

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**The Proposed Construction of the Off take 3 Potable Water Pipeline as part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply at Samkhanya to Sakhamakhanya/St Christopher Reservoir, Ilembe District Municipality, KZN**

EDTEA REF NO: DC29/0012/2014



JULY 2014

Prepared by:

## 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 3 of the potable water pipeline as part of the lower Thukela bulk water supply at Samkhanya to the Sakhamakhanya/St. Christopher reservoir, Ilembe District Municipality, KZN.

Triplo 4 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 3 of the potable water pipeline.

## LOCATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The locality is approximately 70 km to the north of Durban in the Darnall area of Northern KwaZulu-Natal. The site is directly west of the R102 North bound and located approximately 8 km from St Christopher. The proposed project: Offtake 3 falls within the KwaDukuza Local- and iLembe District Municipality.

### Co-ordinates of proposed development

#### Pipeline starting point (P1) – From the R102 (North Bound)

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	14	28.50
East	31	22	59.28

#### End point (P22) – Sakhamakhanya / St Christopher Reservoir

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	23	16.09
East	31	14	17.99



Figure 1: Locality Map showing the proposed Off Take 3 Pipeline Route.

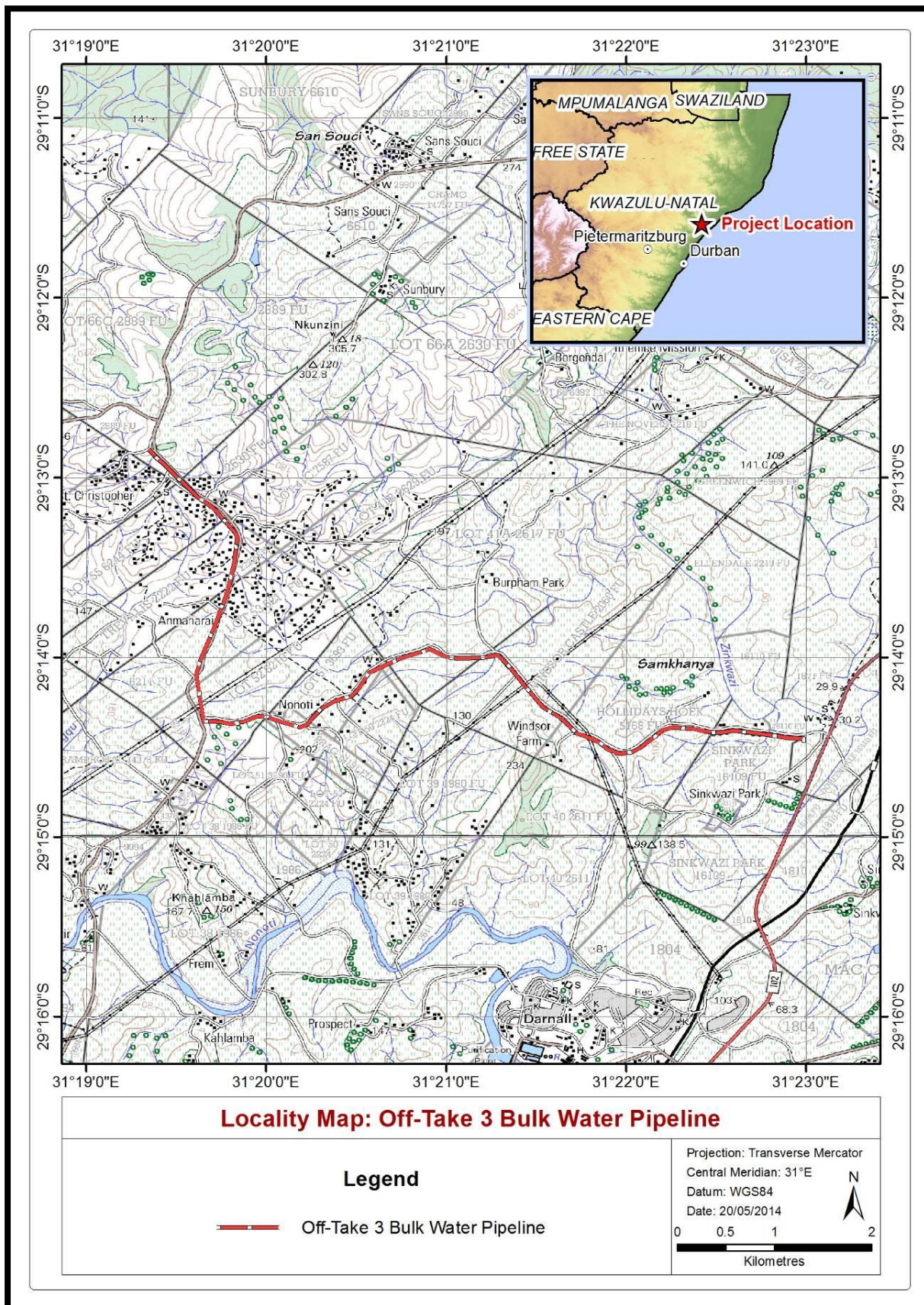
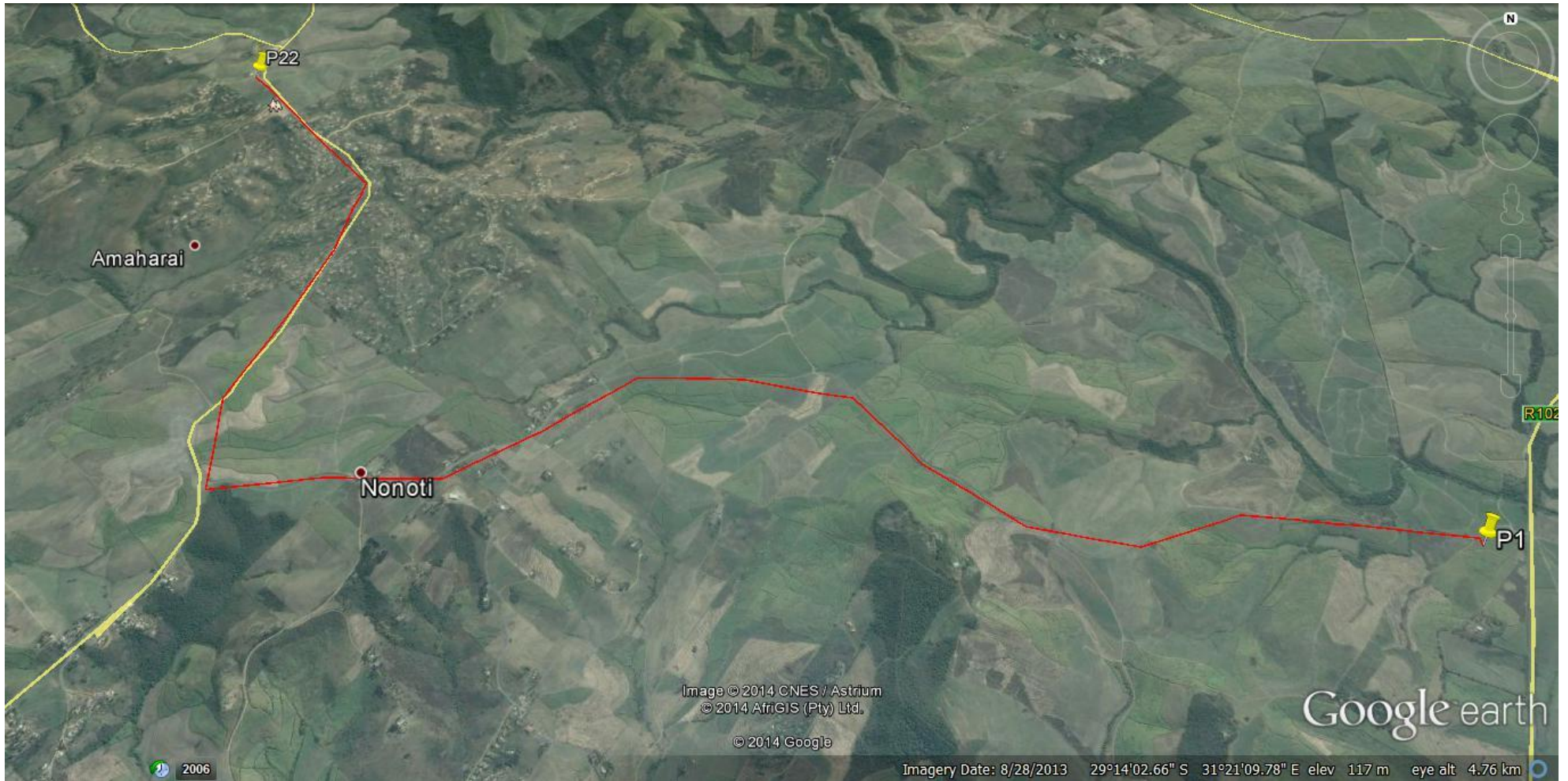




Figure 2: A Satellite/Google Image of the proposed Construction of the Off Take 3 Pipeline outlined in Red



## **PROJECT DETAIL**

The proposed construction for Offtake 3 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 Offtake 3 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 9km in length with an outside diameter of 315mm to approx 500 mm and is to feed into the Sakhamakhanya/St. Christopher 5MI reservoirs to provide 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 3 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 3 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 Offtake 3 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:

- The proposed pipeline route is dominated by current sugarcane plantations and old agricultural lands with secondary succession grasslands dominated by anthropogenic grasses and invaded by alien invasive plant species.
- High levels of human disturbance as well as habitat transformation and degradation on the site and surrounding valley bottom wetlands and drainage lines were noted.

Wetland Assessment:

- The proposed Off-take 3 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.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by Gavin Anderson of Umlando Archaeological Surveys and Heritage Management and the following is a summary of the findings:

- No archaeological sites occur in the study area. No national monuments, battlefields, or historical cemeteries are known to occur in the study area.
- It is unlikely that any built structures will be affected by the pipeline route. No heritage sites were observed along the route and no further mitigation is required.



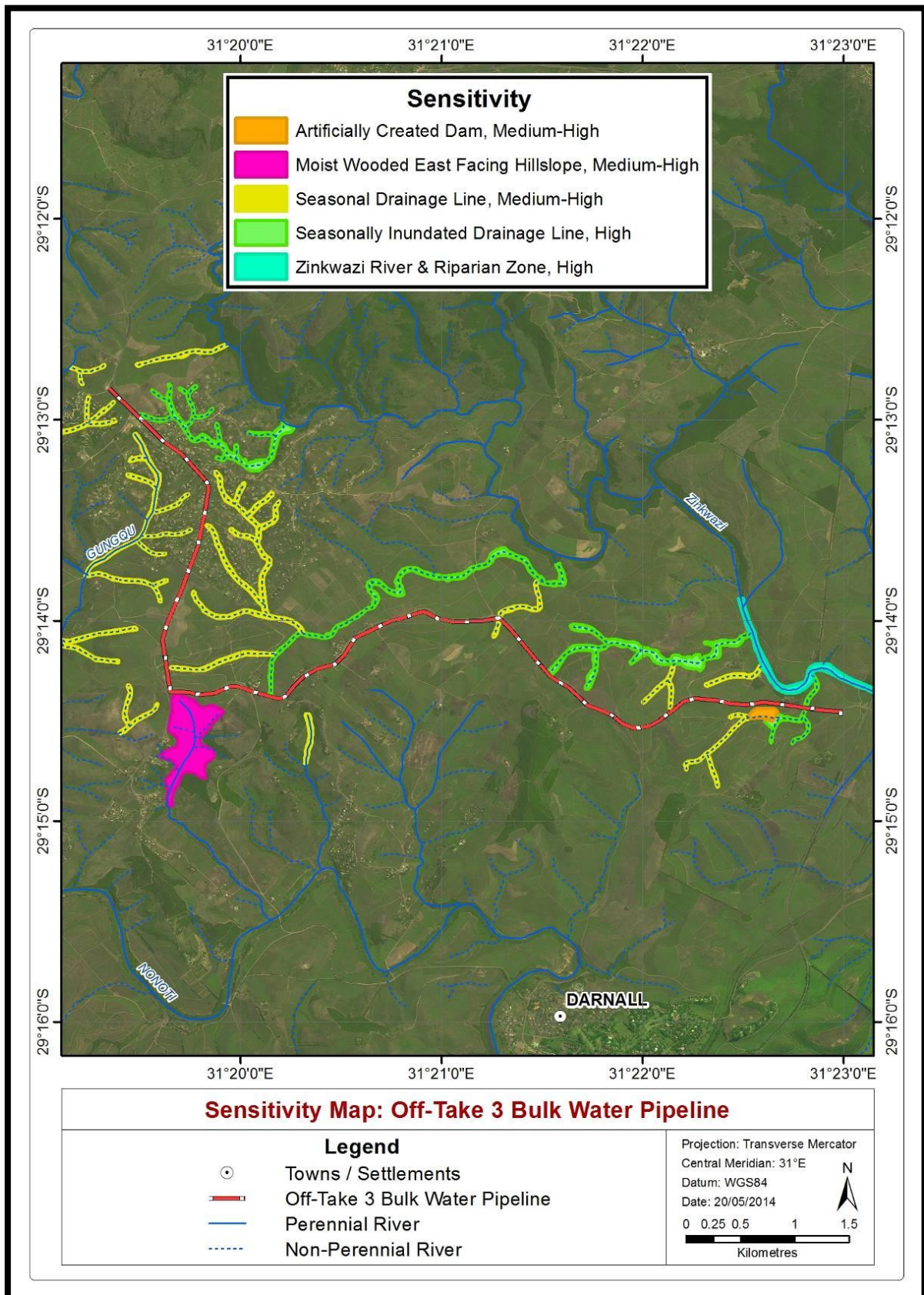


Figure 3: Preliminary wetland delineation map for the proposed Off-take 3 Bulk Water pipeline project



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES

### Relevant Environmental Legislation

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

#### Listing Notice 1 (GNR 544, 2010):

Activity No.	Listed activity as per the project description
Activity 9	<p>The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water – (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or</p> <p><b>Portions of the Pipeline will be greater than 0.36 meters. Details as per final layout will be in the Basic Assessment Report.</b></p>
Activity 11	<p>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.</p> <p><b>The entire area of the Off-take 3 Bulk water pipeline comprises predominantly of temporary and seasonally inundated transformed (sugarcane) hillslope seepage wetlands.</b></p>
Activity 18	<p>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.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>

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 and 2 activities must conduct a basic assessment / EIA process.

#### Legal requirements for the proposed construction of off take 3 Pipeline

This development triggers activity 9, 11 and activity 18 of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations and will conduct a Basic Assessment Report as per The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). A Water Use License Application is required for the proposed construction of the Off Take 3 pipeline. A Water Use License (WUL) is a legal process governed by DWA 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 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 the St Christopher Primary School (Sakhamakhanya) for a period of 40 days from **01 August 2014** to **10 September 2014**
- Submission of a Basic Assessment Report and details of I&AP consultation to the 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, 16 July 2014***

- 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 **16 July 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, 01 August 2014 to 10 September***

- Availability of the draft BA report at the St Christopher Primary School (Sakhamakhanya), which will contain a full project description, alternatives considered, and relevant information.

***Submitting the final BA report to Authorities, providing a*** comment period of 40 days (excluding public holidays); and ***Submitting the final BA report to 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 **30 July 2014** by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.



## **REGISTRATION FORM:**

Construction of the off take 3 of the potable water pipeline as part of the lower Thukela bulk water supply at Samkhanya to the Sakhamakhanya/St. Christopher reservoir, Ilembe District Municipality, KZN

**Attention: Hantie Plomp**

**Cell: 083 308 8003**

**E-mail: [hantie@triplo4.com](mailto:hantie@triplo4.com) / [marilyn@triplo4.com](mailto:marilyn@triplo4.com)**

**Fax: 032 946 0192**

<b>Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Name</b>		<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Organisation / Interes</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.

### 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 / Interes</b>		<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Signature</b>			



