

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED UPGRADE TO THE EASTBURY TRUNK SEWER LINE IN THE ETHEKWINI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (MAY 2014)

KZN DAEA&RD REF NO.: DM/0045/2014 and KZN/EIA/0001528/2014

What does this document tell you?

This document aims to provide you, as an **Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)**, with background information regarding the proposed **upgrade to the Eastbury Trunk Sewer Line** being undertaken by the **eThekweni Municipality**.

The document also provides information regarding the **Basic Environmental Impact Assessment (BA)** process to be undertaken. The document advises you on how you can become involved in the project – by reviewing information, and making inputs thereon, including raising any possible issues. This sharing of information forms the basis of the **public participation process** and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation allows for local knowledge to be integrated into the BA as generated.

What does the project entail?

The project can be summarised as follows:

Project name	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Upgrade to the Eastbury Trunk Sewer			
Local authority	eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality – KwaZulu-Natal			
Landowner(s)	eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality			
Location	Located on the Remainder of Lot Douglas No. 15352 and Portion 130 of Lot Douglas No. 15352 in Phoenix. Travel along the R102 away from Umhlanga towards Phoenix. Take the Phoenix Highway off-ramp. Continue along the Phoenix Highway. Turn left onto Eastbury Drive.			
Co-ordinates	STARTING POINT			
	Latitude / Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	South	29 ⁰	42'	45.76"
	East	31 ⁰	0'	42.60"
	ENDING POINT			
	Latitude / Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29 ⁰	43'	12.52"	
East	31 ⁰	0'	22.57"	

Description of the proposed project

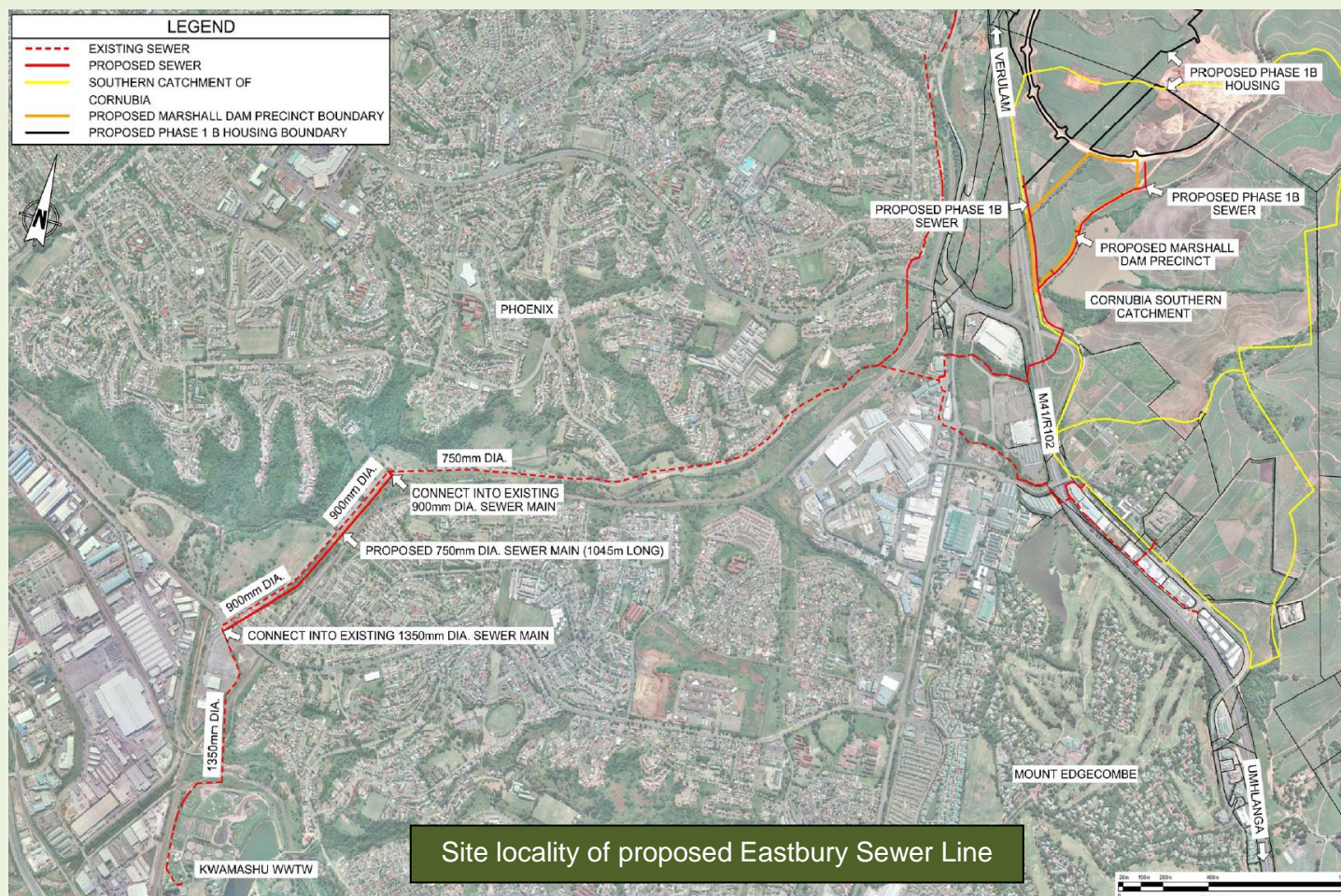
A **portion of the trunk sewer** along the alignment of Eastbury Drive in Phoenix, linking portions of Phoenix, Mt Edgecombe and Cornubia to the KwaMashu Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), has been found to be below the required capacity and thus requires an upgrade. The proposed upgrade involves the installation of approximately **1.1 km** of sewer line with a diameter of approximately **750 mm**, adjacent to the existing pipeline alongside Eastbury Drive.

