

29 September 2023

DEDEAT Ref No: Pending

Dear Interested and Affected Party

**NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADE OF UGIE SANITATION UPGRADE PROJECT, UGIE,
ELUNDINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

PROJECT DETAILS:

Moira Cloete Environmental Consulting has been appointed by Kantey and Templer Engineering Consultants on behalf of the applicant, Joe Gqabi District Municipality to conduct the Environmental Authorisation process for Phase 1 of the proposed construction and upgrade of the Ugie Wastewater Treatment Works in Ugie, Elundini Local Municipality, Joe Gqabi District Municipality region. Phase 1 work will occur on the following erf's: 5439, 2884, 3393, 2896, 2577, 2895.

The need to upgrade the sanitation infrastructure of Ugie was identified as early as 2001. Ugie's formal municipal sanitation system is generally poorly developed. The residential areas have conservancy tanks which are not currently being maintained and are overflowing. The poor sanitation infrastructure imposes a health risk to the residents of Ugie and is also not environmentally friendly. The single existing wastewater treatment facility has a capacity of 0.6ML/day and only serves the Prentjiesberg suburb, which has an estimated sewage flow of 0.24ML/day. A waterborne sanitation system is provided in the north east corner of the Prentjiesberg suburb. The capacity of the facility is 0.6ML/day. Ugie park extension and Ugie Park is served by a conservancy tank system, the sewage is extracted from the community conservancy tanks by honey sucker tankers and discharged in the Ugie oxidation pond system situated to the north west of the town. However, the conservancy tanks are old, broken, inaccessible and leaching into the environment and ground water table – endangering the health of the residents.

The Prentjiesberg wastewater treatment plant was designed as an extended aeration activated sludge process to serve the PG Bison housing units. Due to vandalism of the Prentjiesberg pump station, raw sewage is being discharged directly into the holding dam adjacent to the Prentjiesberg suburb. Any sewage that manages to flow into the Ugie WWTW, eventually also flows, untreated, directly into the Wildebeest river, polluting the environment and endangering the health of Ugie residents.

The Phase 1 full scope of works for the purposes of this project entails the following activities:

- Phase 1 – WWTW – Cleaning of drying beds and desludging of clarifier (sludge to be disposed of at Oxidation pond)
- Phase 1 – Prentjiesberg PS – Desludging of pump station (sludge to be disposed of at Oxidation pond)
- Phase 1 – New proposed pumpstation (PS02 on layout)
- Phase 1 – Ugie Park and Extension – gravity sewer proposed routing shown in yellow (highlighted in Red cloud)
- Phase 1 – Gravity sewer from Ugie Park to New pump station – Proposed route to be altered to go along the road reserve were possible

- Phase 1 – Rising Main from New pump station to existing WWTW – Proposed route to be altered to go along the road reserve were possible
- Phase 1 – WUL as required (the existing WWTW has a general authorisation in place)

The application for Environmental Authorisation for the construction phase will be conducted in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014) as amended, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) which came into effect on 8 December 2014. The Application will be submitted to the DEDEAT JGDM Region (Aliwal North Office) as the Competent Authority.

A separate Application for the operational phase of the project will be submitted to the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) as per the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (59 of 2008).

A DWS Water Use License Authorisation in terms of Section 21 (c), (i) & (f) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) will be required for the installation of the new pipelines which cross wetland areas and well as for the discharge of the treated waste into the into the Wildebeest River.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Phase 1 work reticulation lines are highlighted in yellow (Ugie Park and Ugie Park Extension) and blue lines (Prentjiesberg).

Figure 1: General locality plan showing the proposed wastewater treatment works and pipelines.



EIA REQUIREMENTS

The Application will require Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism's (DEDEAT) Jope Gqabi Regional Office subject to

one Basic Assessment Process for the proposed project area. A separate Application will be made to the DFFE for the operational phase of the project.

In terms of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), certain Listed Activities are specified for which either a Basic Assessment Process (GNR 327 and GNR 324) or a full Scoping and EIA Process (GNR 325) is required.

The following Listed Activities are applicable to the construction of the proposed project:

GNR 327 Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended:	
GNR 327 no. 19:	<p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from [—(i)] a watercourse;"</i></p> <p>Parts of the pipelines and pumphouses is situated within 32m of a watercourse, requiring excavation and infilling during the construction period.</p>
GNR 327 Item no 10:	<p><i>"The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge, or slimes –</i></p> <p><i>(i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;</i></p> <p><i>excluding where—</i></p> <p><i>(a) such infrastructure is for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge, or slimes inside a road reserve or railway line reserve; or</i></p> <p><i>(b) where such development will occur within an urban area"</i></p> <p>Most of the planned pipelines will be placed within the road reserves; however, some will cross natural areas.</p>
GNR 327 Item no 12:	<p><i>"The development of—</i></p> <p><i>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(b) in front of a development setback; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —</i></p> <p><i>excluding—</i></p> <p><i>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area; [or]</i></p> <p><i>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads,"</i></p> <p>Applicable to the planned pump stations and new WWTW infrastructure which may exceed 100m².</p>

