



## ETHEMBENI CULTURAL HERITAGE

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**Attention Sello Mokhanya**

Dear Mr Mokhanya

**Application for Exemption for a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Mhlanga Water Reticulation Project, Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa**

***Project Description***

GIBB (Pty) Ltd (GIBB) has been requested by Chris Hani Municipality (CHM) to undertake the required Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Licence Application (WULA) for the proposed project to provide water services infrastructure for the Cluster 1 communities which fall under two local municipalities, **Lukhanji Local Municipality** (EC134) and **Emalahleni Local Municipality** (EC136) of the Chris Hani District Municipality.

**Phase 1 (reticulation):** Phase one will consist of providing the water reticulation and supply reservoirs for the villages in the Mhlanga-Mgwalana area, located between the towns of Dordrecht and Indwe in the Eastern Cape.

The proposed water infrastructure includes the following:

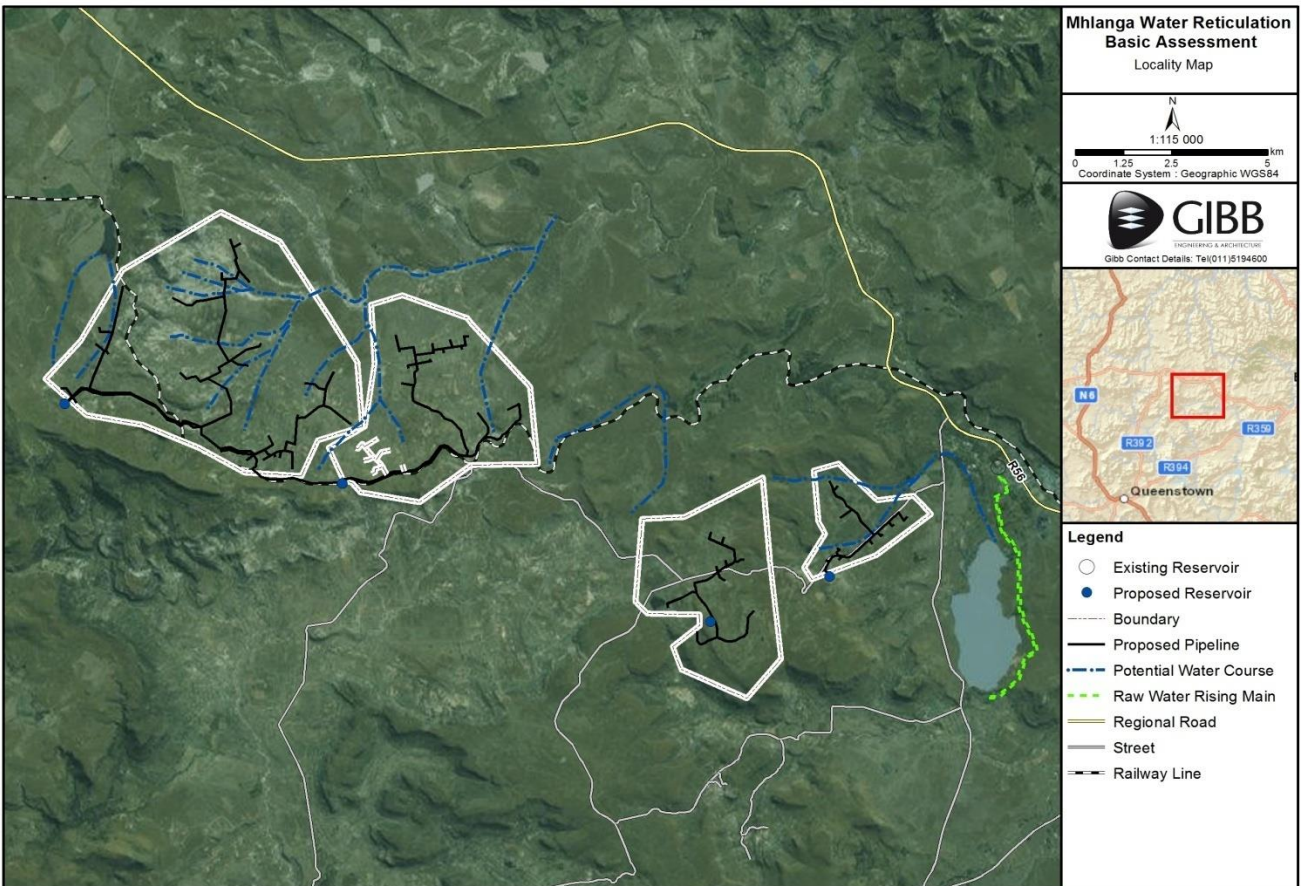
- **Construction of two 250 kR, and two 500 kR reinforced Concrete Reservoirs**
- **Village reticulation pipework of approximate total length of 55.5 km with varying diameters of 160 mm to 50 mm**
- **Approximately 100 standpipes.**

The 250 kR Reservoirs will be situated at Bongweni village at a height of 1390 m above MSL and at Nyoka village at a height of 1551 m above MSL. The 500 kR Reservoirs will be situated at Zwelitsha village at a height of 1569 m above MSL and at Nxomfu village

at a height of 1763 m above MSL. A network of pipes of 50 mm and 63mm diameter HDPE, 75mm, 110 mm and 160 mm diameter mPVC pipes will provide the required internal reticulation for the twelve villages and will be fed from the four reservoirs. The total length of pipeline required for the network is approximately 55 km. The reticulation pipelines will all be gravity supply with break pressure tanks located accordingly so that pressures will be limited.

Approximately 100 standpipes have been provided for the Mhlanga-Mgwalana areas. Standpipes are based on the layout and population of the respective villages and providing a standpipe such that the residents would not have to travel more than 200 meters from their homes.

**Image 1: Mhlanga Water Reticulation Locality Map**



### ***Site Assessment and Recommendations***

eThembeni staff inspected the proposed pipeline alignment and reservoir localities on July 15th and 16th 2015.

### ***Recommendations With Regard to the Possibility of Graves being Discovered in the Course of Development Activities***

It is recommended that the following protocol be made binding in the Record of Decision (R.o.D.): "During the Public Participation Processes, the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) shall engage with stakeholders to ascertain the presence of unmarked or invisible grave sites.

Any identified grave sites should ideally be left with a twenty metre (20m) buffer from construction activities and be fenced pending engagement with the relevant Authorities and any identified family members having an association or interest in the grave. In the event of unintentional exposure of a grave or a request from a family for exhumation and re-interment the CLO/ECO shall immediately contact the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency to obtain the necessary protocols and procedures for the management of such human remains".

It is our considered opinion that the potential impact to heritage resources through implementation of the proposed Mlanga Water Reticulation Project is very low. No heritage resources were identified within the proposed spheres of activity. No heritage resources were identified within the proposed spheres of activity. The study area falls within blue and grey sensitivity modelling on the Palaeo-sensitivity map and thus no PIA is justified.

It is highly unlikely that any in situ heritage resources, except nearby grave sites, are present in this densely settled landscape, of which sections have been severely disturbed by recent agricultural use.

Accordingly, and given the nature of the project as an upgrade within existing servitudes and water supply infrastructure, it is requested that the proposed project area be exempt from the requirements of a full Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment. On behalf of the client, GIBB (Engineering and Architecture), we are applying for exemption from an HIA for the project.

Please could you convey the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource's Agency decision on this matter to the appointed Environmental Practitioner, Katherine Wiles, of **GIBB**.

[kdejong@gibb.co.za](mailto:kdejong@gibb.co.za)

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk.



***Images of Study Area:***



**The Doornrivier Dam, built in 1970.**



**Location of Pump Station (Upgrade)**





**Location of Zone Two (Structures Required)**



**Location of 250kl Reservoir 1**





**View Upslope to Break Pressure Tank 1**



**Location of 250kl Reservoir 2**





**Location of Break Pressure Tank 2**



**Location of Break Pressure Tank 3**





**Location of Break Pressure Tank 4**



**Location of Break Pressure Tank 5**





**Location of Break Pressure Tank 6**



**Location of 500kl Reservoir 2**