Alternatives relate to the method of upgrading the existing pipeline and would include:

- ✦ replacement of the existing pipeline piping;
- ✦ installing a larger diameter pipe and attaching this to the existing pipe within the larger pipe;
- ✦ placing a new pipe on top of the existing pipe; or
- ✦ placing a new pipe alongside the existing pipe.

Site and activity alternatives are not an option as this is enhancement and upgrading of existing bulk infrastructure in a built-up area, with no land-use or servitude control changes thus required.

The upgrade and installation will occur within the existing road reserve of Eastbury Drive and thus does not trigger the regulations in this regard. However, based on aerial imagery, it appears that the proposed line may be situated within 32 m of a watercourse, which thus triggers the need for an Environmental Authorisation *via* a Basic Assessment Process.



Site locality of proposed Eastbury Sewer Line

What are the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project?

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the BA, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Wetland Assessment	Royal HaskoningDHV
Heritage Assessment	eThembeni Cultural Heritage may apply for an exemption from a Heritage Assessment as the proposed upgrade is located within an existing road reserve

Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within this BA process. The study will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, and evaluate the project alternatives.



The Basic Assessment will aim to achieve the following:

- 🌿 Provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- 🌿 Undertake a detailed assessment of the preferred route/s in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- 🌿 Identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- 🌿 Undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

Why are environmental studies needed?

In terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations** Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 544 of 2010 (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), **eThekwi Municipality** requires **environmental authorisation** from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development (KZN DAEA&RD) for undertaking the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 544 of the NEMA EIA.

The following activities of GNR 544 of June 2010 have been applied for:

-  Activity 18 – The infilling or depositing of more than 5 m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 m³ from (i) a watercourse.
-  Activity 40 – The expansion of (iv) infrastructure by more than 50 m² within a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, where such expansion will result in an increased development footprint but excluding where such expansion will occur behind the development setback line.






Activities under these listings may have an effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in Regulations 21 to 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Regulation 543), will have to be undertaken. A 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.

eThekwi Municipality has appointed **Royal HaskoningDHV** (RHDHV) as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP) to undertake the required environmental studies.

As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process.





Public Participation Process

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps during the BA Process:

-  **STEP 1:** Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper);
-  **STEP 2:** Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);
-  **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 (40-day comment period); and
-  **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 can you get involved?

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to become involved.

-  By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
-  By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Humayrah Bassa at RHDHV;
-  In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
-  By reviewing and commenting on the draft Basic Assessment Reports within the allowed 40-day review periods.


Please make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment. If you have issues and/or concerns which affect and/or interest you, please raise them. Or, if you would simply like more information, let us know.

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 and/or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Comments and queries on the project can be directed to

Ms Humayrah Bassa	PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600	
	Tel	031 719 5551
Royal HaskoningDHV	Fax	031 719 5505
	Email	humayrah.bassa@rhdhv.com



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YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before** and return to:

Ms Humayrah Bassa	PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600		<p>Royal HaskoningDHV Enhancing Society Together</p>
	Tel	031 719 5551	
Royal HaskoningDHV	Fax	031 719 5505	
	Email	humayrah.bassa@rhdhv.com	

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

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

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

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

Signature	
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IF YOU PREFER **NOT 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 (CONTACT DETAILS AS PROVIDED ABOVE).

Yes, remove my name
