

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT:

## St Patrick's Hospital Sanitation Project, Bizana

### AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this Background Information Document is to provide people affected by and interested in the proposed project with information about this project, the process being followed and to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the EIA process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may raise issues of concern. These will be examined and included in the Reports.

The findings of the EIA will be provided to the DEA (National, Pretoria) for final decision making, as to whether or not the project should go ahead and if so under what conditions.

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Submit comments by:  
30 August 2012

Your involvement in this process is critical, and will help ensure that all relevant issues are raised and assessed in the EIA process



### BACKGROUND

Department of Public Works proposes the construction of a new oxidation pond (0.1 Mℓ/day) and to decommission existing ponds for St Patrick's Hospital in the Bizana area, in the Eastern Cape. The proposed site is located in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

Coastal and Environmental Services (CES) has been appointed by HSC Consulting to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the St Patrick's Hospital Sanitation Project, 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 on the next page.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Currently St Patrick's hospital has 5 sewer oxidation ponds (Figure 1). The proposed project entails the construction of new ponds and the decommissioning of the existing ponds. The proposed new oxidation ponds will consist of earth ponds lined with a polymer lining. The new proposed system will be immediately adjacent to the existing ponds in the south-west corner of the property (Figure 2).

A facultative pond will bio-transform the soluble and nitrogenous compounds in the influent effluent stream into carbon dioxide and biomass. A dedicated bio-filter (side stream process) will provide a facility to oxidise residual organics and nitrify ammonia.



Figure 1: Locality of the existing oxidation ponds in relation to Bizana, Eastern Cape.

### RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)(Act No 107 of 1998) identifies activities in terms of section 24(2)(a) and (d) which may not commence without an authorisation from the competent authority, who in this case is Department of Environmental Affairs, (DEA- National). In addition GN 718 (B) (7) in terms of National Environmental Management Waste Act (59 of 2008) requires that a Full Scoping and EIA are carried out for authorisation and waste licence from the competent authority (Department of Environmental Affairs). In order to apply for authorisation for the development, assessment and communication of potential impacts of the activities must follow the procedure as described in regulations 26 to 35 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, (2010).

The proposed project is subject to a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of the following listed activities:

Activity No (s)	Listed activity
GN. 718 A (19)	The expansion of facilities of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity, which requires an amendment of an existing permit or license or a new permit or license in terms of legislation governing the release of pollution, effluent or waste.
GN718 A (20)	The decommissioning of activities in Category A.
GN. 718 B (7)	The treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of 15 000 cubic metres or more.
GN. 718 B (11)	The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category B.

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS

CES will investigate the receiving environment in order to assess the nature of potential impacts. Impacts to be considered include environmental failure and risks of the “no-go” alternative. In addition, impacts relating to the hydrology and erosion will be assessed.

The following specialist studies will be conducted as part of the EIA:

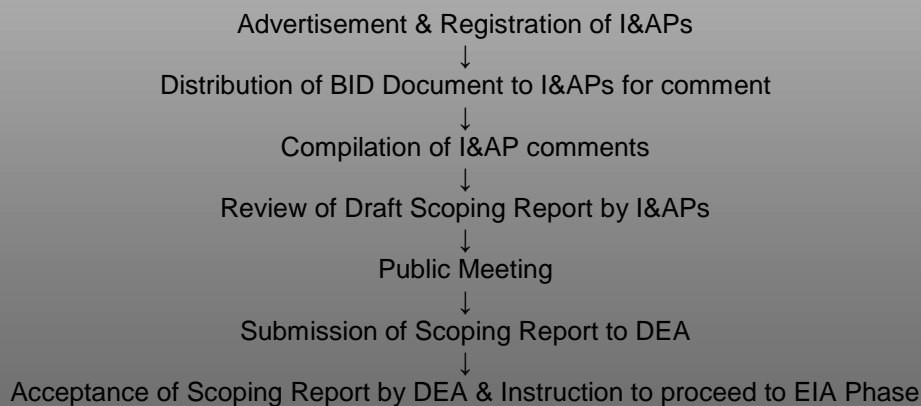
- Waste Water Impact Assessment
  - This study will assess the various feasible alternative technologies for waste treatment and determine the impact of the receiving aquatic environment.

### APPROACH TO THIS SCOPING AND EIA REPORT

The EIA for the proposed project is presently in the SCOPING phase. This phase serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts. These impacts will then be extensively addressed by specialists in the field during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) phase.

