



Background Information Document:

Application for Environmental Authorisation & Integrated Water Use License Application for the Proposed Ixopo Slums Clearance Housing Project, Portion 0 of Erf 174 of Stuartstown, uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed Ixopo Slums Clearance Housing Project and to introduce and explain the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process. This document also aims to explain the public participation process that is prescribed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and invites all I&AP's to comment on issues and concerns related to the project.

Project Description

Metro Projects Developments (Pty) Ltd was appointed as the Implementing Agent (IA) on behalf of the Department of Human Settlements (DoHS) for the proposed Ixopo Slums Clearance housing project in Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality is the overall developer for the project, which is being funded by the DoHS. Metro Projects appointed NWJ Environmental Consulting (NWJ) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required Water Use Licence Application (WULA) and Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the project.

The proposed site is adjacent to the CRU Housing Project (authorised in 2018) and Ithubalethu Housing Project (authorised in 2012). The site is accessed via the R56 south of Ixopo. The project involves the construction of 340 government subsidised low cost housing units, including conceptual designs for roads, water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, as required. The proposed layout has been finalised with inputs from wetland, vegetation and cultural heritage specialists. Areas that are not considered suitable for housing development, including sensitive vegetation, wetlands and associated buffer zones and gravesites, have been excluded from the proposed development footprint, which is approx. 15 hectares. See Locality Map attached.

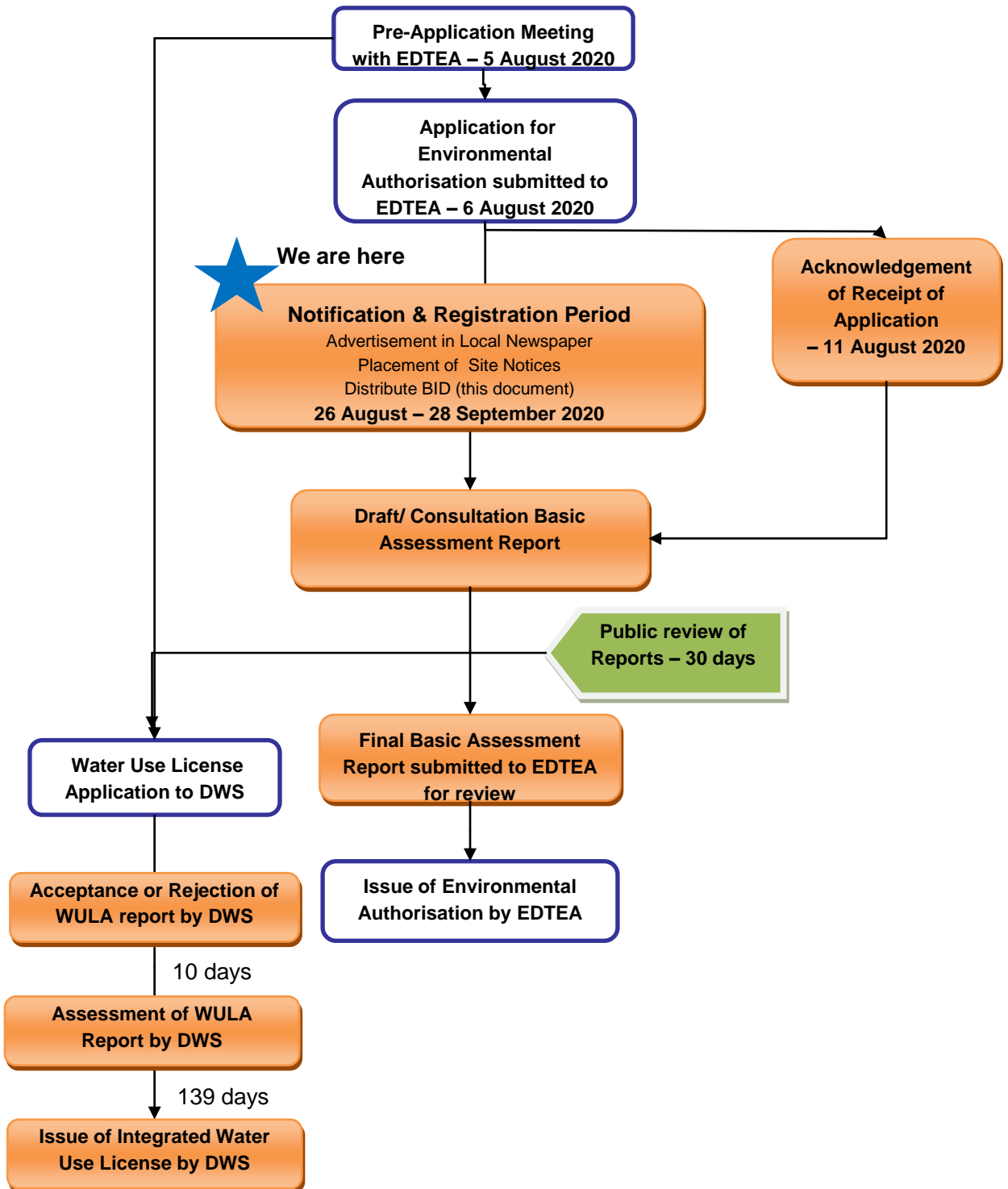
Application for Environmental Authorisation

An Application for EA has been submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) (**EDTEA Reference DC43/0006/2020 and KZN EIA/0001375/2020**). The potential listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations are:

- Listing Notice 1, Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation;
- Listing Notice 1, Activity 28: Residential developments where such land was used for afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares;
- Listing Notice 1, Activity 30: Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004);
- Listing Notice 3, Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with reserve less than 13,5 metres;
- Listing Notice 3, Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation; and
- Listing Notice 3, Activity 18: The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.



Process Flow Diagram and Timeframes





Water Use Licence Application Process

The proposed activity is also located within 500m of wetlands and may impact on watercourses/ wetlands and as such an application in terms of Section 21 (c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) is required. The WULA will be submitted to the regional Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for authorisation.

Public Participation Process (PPP)

The PPP is an integral part of the process, and continues throughout the life of the project. The key objective of public participation is to identify issues of concern to the community and proposed suggestions for enhanced benefits. Steps are as follows:

STEP 1: Notify I&APs and Identify Issues

- Notification of I&APs and open register of I&APs over period of 30 days.
- Record any issues / concerns raised.
- Provide I&APs with Background Information Documents (BID) for the Project, including a locality map.
- Coordinate an open day/ public meeting (as required) to allow I&APs to obtain additional information and discuss their issues with the project team.
- All comments received will be included and addressed in a Comments and Responses Report.

STEP 2: I&AP Review of Draft Amended Reports

Based on the results of the Public Participation processes, reports (as required by EDTEA) will be compiled.

- These reports will outline a description of the receiving environment, and an assessment of the significance of the impacts of the activities, and propose mitigation measures to address these impacts.
- All registered I&APs will be notified of the availability of the reports for review over a 30-day period.
- Copies of the reports will be made available at the local public libraries in the area (to be confirmed) and on the NWJ website (www.nwjenviroconsulting.co.za).

STEP 3: Final Reports and Notification of Decision

- The reports will be finalised based on the results of the public review and submitted to the EDTEA and DWS for review.
- All registered I&APs will be notified of the decision.

How You Can Participate

You may forward your written comments by **28 September 2020** along with your name, organization, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest you may have in the application by email to:

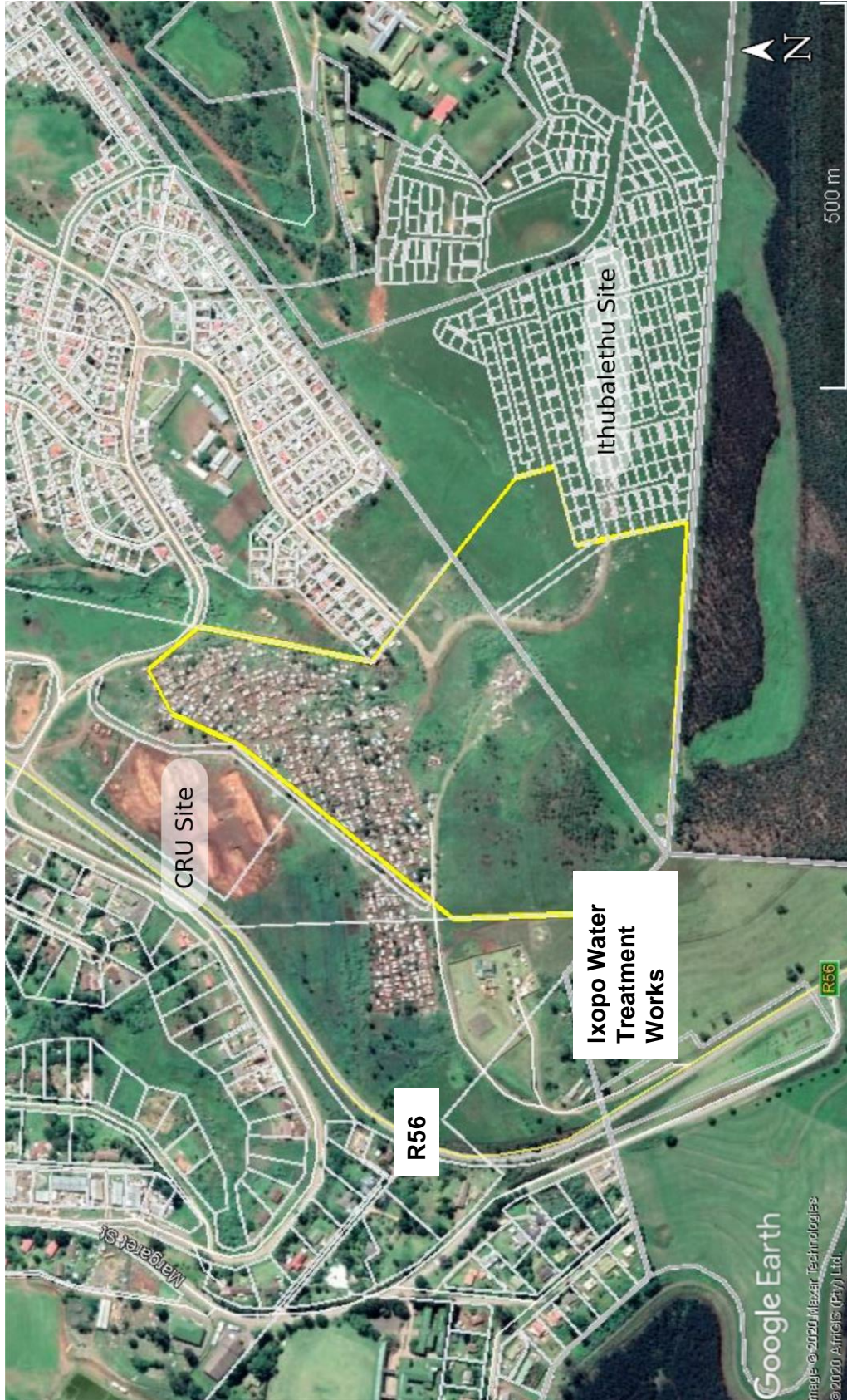
NWJ Environmental Consulting

TEL: +27 31 813 5526

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Ixopo Slums Clearance Housing Project Locality Map



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Stakeholder Registration/Comment Form

Date			
Full Name			
Organisation and Role			
Postal Address			
Postal Code			
Work/Day Tel		Work/Day Fax No	
Cell Phone No.		E-Mail Address	

I would like to receive further information and notifications during this process and request that you please register me on your database as an interested and affected party:

Yes
No

Please give us your comments on the Environmental Authorisation for the Ixopo Slums Clearance housing project and any issues or concerns you may have which you think should be considered during the Water Use Licensing process:

Please clearly state any interest (business, financial, personal or other) you may have in the proposed project and/or the application:

Please provide details of any other individuals or organisations that should be registered as Interested and Affected Parties: