

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

GREYTOWN BULK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME - PHASE 2, KWAZULU-NATAL

KZN DAEA REF NO: DC24/0027/2013
NEAS REF: KZN/EIA/0001343/2013



JANUARY 2014

Prepared by:

triplo4
sustainable solutions

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) regarding the proposed Greytown Bulk Water Supply Scheme - Phase 2, KwaZulu-Natal. Based on guidance from the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA), a Basic Assessment for environmental authorisation must be completed. The listed activities in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) are being applied for as per the project description.

The application was made by Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions, as an independent environmental assessment practitioner, on behalf of Umzinyathi District Municipality. Tripo4 Sustainable Solutions will also undertake the Basic Assessment Process.

This document describes the proposed Greytown Bulk Water Supply Scheme and provides an overview of the environmental authorisation processes. It also provides I&AP's with an initial opportunity to comment on the proposed project and to register as a stakeholder.

The Basic Assessment Report with relevant attachments will be available for public review for a period of 40 days as part of the environmental authorisation processes, to provide stakeholders with additional information and further opportunities to raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits. Thereafter, the final Basic Assessment Report will be submitted to the KZN DAEA for consideration.

Your comments, issues, concerns and suggestions on any aspect of the proposed project, including the technical and public participation processes, will help to focus the application, and will ultimately assist the authorities to make a decision.

Please complete the enclosed comment and registration sheet or contact Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions by mailing or faxing a letter, or by telephone or e-mail, should you wish to receive further information about the proposed project and the BA.

Return address for comments and to register as an Interested and Affected Party:

Attention: Kushela Naidoo

Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions

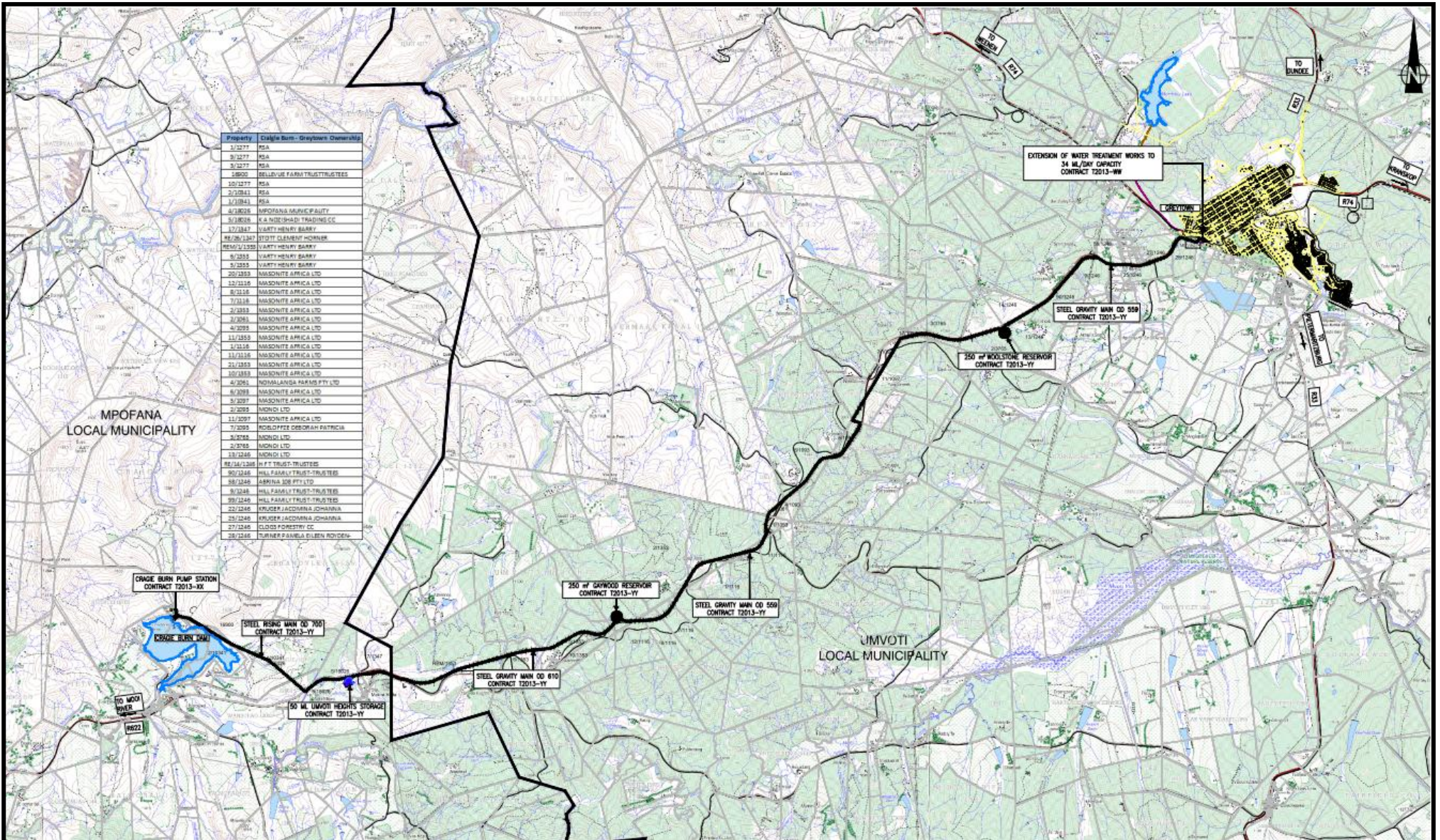
P.O. Box 6595, Zimbali, 4418

Office: 031 563 4422 Cell: 082 355 4526 Fax: 032 946 0826

E-Mail: kushela@triplo4.com

LOCATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is located within the uMzinyathi and uMgungundlovu District Municipalities and the Umvoti Local Municipality and Mpfana Local Municipality. The bulk pipeline will run from the Greytown Water Treatment Works more or less alongside the R622 to the Craigie Burn Dam.



PROJECT DETAIL

UMzinyathi District Municipality is the Water Services Authority and Water Service Provider for the uMvoti Local Municipality. The Municipality is currently implementing the Greytown Bulk Water Scheme and has identified the Craigie Burn Dam as a new source of raw water for Greytown and its neighbouring areas. Raw water will be supplied to the Greytown Water Treatment Works after which treated water will be distributed to Greytown and to various storage supply reservoirs within the local municipality.

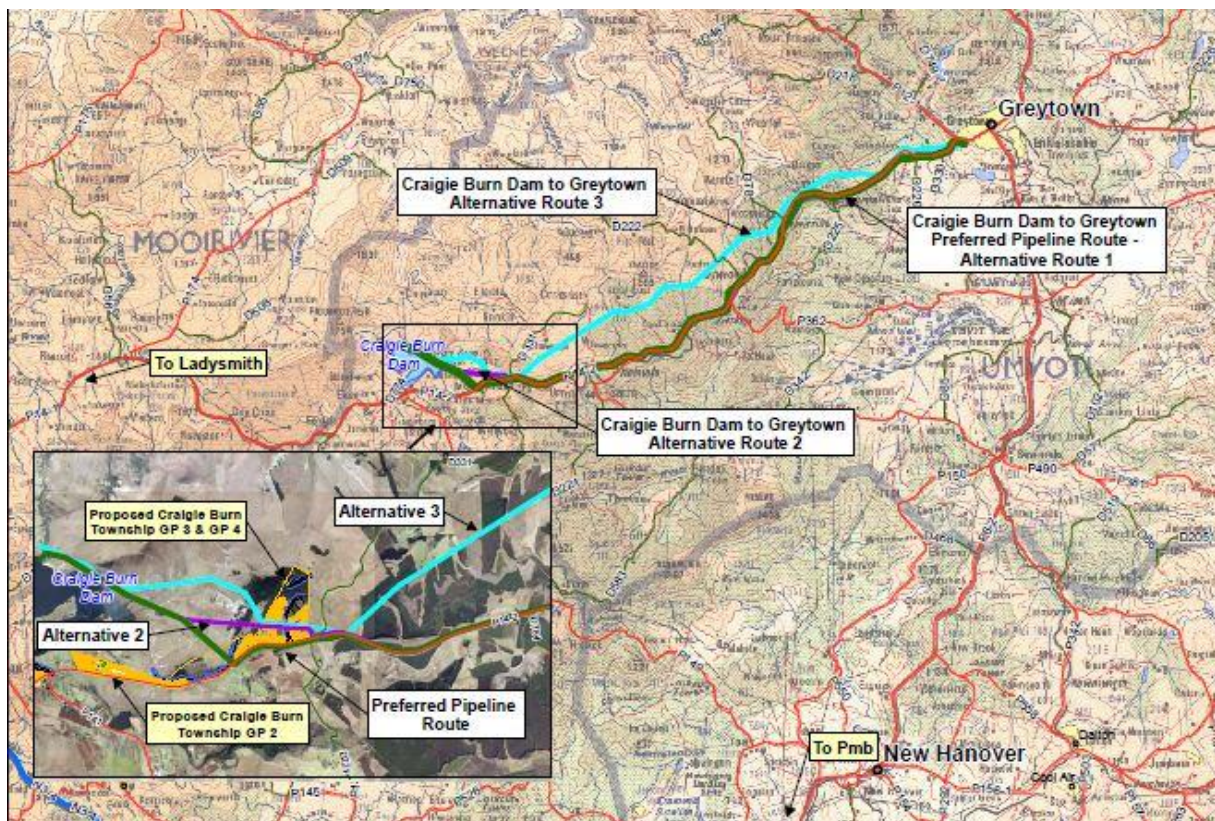
Under Phase 2 the work relevant for this application is intended to be executed under two separate Contracts as follows:

Contract T2013-XX: Construction of the Craigie Burn Pump Station; at the vicinity of the Craigie Burn Dam wall with associated mechanical and electrical equipment, including a new power supply.

Contract T2013-YY: A bulk raw water pipeline system between Craigie Burn Dam and the Greytown Water Treatment Works that includes a pump station, rising main not exceeding 500mm diameter, approximately 6.3 km long to a new storage reservoir, a gravity pipeline not exceeding 450mm diameter approximately 28.8 km long from the storage reservoir to the Greytown Water Treatment Works. The bulk pipeline includes 2N° 0.25 MI Reservoirs (Gaywood & Woolstone) on route.

ALTERNATIVES & SPECIALIST EVALUATION

The three route alternatives are depicted on the map below, green being the preferred alternative.



Specialist studies which have been identified and will be conducted include:

- Ecological & Wetland Assessment.
- Heritage Impact Assessment.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES

Relevant Environmental Legislation

The below mentioned environmental activities are potentially being triggered by the proposed development, requiring a Basic Assessment Process to be conducted and thus Environmental Authorisation from KZN DAEA:

Indicate the number and date of the relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant or notice) :	Describe each listed activity as per the project description (and not as per wording of the relevant Government Notice)!
Listing Notice 1:	Activity 9:	<p>The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water –</p> <p>(i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or</p> <p>(ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more</p> <p>The pipeline will have an internal diameter of more than 0,36m.</p>
	Activity 11:	<p>The construction of:</p> <p>xi. infrastructure or structures covering 50 square meters or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</p> <p>The pipeline and pumpstation will be infrastructure of more than 50 square meters located within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
	Activity 18:	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5 cubic metres from:</p> <p>(i) a watercourse</p> <p>The pipeline and pumpstation construction will cause the dredging of more than 5 cubic meters of soil from a watercourse.</p>
Listing Notice 3	Activity 2: The construction of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.	<p>(a) In KwaZulu-Natal:</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas, in:</p> <p>(aa) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(bb) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</p> <p>(cc) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</p> <p>Greytown is situated within the highly endangered</p>

		Midlands Mist belt Grassland vegetation unit. The status of the unit will be verified during the specialist studies.
Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.	(a) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; (b) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; (c) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas.	Greytown is situated within the highly endangered Midlands Mist belt Grassland vegetation unit. The status of the unit will be verified during the specialist studies.
Activity 13: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, except where such removal of vegetation is required for: the under the undertaking of a linear activity falling below the thresholds mentioned in Listing Notice 1	(a) Critical biodiversity areas and ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority. In, KwaZulu-Natal: iii. Outside urban areas, the following: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;	Greytown is situated within the highly endangered Midlands Mist belt Grassland vegetation unit. The status of the unit will be verified during the specialist studies for the areas relating to the proposed reservoirs and dam.

A person who wishes to commence, undertake or conduct an activity listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, or NEMA EIA Listing Notice 1 or 3 activities must conduct a basic assessment process.

Basic Assessment Process

The basic assessment process being followed comprises of the following:

- Submission of an Application for Authorization to DAEA;
- Public participation Process:
 - Submission of a Background Information Document (this document) to identified stakeholders;
 - An advertisement in the local newspaper
 - Placement of a site notification at the site notifying I&AP's of the proposed activity and inviting them to register; and;
 - Relevant I&AP's consultation to address issues and concerns raised;
- Compilation of Draft Basic Assessment Report for I&AP's review and comments, which will be available for review and comment for a period of 40 days;

- Submission of a Basic Assessment Report and details of I&AP consultation to the DAEA, for a decision;
- Communication to I&AP's regarding the Environmental Authorisation.

Public Participation Process

The public participation process and time frames are summarized as follows:

Announcing the opportunity to participate and register,

- Written notice will be made to registered I&AP's on availability of documents to review as well as associated timeframes
- Distribution of the Background Information Document to all identified stakeholders to announce the project and inviting stakeholders to register as an I&AP and participate in the public participation process;
- Posting of the site notice at the site;
- Advertisement in the local newspaper.

Obtaining initial comment,

- Providing this BID and comment sheets to stakeholders; and
- Capturing all comments in a Comment and Response Report / Issues Trial.

Draft BA Report

- Availability of the draft BA report which will contain a full project description, alternatives considered, and relevant information.

Submitting the final BA report to Authorities, providing a comment period of 40 days (excluding public holidays); and

Submitting the final BA report to DAEA for consideration and communicating the decision to I&AP's.

Your contributions are important

You can get involved in the process:

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and e-mailing, posting or faxing it to Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions;
3. In writing contacting or telephoning consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the BA Report within the allowed 40-day review period.

In terms of the NEMA Regulations (GN 543) you are invited to formally register as an I&AP.

Please note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), I&AP's need to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Please register by 31 March 2014 by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.

REGISTRATION FORM: **Greytown Bulk Water Supply Scheme – Phase 2, KwaZulu-Natal**

Attention: *Kushela Naidoo*
E-mail: *kushela@triplo4.com*

Cell: *082 355 4526*
Tel: *031 563 4422*

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

Please tick the appropriate circle and confirm your contact details above:

Registration

- I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the BA process for this Project
- Non stakeholder: I would like you to take me off your distribution sheet for the Proposed project.
I would not like to receive any further information regarding this process.

Other

If you know of any other individual or organisation that would be interested in registering as an Interested and Affected Party please provide their contact details:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

I have the following queries/comments:
