

BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) & WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION (WULA) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CREIGHTON BULK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME PROJECT WITHIN HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT.

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the proposed construction of the Construction of Creighton Bulk Water Supply Scheme Project being undertaken by Harry Gwala District Municipality.

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed project and to enable Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to participate in the EIA AND WULA process, comment on the environmental, social and economic aspects relating to the proposed development. The Background Information Document (BID) provides ,Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) with an overview of the proposed project and invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process. The document provides I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project. This BID contains the following information:

- (a) Description of the project
- (b) Project location;
- (c) The Environmental Assessment Processes; and
- (d) Guidelines for stakeholder participation in the EIA process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION.

Harry Gwala District Municipality is proposing to construct the Creighton Bulk Water Scheme which aims to provide a safe and reliable source of potable water to the communities living in the project area. The current water resource supplying the Creighton Area is insufficient to meet the projected water demands. The project aims to increase the assurance of water supply for the area of Creighton and provide a long-term bulk water supply scheme that will be able to meet the current and future water demands. The project intends to increase the level of infrastructure in the area in terms of water supply to meet the growing demands.

The project will consist of the following proposed infrastructure with capacities and dimensions:

INFRASTRUCTURE	DESCRIPTION
Centocow abstraction works upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade from 1.5 Mℓ/d to 5.0 Mℓ/d • Existing Intake Structure and Pump to Sump • New Sump • New High-lift Pump Station
Rising Main (abstraction point to Centocow WTP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw water pipeline: 500mm Ø (Class 20) • 1.2 km long @ 90m Pumping Head
Upgrade of Centocow WTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade from 1.5 Mℓ/d to 5.0 Mℓ/d
Clear water balancing and storage reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New water balancing and storage facility for Creighton • Capacity: 3Mℓ • Position: @ 1060mAMSL
Gravity Main	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear water pipeline: 300mm Ø (Class 16) • 11 km long (Centocow to balancing reservoir) • 3 km long (balancing reservoir to Creighton) • 90m Head (Negative surge pressure)

The following coordinates are provided for the entire development footprint:

Point	Latitude (S):			Longitude (E):		
Starting point of the activity	30°	0'	43.52"	29°	43'	48.69"
Middle point of the activity	30°	2'	2.05"	29°	46'	42.00"
End point of the activity	30°	1'	38.69"	29°	50'	18.67"
Reservoir Position	30°	2'	1.17"	29°	48'	52.77"

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

During the assessment process, specialist studies including desktop assessments combined with a site visit will identify potential environmental issues which require further investigation within the Basic Assessment Report.

Specialist studies that have been identified and will be conducted include:

- Fresh Water Aquatic and Wetland Delineation assessment.
- Heritage Assessment
- Ecological assessment
- Phase 1 of Palaeontological Assessment

The Basic Assessment will aim to achieve the following:

- To provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environment of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- To undertake a detailed assessment of the project in terms of environmental criteria including the rating and significance of impacts;
- To identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for significant environmental impacts; and
- To undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

BASIC ASSESSMENT & WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 324 to 327 of 2014 (as amended), published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), Harry Gwala District Municipality requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) to undertake the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 327 and 324 of the NEMA EIA.

The following activities of **GNR 327** (Listing Notice 1) are being applied for the Environmental Authorisation (EA):

- **Activity 9:** The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 meters in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water—
 - (I) With an internal diameter of 0,36 meters or more; or
 - (II) With a peak throughput of 120 liters per second or more.
- **Activity 12:** The development of— dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square meters; or infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more; where such development occurs—
 - (a) within a watercourse
- **Activity 13:** The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic metres or more, unless such storage falls within the ambit of activity 16 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014.
- **Activity 19:** The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse.

The following activity of GNR 324 (Listing Notice 3) is being applied for the Environmental Authorisation (EA):

- **Activity 14:** The development of— (x) buildings exceeding 10 square metres in size; (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;]

d. KwaZulu-Natal

iv. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; v. World Heritage Sites; vi. Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; vii. Critical biodiversity areas or ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; 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; ix. Core areas in biosphere reserves; x. Outside urban areas: (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 (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;

Additionally, as the project involves, abstraction the crossing of watercourses, a WULA will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as per Sections 21 (a), (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998).

The following water uses of Section 21 of the NWA are being applied for the WUL:

- (a) Abstraction of water from a watercourse; and
- (c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- (i) Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse

Activities proposed for the project triggers environmental listed activities, hence a BA process, as prescribed in the EIA Regulations (GNR 326), will be undertaken. The Basic Assessment is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

Harry Gwala District Municipality has appointed At Gedezar Consulting as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required environmental studies. As part of these environmental studies, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through a public participation process (PPP).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.

The purpose of the public participation process aims to inform stakeholders about the proposed development and the impacts associated with the proposed development. This process will canvass all Interested and Affected Parties inputs, views, and concerns. The process intends to take into account the information and views of the public in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process and decision making.

The key objective of the public involvement is to:

- Obtain local and traditional knowledge that can be useful in decision making
- Ensure that important impacts are not overlooked and benefits are maximized.
- Improve transparency and accountability of decision making
- Reduce conflict through early identification of argumentative issues

The process will include the following steps:

STEP 1: Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper)

STEP 2: Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (ongoing)

STEP 3: Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation and stakeholder engagement

STEP 4: Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft BA report (30-day comment period)

STEP 5: Record all comments, issues, and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of BA Reports

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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 mailing or faxing it to At Gedezar Consulting;
3. In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the allowed 30-day review period.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Interested I&AP's are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental and Public Participation consultant before the 15th April 2022.

Ms. Nonjabulo Dladla

At Gedezar Consulting

31 Macleroy Road, Northern Park

Pietermaritzburg,

3201

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Fax | 086 723 4520

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Creighton Bulk Water Supply Project



Legend

 Abstraction Point

 Pipeline

 Pipeline

 Centocow Water Treatment Plant

 Reservoir



31 Macleroy Road
Northern Park
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CREIGHTON BULK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME
PROJECT WITHIN HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.**

COMMENT FORM



YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before** 28th February 2022, and return to:

Nonjabulo Dladla

📍 31 Macleroy Road, Northern Park, Pietermaritzburg 3201

☎ Phone: 033 342 0677

✉ E-mail: nonjabulodl@gedezar.co.za

☎ Fax:086 723 4520

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		FIRST NAME	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL. NO.: ()		CELL NO.:	
FAX NO.: ()		E-MAIL ADDRES:	

What comments / concerns would you like to rise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Name:		Organisation:	
Contact details:			
Address:			
Tel.:	Fax:	Cell:	
E-mail:			

IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT AND WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, please remove me from the project database	SIGNATURE:
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