

PROPOSED HEWU RA60 REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME: PHASE 9 SADA WTW RAW WATER SUPPLY AUGMENTATION WITHIN CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Background Information Document

INTRODUCTION

Indwe Environmental Consulting has been appointed by Sinakho Consulting on behalf of the applicant Chris Hani District Municipality as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake a Basic Assessment Process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), for the proposed HEWU phase 9 raw water supply to Sada's water treatment works within the Eastern Cape.

The activities undertaken included:

- G.N. R. 327 Activity 9 – The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 meters in length for the bulk transportation of water or stormwater i) with an internal diameter of 0.36 meters or more, or ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more.
- G.N. R. 327 Activity 19 – 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 a watercourse

This document is intended to provide background information to stakeholders, authorities and other interested and affected parties and forms a key component of the public participation process being undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment process.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located within the Hewu Administrative Area within the Enoch Mgijima Municipal Area. The Hewu Administrative Area falls and covers a total of eight wards and 62 villages and includes Sada, Whittlesea and the RA60 Administrative Area. The project has been approved by the CHDM for the provision of water to a total of 62 rural villages as well as the Sada Whittlesea Complex and would ensure the provision of a reliable water supply to in excess of 112 000 people. The project area is extensive, covering some 700 km². The Enoch Mgijima Wards that fall within the Hewu Administrative Area are as follows: Wards 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26.

The pipeline and new reservoir is sited south of Sada and Whittlesea and is in close proximity to the R67. The study site is located at co-ordinates 32°12'29.817"S; 26°48'39.413"E (new raw water reservoir). The new pipeline that runs parallel to an existing pipeline starts at 32°12'29.639"S; 26°48'40.138"E and ends at 32°13'40.86"S; 26°51'25.232"E. The probable servitude for the pipeline is about 3-5 meters and the reservoirs cubic meterage is about 1100 m³. The project extends over the following properties: Remainder Farm 408 Shiloh Mission Station, Portion 1 of Farm 408 Shiloh Mission Station and Farm Shiloh Commonage No. 410. **Refer to Figures 1 and 2 for the locality of the proposed pipeline and new reservoir.**

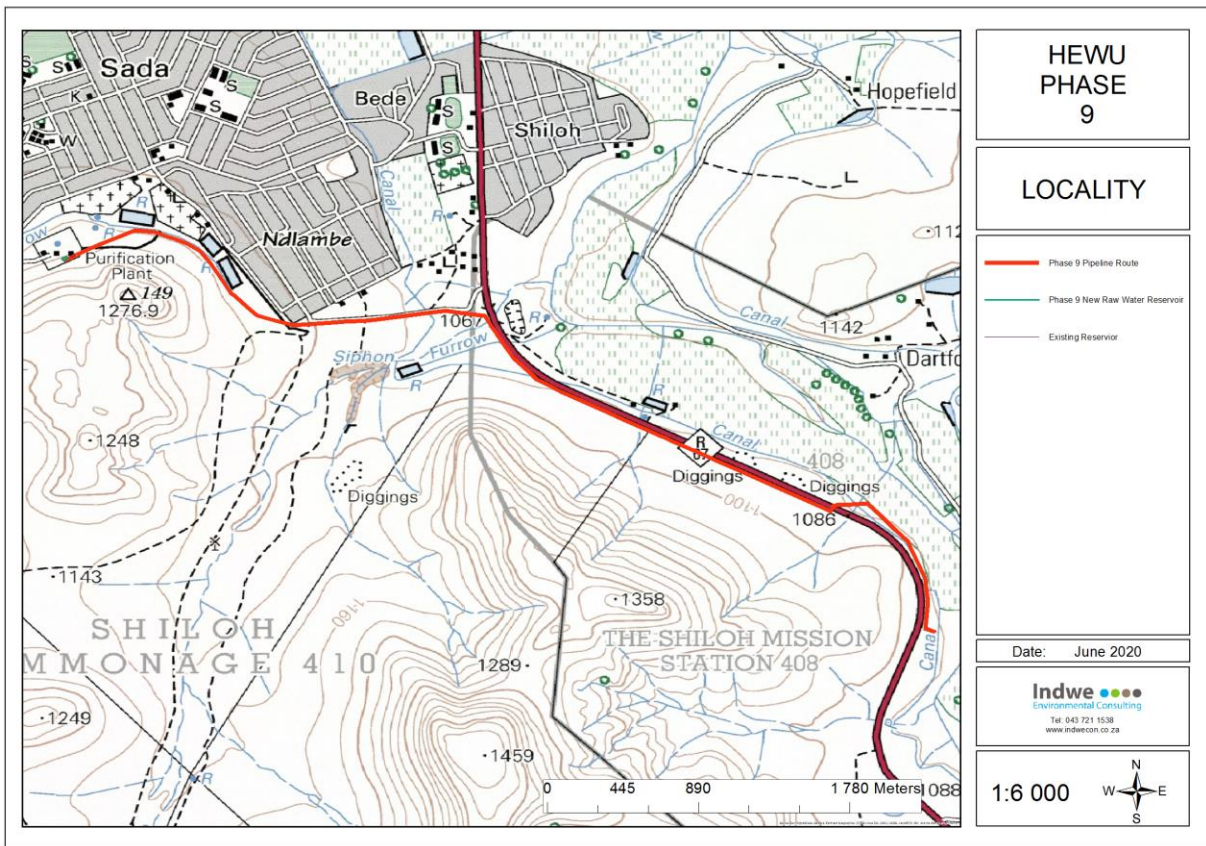


Figure 1: Topographical locality of the proposed pipeline route and reservoir.

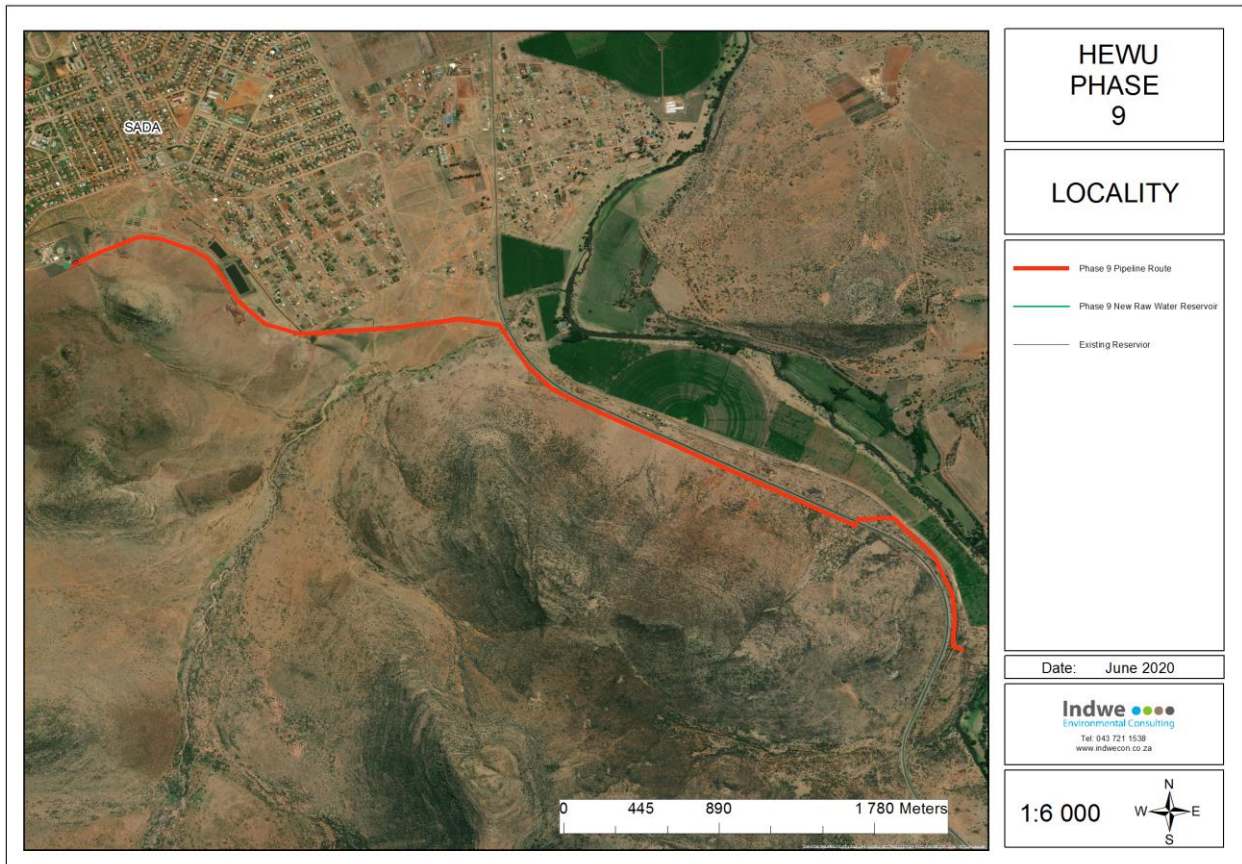


Figure 2: Aerial locality of the proposed pipeline route and reservoir.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) appointed Sinakho Consulting as the Professional Service Providers for the Hewu RA60 Regional Water Supply Scheme (RWSS).

The objective of the Regional Water Supply Scheme is to provide a reliable and sustainable bulk water supply to the villages. Currently, the villages that have not yet been provided with water from the bulk scheme are making use of a combination of boreholes, fitted with electric or diesel pumps, springs, earth dams and stand-alone schemes. Problems have been experienced with the existing isolated bulk supply in the villages, and while most have some form of reticulation, this reticulation has not always been working as a result of the unreliable bulk supply. The emphasis of this project is therefore to provide a reliable purified water supply to the villages within Hewu RA60 area, as well as to Sada and Whittlesea.

The proposed project includes the construction of a 5.5 kilometre long pipeline of 500mm (PVC-O) in diameter for raw water supply to a new 1.1 megalitre raw water reservoir at the existing Sada water treatment works within the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. Raw water for Sada WTW is sourced from the Waterdown Dam, which is situated on the Klipplaat River, via a gravity pipeline which feeds water to Berry WTW in Queenstown. This new pipeline will run parallel to the existing Ductile Iron 400mm pipeline currently in place. The new 500mm diameter pipeline will be connected to the existing 600mm diameter pipeline at the start of the pipeline. Refer to Figure 3 for the raw water reservoir layout plan (prepared by Sinakho).



Figure 3: Proposed new raw water reservoir at Sada WTW

EIA REQUIREMENTS

The EIA Regulations promulgated in Gazette No 40772 of 7 April 2017- NEMA Section 24(5) stipulates that “listed activities” require environmental authorisation via a Basic Assessment process should the activities trigger Listing Notices 1 & 3. The following listed activities are assumed to be triggered in relation to this project:

Listing Notice and Activity No.	Project Activity	EAPs Opinion if Activity is Triggered or Not
LN 1 Activity No 9	The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 meters in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water i) With an internal diameter of 0,36 meters or more; or ii) With a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more.	The raw water pipeline in question is approximately 5500 meters in length, proposed maximum flow rate through the pipeline would be 255.4 l/s and with an internal diameter of 0.5 meters. It is of the EAPs opinion that this listed activity will be triggered by the proposed project.
LN 1 Activity No 19	Infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse.	The pipeline that is crossing a defined watercourse will partake in excavating, removal, infilling or depositing material out of and into the watercourse. It is of the EAPs opinion that this listed activity will be triggered by the proposed project.

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY APPROVALS

A detailed report on water use licencing required for the Hewu RA 60 RWSS has been prepared and the input below is a summary thereof. The current Water Use License/ Existing Lawful Use (WUL/ ELU) for CHDM Domestic Water supply from the Waterdown Dam is for 4.5 million m³ per annum, and the processing of a Water Use License (WUL) application for an additional 2.51 million m³ per annum is in progress with DWS. **This is not being undertaken by Indwe Environmental Consulting.** The total WUL for Sada WTW would then be revised to 7.01 million m³ per annum which converts to 19,205,480 litres per day.

However, further to this, the project may require the following additional statutory approval application process:

- General Authorisation or Water Use Licence in terms of Section 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 as a small section of pipeline will be constructed within a riparian zone and watercourse.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment process will involve the following project phases:

1. **Application:** An application form for authorisation will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Chris Hani Region.
2. **Draft Basic Assessment Phase:** The Basic Assessment process is followed which includes the undertaking of a public participation process including consultation with key stakeholders, detailed site investigations, planning and reporting. Specialist input will be sought for this phase of the project. 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 then circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders for a 30 day comment period.
3. **Final Basic Assessment Phase:** Following the receipt of comments, the Basic Assessment Report will be finalised and submitted to DEDEAT for their assessment and issuing of an authorisation.
4. **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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process is defined under Regulation No 41 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended in 2017. However, as per the new “*Directions regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences*” published within gazette no. 43412 on Friday the 5 June 2020 regarding new regulations for conducting Public Participation, the following Public Participation process applies.

- Advertising in the local newspaper.
- Fixing a notice board at the site.
- Giving written notice to: the occupiers of the site, the owner/ person in control of the site, adjacent landowners, the municipal ward councillor and rate payers, the relevant municipality and any organ of state that has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.
- Maintaining an Interested and Affected Party Register.
- Uploading pertinent documentation on the Indwe website.
- Collecting comment on the project, in particular the draft Basic Assessment Report.

Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report over a 30 day period. All comments raised by I&APs will be included and responded to in the final reports which will be submitted to the competent authority (DEDEAT) to enable them to make an informed decision with regard to the development proposal.

Once an Environmental Authorisation is received, it will be distributed to registered I&APs who may appeal to the Minister or MEC of Environmental Affairs in opposition to the decision.

KEY ISSUES AND TYPICAL IMPACTS

Key issues and typical environmental impacts associated with the project identified to date include:

- Impacts to the watercourse (loss of riparian habitat, increased turbidity, impact on aquatic biota)
- Impacts to heritage features
- Improvement of public infrastructure
- Improved access to basic services
- Potential employment opportunities during the construction phase
- Temporary dust emissions and spoil material during the construction phase

DETAILS OF THE EAP CONDUCTING THE BASIC ASSESSMENT

Indwe Environmental Consulting CC is a registered environmental consultancy that specialises in all facets of environmental management. Our focus is on project based environmental studies. Broadly the services offered are Basic Assessments, Full Environmental Impact Assessments, Rectification of Non-Compliance Activities and Applications, Strategic Environmental studies (State of the Environment Reporting, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Management Frameworks) and integrated waste management planning.

The Indwe Environmental Consulting team is headed up and overseen by Brendon Steytler and Megan Hugo. Together they have a vast amount of experience in the environmental consulting industry of South Africa. Brendon Steytler was the founding member of Indwe Environmental Consulting in 2010 and has been instrumental in growing the company into the trusted and quality driven organisation that it is today.

Megan joined Indwe Environmental Consulting in September 2017 and was made a main member of the company in April 2018. Megan is a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) (Reg. No 2019/1530) and with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in the field of Environmental Science (Cand. Sci. Nat. No 118810) and has her Honours Degree in Environmental Science obtained through Rhodes University in Grahamstown. Megan is responsible for all company related operations and financial management as well as acquiring new projects. Megan has experience in all aspects of Integrated Environmental Management (Environmental Impact Assessments, Basic Assessments, Mining Permitting, Auditing, Strategic Environmental

Planning), Ecological Reporting and General Project Management. Megan has undertaken a range Environmental Impact Assessments for projects in both the private and public sectors as well as various non-compliance applications for commercial, agricultural and residential project. Megan will act as the EAP for this project.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed development, please feel free to register as an I&AP by sending us your details and written comments. Please submit your name, contact information and written comments to the contact person below. A written comments form is supplied at the back end of this notice for your convenience.

Contact

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