

## BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

### STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE INHLANZA RIVER CATCHMENT - BEREA & STIRLING, EAST LONDON



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

December 2021



## 1. BACKGROUND

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) have developed proposals to improve the stormwater management in the Inhlanza Catchment Area located in East London, Eastern Cape. The Inhlanza River Catchment, which falls mostly within the residential suburbs of Vincent, Berea, Stirling, Woodleigh and Nahoon. It extends from approximately Frere Road in the North West to the sea outfall near the Nahoon River Mouth in the East. The sub-catchment area between Schultz Road and Galway Road is particularly prone to flooding under current conditions.

The proposed solution to alleviate the flooding experienced between Schultz Road and Galway Road is twofold:

- i. The installation of two stormwater detention ponds in the vegetated area of the Neale Road/Chamberlain Road intersection; and
- ii. The installation of grass-lined earth berms or gabion basket walls at the section immediately upstream of Schultz Road and along the length of the section between Schultz Road and Drake Road.

The peak flow for a 1:5 year storm event can be reduced from 26.8 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 18.7 m<sup>3</sup>/s by means of the detention ponds, which is a reduction of approximately 30%. The berm/gabion basket structures will act as a barrier and prevent flood water from entering the adjacent properties, and confining the flood waters to the channel and overbank area.

Terreco Environmental cc has been appointed by the Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of the BCMM, to undertake the legally required application process for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes - see Section 3 below.

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice of the proposed activity, of the environmental impact assessment processes that will take place, and as a request for any comments regarding the proposals and EIA processes. Should you be interested in registering as a 'Registered Interested and Affected Party' and/or in submitting comments or information on the proposals, please use page 3 and 4 of this document to register your interest.

## 2. THE PROPOSALS

The following infrastructure is proposed:

- Two stormwater detention ponds (5000m<sup>3</sup> & 1800m<sup>3</sup>) upstream of Chamberlain Road (32°59'14.40"S, 27°54'34.37"E)
- Grass-lined berm/gabion basket wall (40m) upstream of Schultz Road (32°59'20.40"S, 27°55'25.92"E)
- Grass-lined berm/gabion basket wall (190m) between Schultz Road and Drake Road (32°59'19.11"S, 27°55'31.09"E)

The general locations of proposals are illustrated on Figure 1 & 2 on page 3.

### 3. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & WULA PROCESS

The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) has confirmed the proposals comprise 'listed activities' as described in Government Notice R327 (Listed Activity no. 19 & 27) and Government Notice R324 (GN R324 no. 12 & 14) and therefore there is a need for prior Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and in accordance with Government Notice R326, EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended). A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be required in support of the application for Environmental Authorisation. The application process is currently underway.

Key tasks to be undertaken during the preparation of the BAR include: submission of an application form to DEDEAT (Amathole Region); notification and call for interested and affected parties to register; conducting a site visit, data collection and specialist studies; preparation of a Draft BAR for public review; finalisation and submission of the Final BAR to DEDEAT for consideration for approval; and notification of the decision made by DEDEAT.

It is likely that a Water Use License Application will be necessary in terms of Section 21 c & i of the National Water Act (36 of 1998). An application will be lodged with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

### 4. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

An integral and mandatory component of the EIA is **Public Participation**, whereby interested and affected persons and the public at large are informed of the Project and afforded the opportunity to participate in the EIA process. The EIA Regulations describe the minimum level of public involvement, including the notification of affected and adjacent landowners, posting of newspaper advertisements and the placing of a notice board(s) on site.

**If have any concerns, comments, opinions or issues regarding the proposals or you would like to be registered as an Interested/Affected Party to be kept informed EIA process, please use pages 4 and 5 of this document to register your interest and return as per the details provided.**



**FIGURE 1: Location of the proposed stormwater detention ponds upstream of Chamberlain Road in Berea.**



**FIGURE 2: Location of the proposed grass-lined earth berms / gabion basket walls adjacent to Schultz and Drake Road in Stirling.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE INHLANZA RIVER CATCHMENT - BEREA & STIRLING, EAST LONDON**

**Comments on the Proposed EIA Process, Concerns and Issues**

Your comments on this questionnaire will contribute towards ensuring that the process which is applied to direct the Environmental Impact Assessment is sound and will permit an informed project decision to be taken. Contact details are provided below.

**Name:**

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**Community/Organisation:**

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**Phone & Email details:**

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- 1. **Do you wish to be registered as an 'Interested and Affected Party for the Environmental Impact Assessment process?**

As a 'Registered Interested and Affected Party' you will be specifically invited at key stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment process to review documents produced and/or provide any additional comment or opinion on the proposals and the results of the environmental Impact Assessment Process.

Please tick the box that applies:

YES	NO
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- 2. **Do you have any specific opinions regarding the proposals to improve the Inhlanza River Catchment stormwater management?**

Do you have any specific opinions regarding the potential impacts of the proposals on the natural environment or the local communities? Do you support or oppose the proposals? Do you believe the proposals will benefit the local communities?

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*(Please use additional pages to record your comments as necessary)*

**3. Are there any parties or individuals that you feel should be consulted in the course of the Environmental Impact Assessment process?**

If yes, please provide any contact details so that we may contact this person or organisation.

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**4. Is there any other information that you feel we could or should use for the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposals to improve the Inhlanza River Catchment stormwater management?**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

Mr Mitchell Jarrett

Terreco Environmental cc

P O Box 19829, Tecoma, EAST LONDON, 5214

Phone: (043) 721 1502 - Fax (043) 721 1535 - email: admin@terreco.co.za