

**ETHEKWINI WATER SERVICES (EWS) NORTHERN AQUEDUCT PROJECT
AMAFA HERITAGE PERMIT – MOTIVATION FOR THE PROJECT TO RECEIVE “PRIORITY”
STATUS**

1. Introduction: Environmental Assessment Process of the Western Aqueduct Project

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, a Heritage Impact Assessment of the pipeline route was compiled by eThembeni Cultural Heritage in September 2006. Further to this, as part of the EIA Study, a heritage assessment on railway structures found adjacent to the Western Aqueduct pipeline route was drafted by Elise Becker and submitted to AMAFA-AkwaZulu-Natal for comment.

The response received from AMAFA on the 09 May 2008 stated that AMAFA had no further objections provided that the development did not impact on Railway Heritage Resources and that the buffer zone with an average of 6 metres on both of sides of railway servitudes are maintained. Further conditions in AMAFA's response stipulated that Amafa be contacted in the event of the discovery of graves during earth moving activities, no structure older than sixty years be demolished, altered or destructed without a permit and no activities are allowed within 50 metres of a site containing rock art.

Further studies of the Western Aqueduct Route traversing through the Umgeni Valley, was undertaken by Ms Elise Becker in cooperation with the Natal Museum and Amafa.

The findings from the heritage specialist studies undertaken and management measures proposed, have been incorporated into a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) drafted to manage and ensure the protection of heritage resources during the construction phase of the Western Aqueduct project. The HMP addresses each heritage resource in a separate table providing mitigation and management measures for protection.

In order to pre-empt any disturbance to the heritage resources identified, Knight Piesold (Pty) Ltd, would like to apply for a permit to manage areas of heritage significance along the proposed Western Aqueduct route. The pipeline route is adjacent to most of the heritage sensitive areas identified. Management measures such as the presence of an Environmental Control Officer and a Heritage Specialist during construction near heritage sensitive areas have been incorporated into the HMP.

2. EWS implementation strategy

The Western Aqueduct project has been divided into two phases. Phase 1 extends from Camperdown to Inchanga, whilst Phase 2 constitutes the remainder of the route to Inanda and Pinetown. The construction of Phase 1 had been completed in 2010 with the commencement of Contract 1 of Phase 2 in April 2013.

In order to accelerate EThekweni Municipality's programme to supply water to the greater Durban region within the next 5 years, Contract 2 of Phase 2 has been awarded in August 2013 with Contract 3 to be awarded in November 2013.

3. Priority request

- We acknowledge that a heritage permit process has stipulated timeframes of 4-6 months to be issued, however, due to EThekweni Municipality's planned acceleration of the construction process, we thereby request that Phase 2 of the Western Aqueduct Project receive priority status in terms of receiving a heritage permit to proceed with the construction process. Alternatively, it would be appreciated if consideration could be given in issuing a temporary licence or an emergency permit to enable the construction process.

- This project forms part of a larger initiative aimed at securing a viable water supply to the greater Durban area to meet the rapid growth in development and the associated water demand in this area.

The RoD document lists the following fundamental reason in support of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development's (DAEARD) approval to proceed:

- *"Environmental management must place people and their need at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably." People have a right to water.*

We trust that the above information is sufficient motivation and would request your favourable response to our request for this strategically important project to receive priority status.