Only after the full EIA report has been submitted will a decision be made by relevant authorities.

#### Scoping Process



## Potential Benefits of the Sanitation Facility

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

- Relatively simple wastewater treatment technologies can be designed to provide low cost sanitation and environmental protection
- Social welfare in this area will be improved by the increase of sanitation facility.

## 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:

- Advertisement in the Daily Dispatch;
- Notice Boards on site
- Circulation of the BID (this document) to all I&APs identified ;
- Comments period;
- Review of the report by all registered I&APs and DEA (National) ;
- A public meeting (if required).

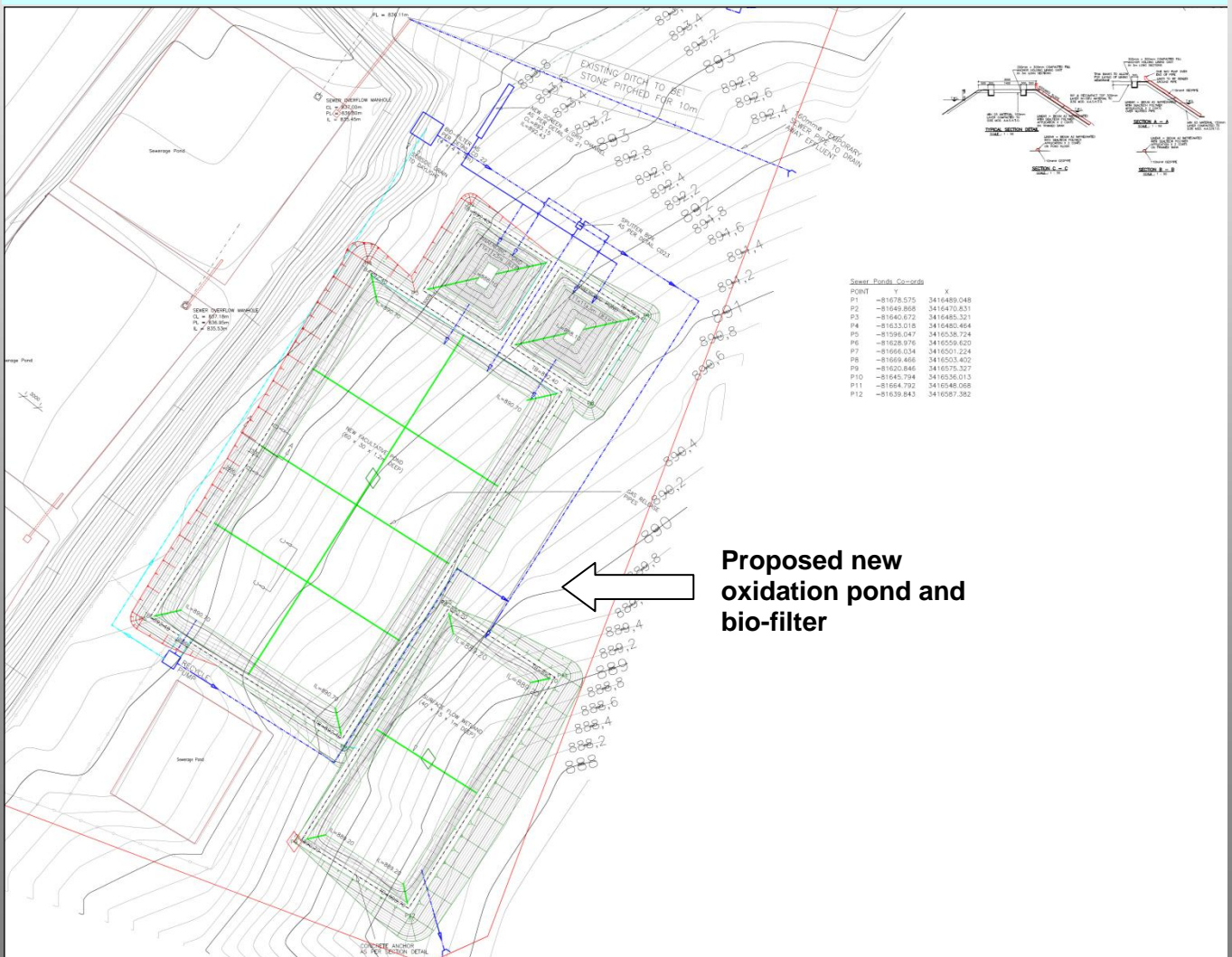


Figure 2: Proposed St Patrick's Hospital WWTW.