544 (11)	<p>Construction of pipelines and reservoirs within 32 m of a watercourse, where most of the lines will intersect rivers or streams as part of the route.</p> <p>The construction of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) canals (ii) channels (iii) bridges (iv) dams (v) weirs (vi) bulk stormwater outlet structures (vii) marinas; (viii) jetties exceeding 50 square metres in size (ix) slipways exceeding 50 square meters in size; or (x) infrastructure covering 50 square meters or more <p>where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a water course, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</p>
R544 (18)	<p>Construction of pipelines through watercourses and potentially wetland areas particularly in cases where the pipeline cannot be anchored to existing structures. Current details unknown.</p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a watercourse; (ii) the sea (iii) the seashore (iv) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is greater – <p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a management plan agreed to by the relevant environmental authority; or <p>occurs behind the development setback line</p>
R544 (56)	<p>The project may be divided into phases to ensure that the project is manageable from a contractual and procurement perspective.</p> <p>The phased activities for all the activities listed in this schedule, which commenced on or after the effective date of this schedule, where any one phase may be below a threshold but where a</p>

	<p>combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold; -</p> <p>Excluding the following activities in this Schedule: 2; 11(i)-(vii); 16(i)-(iv); 17; 19; 20; 22(i) & 22(iii) 25; 26; 27(iii) & (iv); 26; 39; 45(i)-(iv) & (vii)-(xv); 50; 51; 53; and 54.</p>
R546 (10)	<p>Construction of fuel storage facilities such as bunds might be required so that the contractors can safely store fuel. Each contractor will in all likelihood store well below 30 m³ but cumulatively the threshold of 30 m³ might be reached.</p> <p>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good; where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic meters.</p>
R546 (14)	<p>Clearance of vegetation for bulk and storage reservoirs, borrow pits and site camps.</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, except for such removal of vegetation is required for;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) purposes of agriculture or afforestation inside areas identified in spatial instruments adopted by the competent authority for agriculture or afforestation purposes (2) the undertaking of a process or activity included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the activity is regarded to be excluded from his list; (3) the undertaking of a linear activity falling below the thresholds in Notice 544 of 2010. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Northwest and Western Cape: All areas outside urban areas
R546 (16)	<p>The proposed village abstraction points for this project may occur within a terrestrial CBA2 area.</p> <p>The construction of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) jetties exceeding 10 square metres in size; (ii) slipways exceeding 10 square metres in size; (iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 square metres in size; or (iv) infrastructure covering 10 square meters or more <p>where such construction occurs within a watercourse or 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In Eastern Cape; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) In an estuary; (ii) Outside urban areas, in: (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem areas identified in systemic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans
R546 (26)	<p>The project might be divided into phases to ensure that the project is manageable from a contractual and procurement perspective.</p>

	Phased activities for all activities listed in the Schedule and as it applies to a specific geographical area, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Schedule, where any phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold.
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Accordingly, the proposed project will require the submission of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) as outlined in Section 22 of Regulation 543.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The purpose of the basic assessment is to identify and describe potential positive and negative environmental impacts, (both social and biophysical), associated with the proposed project and its feasible alternatives and to investigate and assess those alternatives and impacts.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED?

You have been identified as a potential Interested and/ or Affected Party (I&AP) for this project, either because you represent an affected organisation or because of your proximity/location to the proposed project. Public participation is a key component of this environmental process and will take place at various stages throughout the project. This process will include the following steps:

- Advertising the project in newspapers;
- Erecting site notices
- Distributing this BID to all identified stakeholders;
- Lodging of the Draft BAR in appropriate locations and informing the public regarding the availability of the Draft BAR for a 40 day comment period during which the public has the opportunity to review the draft document and raise any issues or concerns;
- Finalising the BAR, taking cognisance of comments received from I&APs;
- Lodging the Final BAR in appropriate locations for a 21 day comment period;
- Inviting all I&APs to submit written comment on the report;
- Submitting the Final BAR to DEDEAT to inform their decision about the proposed project; and
- Advertising the decision received from DEDEAT and the opportunity for appeal.

Site notices, adverts and this BID will be available in both Xhosa and English. All other written correspondence and reporting will be in English. I&APs requiring assistance in another language may contact Aurecon.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

According to Regulation No. 543, Section 56 the responsibilities of an I&AP are as follows:

- a) Comments must be submitted within the approved timeframes or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or EAP;
- b) A copy of any comments submitted directly to the relevant environmental authority must be submitted to the EAP; and

- c) Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application must be disclosed.

WAY FORWARD

Following the completion of the Draft BAR, it will be lodged at appropriate locations. Registered I&APs will be notified of the lodging and given a 40 day opportunity in which to comment on the report. Should you wish to raise any initial issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, or if you wish to register as an I&AP, please contact the person listed below.