<p>GNR 327 Item no 25:</p>	<p>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres."</p> <p>The pipeline(s) will carry at most 2600m² of effluent to the new WWTW</p>
<p>GNR 324 Listing Notice 3 of 2014 as amended.</p>	
<p>GNR 324 no 14: "The development of—(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32m of a watercourse.</p>	<p>a. Eastern Cape i. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (cc) World Heritage Sites; (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; (ff) <u>Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</u></p> <p>The pipeline and infrastructure required as part of the upgrade works will exceed 10m² within critical biodiversity areas.</p>

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY APPROVALS

- Approval in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.
- Water Use License Application in terms of Sections 21 and 27 of the National Water Act of 1998.
- Waste Licence Application in terms of Category A of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (59 of 2008).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT EIA PROCESS

The EIA process will involve the following project phases:

1. **Application:** An application form for authorisation will be submitted to the (DEDEAT), Aliwal North Region.
2. **Draft Basic Assessment Phase:** The Basic Assessment process is followed which includes the compilations of undertaking a public participation process including consultation with key stakeholders, detailed site investigations, planning and reporting.
3. **Specialist studies** will be undertaken. This phase will culminate in the production of a Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will be submitted to DEDEAT and circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders for a 30-day comment period.
4. **Final Environmental Impact Assessment Phase:** Following the receipt of comments, the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be finalised and submitted to DEDEAT for their assessment and issuing of an authorisation.
5. **Appeal Period:** After receipt of the Environmental Authorisation all registered I&APs and key stakeholders will be notified of its availability and provided with the opportunity and details for submitting an appeal to the decision if required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/ISSUES IDENTIFIED TO DATE

- Soil disturbance and compaction impacts due to the proposed construction activities.
- Possible downstream impacts on wetland areas which will be affected by the construction activities.
- Limited air quality impacts created by dust and vehicle emissions during the construction and operational phases.
- Limited ambient noise impacts created by construction activities.
- Potential employment opportunities during the construction and operational phase.
- No further pollution of the environment as the wastewater treatment works will now be a waterborne reticulation system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is defined under Regulation No 41 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended. This includes:

- Advertising in at least one local newspaper (Barkly Reporter).
- Fixing a notice board at the entrance to the site in multiple local languages (isiXhosa and English)
- Providing written notice to:
 1. The occupiers of the site,
 2. The owner/person in control of the site,
 3. The municipal ward councillor and rate payers/civic organisation,
 4. The relevant Local Municipality and,
- Any organ of State that has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the .
- Maintaining an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) Register.
- Hosting a public meeting in at least one community hall (viz. Ntokozweni Community Hall)
- Recording any comments relating to the project within the statutory time frame allowed for commenting purposes (30 days from the date of advertisement).

Stakeholders are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and to participate by identifying issues of concern and making suggestions for consideration regarding the office development within a timeframe of 30 days from the date of the advertisement appearing in the local newspaper.

All comments/concerns will be responded to and included in the final I&AP Register which will be submitted to DEDEAT to enable them to make an informed decision with regards to the development proposal.

Once an Environmental Authorisation is received, it will be distributed to the registered I&AP's who may appeal to the Minister or MEC of Environmental Affairs who oppose the DEDEAT decision.

PROJECT TEAM

Moira Cloete is a self-employed Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) based in Elliot in the Eastern Cape. Ms Cloete holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Management, has extensive experience in all spheres of Environmental Management, and has worked on a number of projects ranging from EIA's for landfill sites through to onsite monitoring for road, forestry and dam projects. Ms. Cloete has gained substantial experience in conducting and completing on site environmental assessments, environmental audits, environmental management programmes and waste management projects.

Nicole Malan is a sub-consultant for Moira Cloete Environmental Consulting, based in Ugie in the Eastern Cape. Ms Malan holds an MSc in Nature Conservation and is mentored in environmental management under Ms Moira Cloete.

I&AP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice of the proposed office development taking place and serves as a request for any comments regarding the proposal.

Should you be interested in registering as an 'Interested and Affected Party' and/or in submitting comments or information on the proposals, please respond below to register your interest.

Comments and/or Concerns:

Name:	
Organisation:	
Telephone/Cell number:	
Email address:	
Address:	

- Do you wish to be registered as an 'Interested and Affected Party for the EIA process?

Yes

No

- Do you have any concerns which you believe should be addressed in the EIA and which you would like to bring to the attention of the EIA team? *[Additional space for comment is provided overleaf.]*

- Are there any additional interested and affected parties (I&APs) that you feel should be consulted in the course of the EIA? If yes, please indicate contact name, email address and/or telephone number so we may contact this person or organisation:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Please submit comments using the following details:

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**Due date for I&AP registration and Comment
30 October 2023**

Disclaimer: By partaking in this project, I agree that my personal information may be gathered, used, and stored in a safe and secure manner for the purpose of this project including the Appeal process. This information will not be used to identify me. I agree to be contacted periodically to update my personal information.