

Prepared by: isi-Xwiba Consulting CC PO Box 2097, Komani 5322 ☎ 083 441 1189 ☎ 086 618 4327 ✉ <a href="mailto:isix@lcom.co.za">isix@lcom.co.za</a>	<b>LOWMAR (PTY) LTD</b> <b>LOWLANDS HYDROPOWER &amp; DISTRIBUTION</b> <b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)</b>
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**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND SUBMISSION OF:**

- 1. APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION; &**
- 2. WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 41(2) published in Government Notice No. R.326 under Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, of the intent to compile a Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme in support of an application for an Environmental Authorization in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998), as amended.

**Note:** Applications for authorisations (WULA) in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), as amended, will also be submitted as guided by the Department: Water and Sanitation.

**PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

Construct a new section of earth canal ±230 m in length linking into the existing Knutsford Irrigation Scheme canal at an existing maintenance sluice and return surplus water into the Great Fish River via a 1900 mm diameter pipe/hydro plant to generate ±305 kW power. Construction of the hydro-plant will include excavation of the river embankment, placement of pipe and hydro-plant, associated concrete works, back-filling of excavated material and protection of the “discharge to river” return area and the embankment. An overhead powerline ±5,5 km in length will be constructed to distribute <275 kV to 5 existing transformer points on the farm. DWS have advised that a Water Use Licence Application must be submitted in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act. 36 of 1998). Operation will require the opening of 2 existing sluice gates at the Knutsford Irrigation Scheme diversion weir (Katkop Weir) to divert existing surplus overflow (±4 Cumec) into the existing Knutsford Irrigation Scheme canal for a distance of ±1800 m, where the new section of canal will be constructed to lead water to the hydro-plant.

**LOCATION:**

The Remainder of Portion 15 (Lowlands) of the Farm Kat Kop No 16, in the Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, Division of Cradock, Province of Eastern Cape

Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality: Ward No. 6      Coordinates: 31° 54' 20.68" S & 25° 29' 50.95" E

**NEMA AUTHORITY:**

Department Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Chris Hani Region)  
 Private Box 9636, Queenstown 5320 Tel: [045] 808 4000

**Date of notification in the Midland News: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Registered I&APs are invited to attend a meeting at the Lowlands Farm office on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 commencing at 11h00**

## PURPOSE OF THIS BID

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform and provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed project. The Public Participation Process (PPP) is in accordance with NEMA Regulations.

**Please review this BID and submit your written registration and comments on the proposed project by 17h00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.** To register and comment please complete the form provided in this document (last page) and return it per fax or e-mail to Chris Bradfield whose contact details are reflected on the form. Should you not register in writing within the given period, it is assumed that you are not interested in commenting on the Basic Assessment Report or participating in the EIA process.

Registered Interested & Affected Parties and Authorities will be provided with copies of reports in electronic format via electronic file transfer mechanism (WeTransfer) for purposes of review and comment (30-day review and comment period).

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

### 1. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NEMA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GN R. 324, GN R. 325 and GN R. 327 promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, identify certain activities, which “*could have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment*”. These listed activities require environmental authorisation from the competent authority, the Department Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT), prior to commencing any development. The list of possible activities is as follows:

Number and date of the relevant notice	Listing Notice Number	Activity Number(s) In terms of the relevant notice
GN R. 327 dated 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	1	1, 11, 12, 19, 27, 30, 48, 63 & 67

Accordingly, the proposed project will require the submission of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) as outlined in GN R. 326 being the Amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

### 1.1 DESCRIPTION OF NEMA LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE TRIGGERED

GN No.	Listing Notice	Activity	Description of Activity
327	1	1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where— (i) the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts; or (ii) the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare
327	1	11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts
327	1	12	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m <sup>2</sup> or more

			where such development occurs within a watercourse or within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse
327	1	19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m <sup>3</sup> into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock of more than 10 m <sup>3</sup> from a watercourse.
327	1	27	The clearance of an area of 1 ha or more, but less than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation.
327	1	48	The expansion of— (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 m <sup>2</sup> or more; or where such expansion occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse
327	1	63	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transfer of water from and to or between any combination of the following— (i) water catchments; (ii) water treatment works; or (iii) impoundments; where the capacity will be increased by 50 000 m <sup>3</sup> or more per day
327	1	67	Phased activities for all activities- (i) listed in this Notice, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Notice or similarly listed in any of the previous NEMA notices, which commenced on or after the effective date of such previous NEMA Notices excluding the activities 24(i) and 30 listed in this Notice

## **2. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004), AS AMENDED**

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 36 of 1998), as amended, may require that an application be submitted for an authorisation in terms of the Act. The Department Economic Development, Environment and Tourism will provide guidance in this regard.

## **3. NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), AS AMENDED**

The Department Water and Sanitation has provided guidance in this regard and advised that a Water Use Licence Application must be submitted in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (No. 36 of 1998), as amended for authorisations in terms of Section 21(a), (b), (c) and (i)

## **4. NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), AS AMENDED**

The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), as amended, may require that an application be submitted for an authorisation in terms of the Act. The Eastern Cape Heritage Resources Agency (EC PHRA) will provide guidance in this regard.

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

You have been identified as a potential Interested and / or Affected Party (I&AP) for this project, either because you represent an affected organisation or because of your proximity/location to the proposed project. Public participation is a key component of this environmental process and will take place at various stages throughout the project. This process will include the following steps:

- Advertising the project in the Midland News;
- Erecting site notice;
- Distributing notices to adjoining land owners/users;
- Distributing this BID to all identified stakeholders (Authorities);
- Informing registered I&APs regarding the availability of Draft and Final Reports for a 30 day comment period during which registered I&APs have the opportunity to review the Reports and raise any issues or concerns - Registered Interested & Affected Parties and Authorities will be provided with copies of reports in electronic format via electronic file transfer mechanism (WeTransfer) for purposes of review and comment (30-day review and comment period).
- Submitting the Final Reports to Department Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT); and
- Inform registered I&APs in respect of the granting or rejection of the Environmental Authorisation and the appeal procedure.

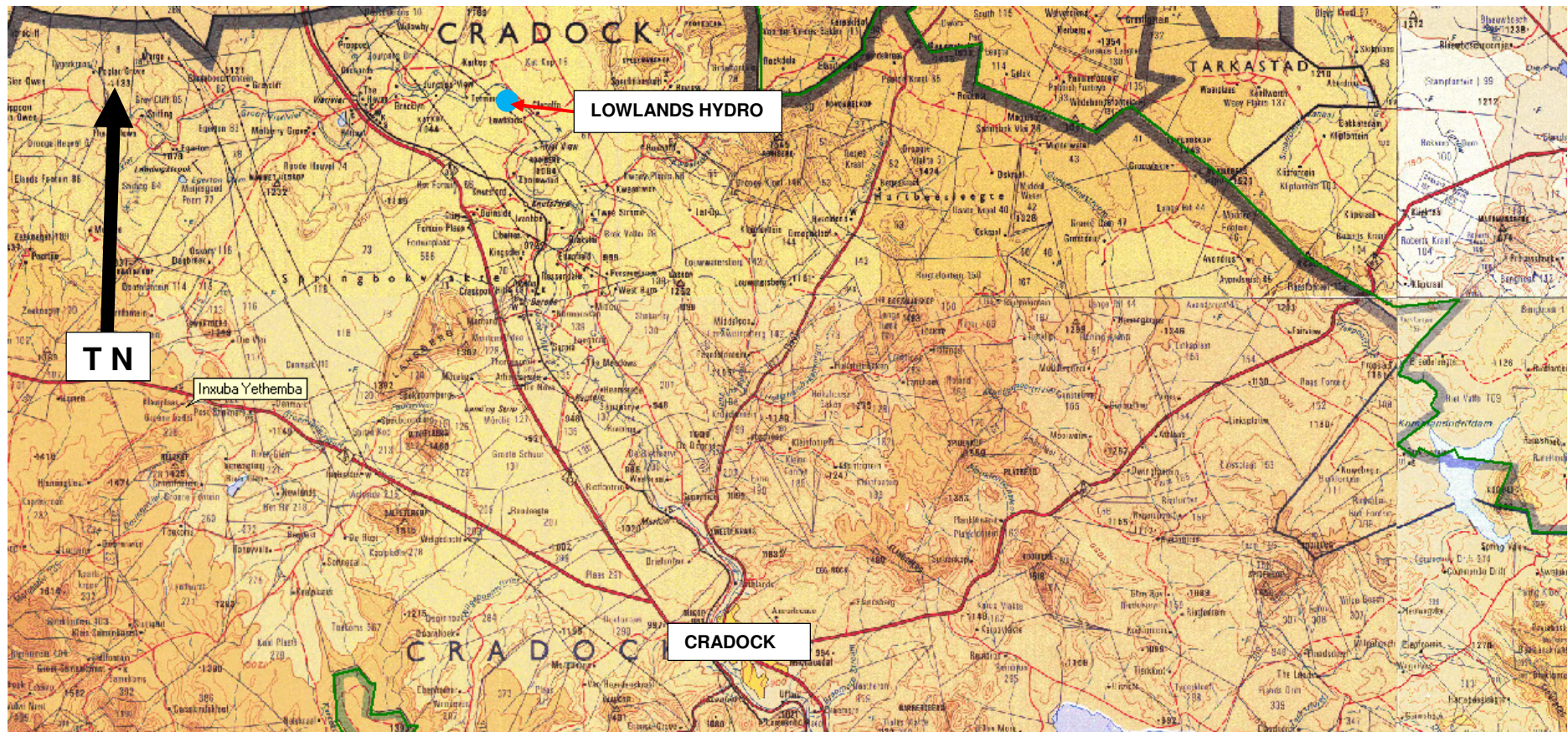
## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

- a) I&APs must register as such in writing, with the Environmental Assessment practitioner (EAP), being Mr C J Bradfield representing isi-Xwiba Consulting CC. A registration form is included in this document;
- b) Registration and comments must be submitted within the timeframes as stipulated in the NEMA Regulations and in this BID; and
- c) Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application must be disclosed.

## WAY FORWARD

Should you wish to register as an I&AP and raise any initial issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, please communicate in writing (using the registration form on the last page of this BID) with the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) whose contact details are listed on the registration form. An I&AP must disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application in terms of Chapter 6 of GN R. 326.

**NOTE: Only written registration by I&APs will be accepted.**



**LOCALITY MAP**

**Scale: 1:250 000**

# INTERESTED AND / OR AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION FORM

**ONLY WRITTEN REGISTRATION RECEIVED BY**  
**17h00 ON 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2020 WILL BE RECOGNISED**

## LOWMAR (PTY) LTD – LOWLANDS HYDRO

NAME		DESIGNATION	
ORGANISATION		TEL	
FAX		E-MAIL	
POSTAL ADDRESS			
INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT <sup>1</sup> <b>NB</b> An I&AP must disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application in terms of GN R543, Section 56			
COMMENTS			

Please indicate how you would prefer to be contacted:  FAX  E-MAIL

**NOTE - Registered I&APs & Authorities will be provided with draft reports in electronic format via electronic file transfer mechanism (WeTransfer), for purposes of review and comment.**

### **CONTACT DETAILS OF EAP**

isi-Xwiba Consulting CC (Attention: Chris Bradfield)

PO Box 2097, Komani 5322

Tel: 083 441 1189 Fax: 086 618 4327 Email: [isix@lcom.co.za](mailto:isix@lcom.co.za)

**NOTE – The preferred method of communication with the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is via e-mail as the postal service is not reliable and we will not be held responsible for post not received within the legislated time frames.**