Contact details

Ayanda Mpambani
Tel: (043) 721 0900
Fax: 086 723 2025
Email: ayanda.mpambani@aurecongroup.com

Aurecon
PO Box 19553 Tecoma 5214

List of Acronyms

ADM	Amathole District Municipality
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
DEDEA	Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSWMA	Feasibility Study on the Water Resources in the Willowvale Magisterial Area
GN	Government Notice
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
NWA	National Water Act
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SWSS	Sundwana Water Supply Scheme
WSDP	Water Services Development Plan

Interested and/or Affected Party Response Form

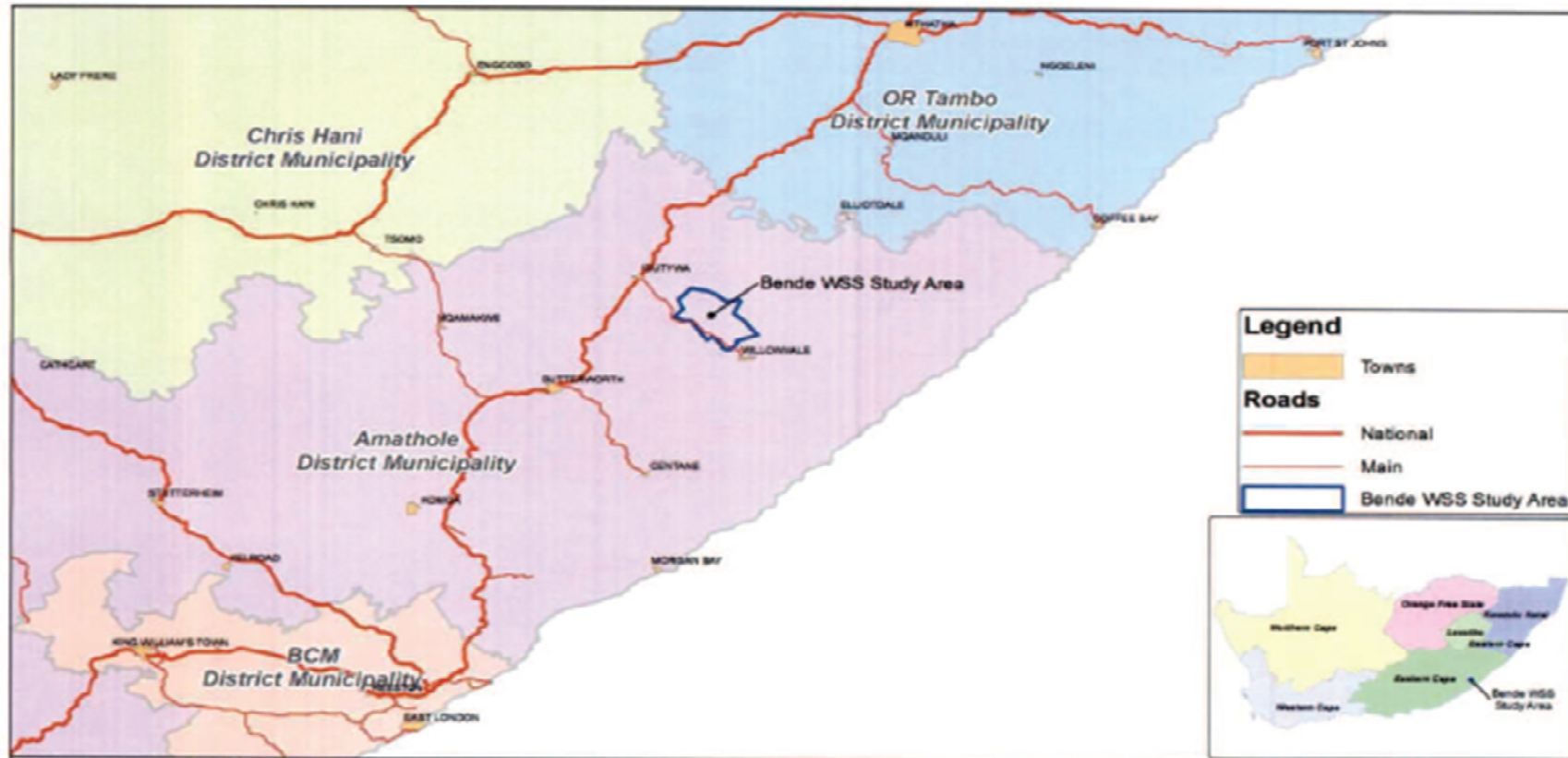
Bende water supply scheme

NAME	
DESIGNATION	
ORGANISATION	
TEL	
FAX	
EMAIL	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT	
COMMENTS	

Please indicate how you would prefer to be contacted:

FAX EMAIL MAIL

LOCALITY MAP



<p>Client</p>  <p>AMATHOLE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY</p>	<p>Consultant</p>  <p>Sontinga Consulting Services</p>	<p>Project</p> <p>BENDE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME</p>	<p>Description</p> <p>LOCALITY</p>	<p>Consultant Signature</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Drawn</td> <td>Checked</td> <td>Designed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM</td> <td>Department</td> <td>Branch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scale</td> <td colspan="2">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:150 000</td> <td colspan="2">APRIL 2013</td> </tr> </table>	Drawn	Checked	Designed	ADM	Department	Branch	Scale	Date		1:150 000	APRIL 2013		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>APPROVAL TENDER</td> <td>CONSTR. RECORD</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Consultant Drg. No.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">ADM Drg. No. 083 Figure 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">ADM Record No.</td> </tr> </table>	APPROVAL TENDER	CONSTR. RECORD	Consultant Drg. No.		ADM Drg. No. 083 Figure 1		ADM Record No.	
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