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**Attention      Bernadet Pawandiwa**

Dear Bernadet

**Application for Exemption from a  
Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of  
Proposed Mtubatuba Water Supply Pipeline,  
Umkhanyakude District, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

L. Toyi & Associates CC has been appointed by Mhlatuze Water for the design, construction, commission and operation of a steel pipeline between Mtubatuba and Dukuduku. The pipeline is proposed to be approximately 3km in length, with an 813mm diameter. The proposed development of the water pipeline is part of a larger development plan for the area and is proposed to provide bulk water supply as part of the Dukuduku Resettlement Programme (DRSP), co-ordinated by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The preferred pipeline route is proposed to extend from the Mtubatuba reservoir located approximately 2.3km west of Mtubatuba, to Mtubatuba itself with the prospect of connection to the Dukuduku reservoir (still under construction). The route will follow an existing registered municipal servitude that runs from the Mtubatuba Reservoir (west of Mtubatuba), beneath the N2 highway, and continues east of the N2 near to an unpaved road to the town of Mtubatuba (Figure 1). The pipeline is proposed to cut across seven watercourses (wetlands), and farm lands along the route. The pipeline is proposed to terminate immediately north of the town, and will be connected to the Dukuduku reservoir, located north east Mtubatuba, in the future (not part of this study).

The coordinates of the project are as follows:

Start	28° 24' 51.010" S	32° 10' 22.883" E
Middle	28° 24' 26.642" S	32° 10' 06.461" E
End	28° 24' 29.542" S	32° 11' 05.911" E

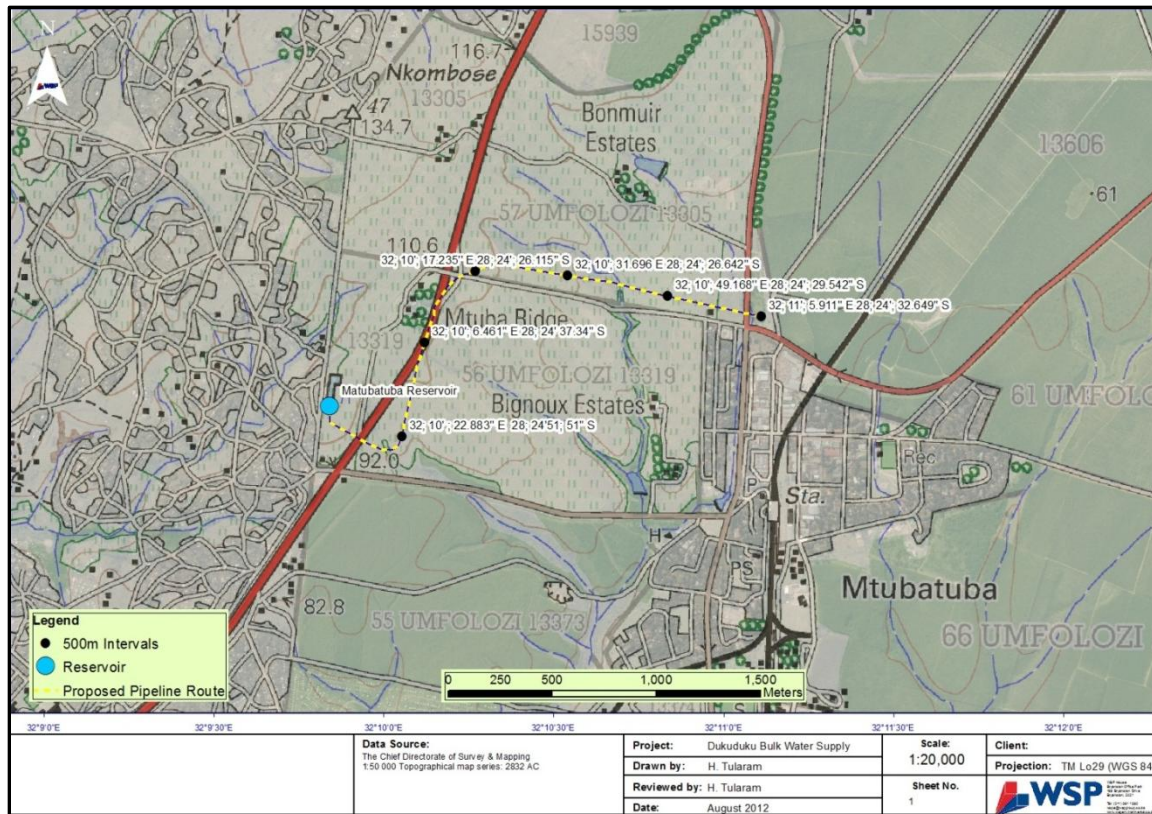


FIGURE 1 LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE (SOURCE: WSP ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY).

The construction process is proposed to consist of the following fundamental activities:

- Mechanical excavation of trenches (1.2 wide and 1.6m deep) and stockpiling (excavations within the watercourses will be undertaken manually). The slopes of excavation will be battered / shored;
- Importing and placing of granular bedding to a depth of 300mm;
- Construction and installation of a 813mm diameter steel pipeline and associated fittings,
- General backfilling and re-instatement using excavated spoil from stockpiles (temporarily stored from excavation phase);
- Construction of permanent apartment works including tie into existing 375mm AC pipeline, air valve cambers, scour valve chambers and associated pipework;
- Hydrostatic testing of all permanent works upon completion;
- Provision of permanent and if necessary temporary cathodic protection of the pipeline as required by the nominated sub-contractor; and
- De-commissioning and de-establishment of the site and contractor's camp.

The proposed pipeline forms part of a larger undertaking by Mhlathuze Water to meet the infrastructural needs of the area. The existing water supply system in the Mtubatuba area currently does not have the capacity to provide sufficient potable water to residents of Mtubatuba as well to the future Dukuduku Resettlement Programme (DRSP) (north-east of Mtubatuba). A number of pipelines and reservoirs have been proposed to meet the future water demands of the DRSP and Mtubatuba as well as downstream areas viz. St Lucia, Khula, Dukuduku and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. This proposed project, therefore, will transport water from the Mtubatuba Reservoir to Mtubatuba itself. The pipeline forms part of a larger scheme for the improved basic provision of water, which will improve sanitation and improve living standards for a number of previously disadvantaged areas, and potentially allow for the future development of these areas.

Residents of Mtubatuba, and ultimately Dukuduku and surrounds, will be provided with a reliable supply of potable water. This is likely to prevent reliance on illegal taps or broken pipes for water. The provision of this basic service is likely to contribute towards an improved quality of life, and will also provide services to the DSRP, as well as assist the development potential of the town of Mtubatuba. In addition to the above, employment opportunities and capacity building are likely to be provided to local communities. Job opportunities will be created through the employment of local low category contractors.

This route was proposed due to the ease of access to the pipeline servitude during and after construction. In addition, the existing servitude lies alongside this route, which has therefore already been disturbed from an environmental point of view. The entire servitude is highly disturbed through road construction and maintenance; the creation of formal and informal access roads and tracks; and adjacent sugar cane plantations, afforestation and other agricultural activities. Part of the land is currently under macadamia production. Bignoux and Bonmuir Estates are being planned as a single gated residential complex and applications for change of land use are being pursued through the relevant government departments.

Given the nature of the disturbance to the proposed development site we request that Amafa grant an exemption from a full Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for this project.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl