

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

# NGCOBO WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WWTW) AND A SEWAGE PIPELINE

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Proposed by:



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On behalf of:

### Chris Hani District Municipality

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5320

Return address for comments:

### EOH Coastal & Environmental Services

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## AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to ensure that **people interested in or affected by the proposed project** are **provided with information about the proposal, the process being followed and provided with an opportunity to be involved** in the EIA process.

Registering as an **Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)** allows individuals or groups the opportunity to **contribute ideas, issues, and concerns regarding the project**. I&APs also have an opportunity to **review all reports and submit comments** on those reports. All comments received are included in the reports submitted to the Competent Authority.

## BACKGROUND

Chris Hani District Municipality is proposing the development of new waste water treatment works (WWTW) and a sewage pipeline in Ngcobo Eastern Cape. The existing municipal sewage works are under-capacitated to treat the increased sewage production due to the expansion of the town of Ngcobo.

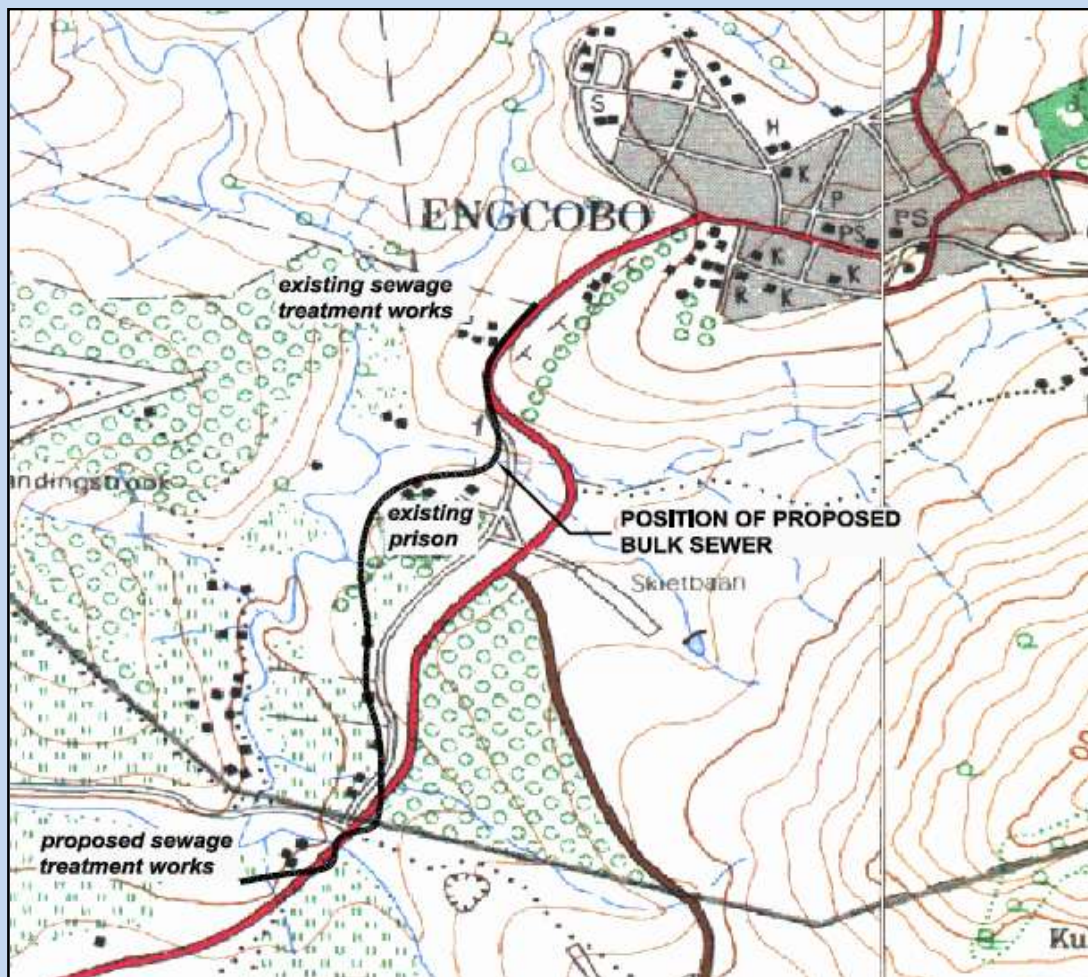


Figure 1: Locality of the existing Ngcobo sewage treatment works and proposed new works.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

**EOH COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** (EOH-CES) specialises in impact assessments and environmental management. We were established in 1990 when we were involved as lead consultants for a large mineral mining Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in South Africa, and since completing that first EIA, we have expanded our scope of work to provide a wide variety of environmental advisory services to public and private-sector clients both within South Africa and internationally.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

EOH-CES has been appointed by Goba (Pty) Ltd to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the Ngcobo sanitation project and pipeline, and to apply for approval from National Department of Environmental Affairs for the construction and operation of the WWTW, as required by South Africa's environmental legislation. Details of the relevant laws, and an overview of the environmental impact assessment process, are provided below.

### RELEVANT LEGISLATION

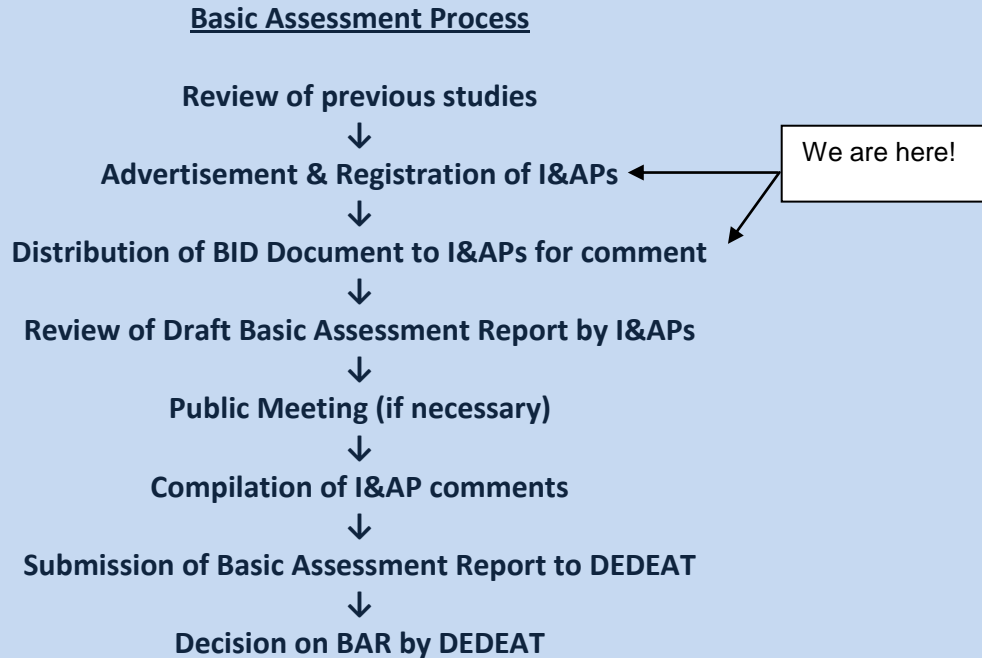
According to the EIA regulations (2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998, NEMA) the potential impacts on the environment will have to be assessed in terms of the listed activities. The development of the Ngcobo WWTW and the pipeline triggers listed activities in terms of Government Gazette R983, and as such requires the completion of a Basic Impact Assessment which will be undertaken in accordance with Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations (2014). The listed activities are provided in Table 1 below.

The proposed project is subject to a Basic Assessment in terms of the following listed activities:

Number and date of the relevant notice	Activity No(s)	Listed activity
GN No R.983	19 (i)	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from a watercourse
BASIC ASSESSMENT	25	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, waste water or sewerage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2000 cubic meters but less than 15000 cubic meters
	27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.

## APPROACH TO THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The process required for the proposed project is a Basic Environmental Assessment. This process serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed activity involves:

- the decommissioning of the existing WWTW
- the construction of a new WWTW with a capacity to treat approximately 3Mℓ of waste water per day facility south of Ngcobo (Figure 2); and
- the required 250 to 315 mm diameter pipeline (approximately 3.5 km) for the town of Ngcobo.

Engcobo Local Municipality (ELM) is currently focused on extensive developmental growth and a number of housing developments will necessitate a WWTW that has the capacity to treat the proposed and future sewage production. The existing municipal WWTW is overloaded and is not capable of treating the incoming sewage to a satisfactory standard. The current situation together with the expansion of the town itself necessitates the installation of a more efficient and reliable WWTW.

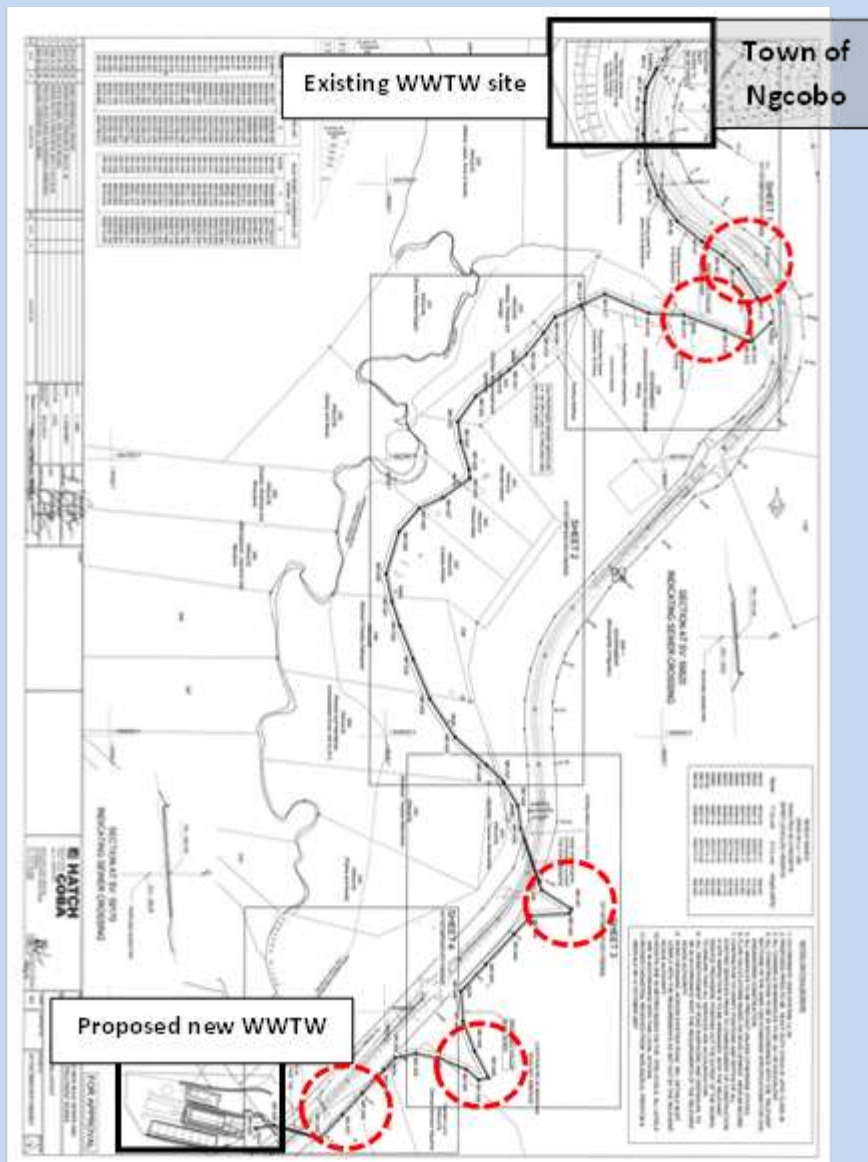


Figure 2: Map showing the existing WWTW, the pipeline route to the proposed new WWTW and the five watercourse crossings that were identified along the pipeline route.

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

Site-specific assessments will be undertaken as part of the EIA process in order to confirm the feasibility of the proposal in terms of the environment; to delineate any areas of environmental sensitivity within the study area and also examine factors that may preclude the development of a new WWTW (i.e. the “No Go” option).

### Potential Benefits of the Sanitation Facility

According to the project proponent, the motivation for the proposed project arose from the following potential benefits:

- Proper treatment of sewage produced by Engcobo Local Municipality.
- Unlocking the expansion and economic potential of the town of Ngcobo.

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the EIA. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by, the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- Advertisements in the Daily Dispatch;
- Notice Boards on site;
- Circulation of the BID (this document) to all I&APs and stakeholders
- Community and focus group meetings (as required);
- Review of all reports by registered I&APs and stakeholders.

If you consider yourself an interested and/or affected person/party, it is important that you become and remain involved in the PPP. In order to do so please follow the steps below in order to ensure that you are continually informed of the project developments and will ensure your opportunity to raise issues and concerns pertaining to the project.

**STEP 1:** Please **register** by responding to our notification and invitation, with your name and contact details (details provided on cover page and below). As a registered I&AP you will be informed of all meetings, report reviews and project developments throughout the EIA process.

**STEP 2:** Register by returning the slip at the back of this document to CES.

**STEP 3:** Attend meetings that will be held throughout the EIA process. As a registered I&AP, you will be invited to these meetings.

EOH-CES is required to engage with all private and public parties that may be interested and/or affected by the proposed Ngcobo WWTW and sewage pipeline project, in order to distribute information for review and comment in a transparent manner.

In the same light, it is important for I&APs to note the following:

1. In order for EOH-CES to continue engaging with you, please **ENSURE** that you register on our database by contacting the person below.
2. As the EIA process is regulated by specific review and comment timeframes, it is your responsibility to submit your comments within these timeframes.

Who to contact for enquiries and/comments:

**Ms Amy Hunter**  
**16 Tyrell Road**  
**Berea**  
**East London 5241**  
**P.O Box 8145**  
**Nahoon, 5210**  
**Tel: (043) 726 7809/8313**  
**Fax: (043) 726 8352**  
**Email: amy.hunter@eoh.co.za**

**I hereby wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the  
Ngcobo WWTW and sewage pipeline project EIA process**

Name:

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Organization:

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Postal address:

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Email:

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Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

My initial comments, issues or concerns are:

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Other individuals, stakeholders, organisations or entities that should be registered are:

Name:

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Organization:

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Postal address:

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Email:

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Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return details to: Ms Amy Hunter: P.O. Box 8145, Nahoon, 5210

Telephone: (043) 726 7809/8313 Fax: (043) 726 8352 Email: [amy.hunter@eoh.co.za](mailto:amy.hunter@eoh.co.za)