

Alderwood House, Palm Square Business Park, Bonza Bay Road, Beacon Bay, East London,

5241

P/Bag X9060, East London, South Africa, 5200

Cell: 082 818 6268

Email: Siyabonga.Gqalangile@dedea.gov.za

Web: www.dedea.gov.za



Attention: Mr.B.Badi

Applicant: Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Fax Number: 043 726 3238

Dear Sir/Madam

Enquiries: H. Hanise

Our Ref: EC/11/A/LN1/LN3/M/19-32

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION IN TERMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REGULATIONS OF 2014 PROMULGATED UNDER SECTION 24(5) OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998(ACT NO.107 OF 1998), AS AMENDED ,FOR THE PROPOSED BULK SEWER PIPELINE AND PUMPSTATION AT BREIDBACH, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

- 1. With reference to the above-mentioned application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant Environmental Authorization. The Environmental Authorization and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.
- 2. In terms of Regulation 4(2) you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 calendar days of the date of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the making of appeals that are provided for in the Regulations.
- 3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations which regulate appeal procedures. Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, you must, lodge an appeal with the MEC within 20 days of receiving this letter, by means of one of the following methods: By post: Private Bag X0054, Bhisho, 5605; By hand: Old Safety and Liaison Building (Global Life Complex) Opposite Engen Garage, Bhisho
- 4. Should you decide to appeal, you must serve a copy of your appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

Yours faithfully

S. GQALANGILE: MANAGER - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

Date 14/02/2020

The case officer must please fax copies of this letter and the attached Environmental Authorization, as follows:				
Organization	Contact Person	Email	Fax number	
Makhetha environmental consultants	Ms. R. Thomson	thomson1410@gmail.co.za	043 748 4849	





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# **Environmental Authorisation**

Authorisation register number	EC/11/A/LN1/LN3/M/19-32
NEAS number	ECP/EIA/0000850/2019
Last amended	N/A
Holder of authorisation	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Location of activity	EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Ward 44, Breidbach, Kingwilliams Town

### **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions are applicable to this Environmental Authorisation:

"EIA regulations" – These are the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as amended on 7 April 2017 in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998.

"The Department" – The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Eastern Cape Province.

"EAP" – The appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner represented by Makheta Environmental Consultants.

"BAR"- The Final Basic Assessment report titled "Proposed Breidbach Sewer Pipeline and Pump Station compiled by Makheta Environmental Consultants, dated November 2020

"Commencement"- Any physical activity on site that can be viewed as associated with the construction of the housing development and associated infrastructure, inclusive of initial site preparation.

"ECO" - Environmental Control Officer.

"NEMA" - National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended.

#### 1. Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below. Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Chapter 5 of this authorisation.

#### 2. Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, the Department hereby authorises **Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality**, being the legal person who

Name	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality			
Address	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Absa Building Oxford Street, Central East London			
Telephone	N/A	Fax	N/A	
Cell	082 492 7304			
Contact	Mr.B.Badi	E-mail	BonganiB@buffalocity.gov.za	

has applied for this authorisation, with the following contact details: To undertake the following activity (hereafter referred to as "the activities" indicated in Listing Notice 1, GNR 327 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017:

GNR. 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 than10 cubic metres from a watercourse;	The proposed pipelines will cross watercourses in various areas. The pipes are proposed to be attached to the existing bridges. However, the pipes will still be buried within the water course at a distance of 32m buffer zone.
GNR. 324 Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.	The vegetation clearing associated with the project footprint, including the pipelines and pumpstation exceeds 1 hectare.



GNR. 324	The clearance of an area of 300	The project falls within a
Activity 12	square metres or more of	Critical Biodiversity Area as
Activity 12	indigenous vegetation,	defined in the Eastern
	a. Eastern (ii) Within critical	Cape Biodiversity
	biodiversity areas as	Plan(2007).The total
	identified in bioregional	footprint area in the CBA is
	plans	24500 square metres.

At the locality defined in the Table below, and hereafter referred to as "the property":

District	Amathole			
Municipal Area	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality			
Farm Name	N/A			
Farm Number and Portion	N/A			
Erf Number and Township Extension or Suburb	Ward 44, Breidbach, King Williams Town			
Co-ordinates of corners of property:	S 32	53.690	E 27	26.768
comers or property.	S 32	53.881	E 27	25.874
	S 32	53.679	E 27	26.503
	S 32	53.708	E 27	27.033
Physical address	N/A			

## 3. Departmental Declarations and Conditions

## Scope of authorisation

- a. The application is for the development of the Breidbach Sewer Pipeline and Pump Station and is hereby approved.
- b. Authorisation of the activities is subject to the Conditions as contained in this authorisation and is binding on the holder of the authorisation.
- c. The holder of the authorisation shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Conditions as contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
- d. Should any environmental damage be detected, that in the opinion of this Department, is the result of the development, then the applicant shall be required to make good that damage to the satisfaction of the said competent authority at his/her own expense.
- e. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above in this authorisation.

- f. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation or an amendment in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- g. The activities must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity/ies does/do not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for an Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity/ies to be undertaken.
- h. Archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) as amended. Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during excavation for the purpose of construction, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped immediately. A registered Heritage Specialist must be called to the site for inspection. Under no circumstances shall any heritage material be destroyed or removed from the site and the relevant heritage resources agency must be informed about the finding. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be disturbed further until the necessary approval has been obtained from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (ECPHRA).
- i. A Water Use License must be obtained prior to commencement of the operational phase of the activity.
- j. This Environmental Authorisation does not negate the holder thereof of his/her responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity. Relevant legislation that must be complied with by the holder of this authorisation includes, inter alia:
  - All provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).
  - o All provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
  - All provisions of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act 84 of 1998).
  - All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004).
  - All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas
     Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003) and its Regulations.

- All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008
   (Act 59 of 2008) and its Regulations
- The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) administered by the Department of Mineral Resources.
- The legislations indicated in the BAR, as submitted by AGES Omega (Pty)
   Ltd.
- k. In the event of any dispute as to what constitutes environmental damage, this Department's opinion will prevail.
- Should fill material be required for any purpose, the use of borrow pits must comply with the provisions of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) as administered by the Department of Mineral Resources.
- m. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum and be limited to the development footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
- n. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, re-use, recycling and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste shall be disposed of at a registered landfill site licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
- o. The holder of this Environmental Authorisation has the responsibility to notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

#### Monitoring

- p. The applicant must appoint a suitably qualified, experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and Conditions referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
- q. The ECO must also identify species of special concern and assist with the identification of no-go areas before any site clearance.
- r. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks to be / undertaken by the ECO.
- s. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

- t. The ECO must keep and maintain a detailed incident and complaints register (inclusive of any spillages of hazardous substances and other materials) indicating how these issues were addressed (including any rehabilitation measures implemented) and preventative measures implemented to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents;
- u. The ECO must obtain and keep record of all documentation, permits, licences and authorisations relevant to the project on site.

#### Recording and reporting to the Department

- v. The holder of the authorisation must submit a monthly environmental audit report to the Department for the duration of construction and rehabilitation activities until completion. The environmental audit report must:
  - (i) Indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Conditions as well as the requirements of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
  - (ii) Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

## Management of the activity

- w. The EMPr for the construction phase which was submitted as part of the Application for this Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved, subject to the following:
  - (i) The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR, including specialist reports therein, must be adhered to and incorporated as part of the EMPr.
  - (ii) Any updates or amendments to the EMPr must be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and must be decided upon within a period of 30 days of the submission.
  - (iii) All Conditions contained within the EA with respect to construction and rehabilitation must be incorporated into the EMPr. The Conditions set within this EA are to prevail where there is conflict with those given within the EMPr. Finally, the EMPR must form part of method statement for the whole development process.

- (iv) Contingency plans must be included for any emergencies that may affect the watercourses during construction, such as fuel spills, from the construction equipment and any temporary sanitation facilities.
- (v) General principles of environmental management as applicable to the construction activities including environmental best practice, erosion prevention and control, minimization of dust, etc., must be taken into cognisance.
- (vi) Clear stipulations as to who is responsible and accountable for what actions must be included in the revised EMPr.
- (vii) All correspondence with regard to this application must be forwarded for attention of The Regional Manager: Environmental Affairs, Amathole Region.

#### Commencement of the activity

- w. The authorised activity/ies shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of this authorisation in order to allow for any potential appeals.
- x. Section 43(7) of NEMA states that submission of an appeal automatically suspends the authorised activities until the appeal is concluded in favour of the proposed development.

#### Notification to authorities of commencement

y. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department to indicate that the activity/ies will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this Condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity/ies will commence. This notification period may coincide with the period contemplated in Condition W above in this authorisation.

#### Site closure and decommissioning

z. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

## **Specific Conditions**

- aa. The proposed development must follow the layout plan as contained in Appendix **A** of the BAR.
- bb. The applicant must ensure that stormwater management structures are designed to reduce the impact on sensitive areas and adjacent properties, as well as preventing run-off into nearby watercourses.
- cc. Prior to the commencement of construction, a plant search and rescue must be undertaken in order to remove any species of special concern as well as any other species that could be translocated. Such species are to be used in rehabilitation / restoration initiatives on the site
- dd. The contractor must provide adequate waste disposal and sanitation facilities and must ensure that these facilities are properly used and maintained.
- ee. Stockpiles of soil may not exceed 1.5m in height.
- ff. Stockpiles must be covered during windy periods with shade cloth or an applicable erosion protection measure.
- gg. Stockpiles must be monitored for erosion and mobilisation of materials towards the watercourses. If this is noticed, the ECO must ensure that suitable cut-off drains or berms are placed between the stockpile area and the nearest watercourse.
- hh. The ECO must monitor upstream and downstream of the Yellowwoods River during construction for pollution caused by construction activities
- ii. Before commencing with alien vegetation management, staff must be trained on the methods of control, and if herbicide is used, proper safety training must be given.
- jj. Silt fences or traps must be used to prevent soil eroding from nearby construction activities from reaching nearby watercourses as applicable.
- kk. Due to the slope of the location, it must be ensured that run-off of fertiliser during the operational phase does not enter the nearby watercourse.
- II. Erosion and pollution protection measures must be put in place in the operational phase of the project to prevent pollution of watercourses.
- mm. The natural flow of any watercourse must not be impeded.
- nn. No cement may be mixed within 100m of any watercourse. A waterproof platform must be used in this regard.
- oo. No cement/concrete mixing is to take place on the soil surface. Cement mixers are to be placed on large trays to prevent accidental spills from coming into contact with the soil surface;

- pp. Any substrate contaminated by the spillage of hydrocarbons or other pollutants must be removed from the site and disposed of at a registered waste disposal site; and
- qq. No servicing of vehicles and other machinery is to take place on site and no fuel or other hazardous material is to be stored on site other than for household use.
- rr. All construction vehicles must have adequate measures to prevent leaking of hazardous substances, e.g. drip trays etc.
- ss. No construction vehicles may be used within any nearby watercourse.
- tt. Special care must be taken during the construction phase, in particular to protect the unnamed streams from physical, chemical or biological degradation.
- uu. Any construction campsite that is deemed necessary is to be approved by the ECO. No construction camp site and any lay down area is allowed within the 1:100 year floodline or within 32m from a watercourse, whichever is the greater.
- vv. The ECPHRA must be contacted immediately should any archaeological artefacts be discovered during the course of the development.
- ww. A permit application must be compiled and submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource for attachment of the pipeline to the bridge and the disturbance of the stone artefact scatters, prior to the commencement of construction activities.
- xx. A Spill Response Plan must be compiled and submitted to this Department for endorsement prior to the commencement of operational activities of the pumpstation and sewage pipeline.

#### General

- 1. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activity (i.e.) will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
- 2. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.

- 3. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty-eight) hours, if any Condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this Condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance. Non-compliance with any Condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA Regulations.
- 4. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the Conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the Conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these Conditions of authorisation.

#### 4. Reasons for Decision

## 1. Background

The application from the Applicant is for activities as contained in GN R 327 of 2014 as amended in 2017. The following activities are being applied for:

- GNR. 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:
- GNR. 324 Activity 12 The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation, (a) in the Eastern Cape(v) on land, where at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality proposes to develop a 2.3 kilometre rising main sewer pipeline and 500 square metre pump station at Breidbach, within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

The proposed pipeline is mostly located in the road reserve, with small sections crossing open, undeveloped areas. At the two river crossings, the pie will be attached to existing bridges in order to prevent excavation in watercourses as the river valleys associated with these are incised.

The applicant appointed Makheta Environmental Consulting to undertake a Basic Assessment process as required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017, in this regard.

## 2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration:

- a) The information as contained in the BAR;
- b) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR;
- c) The findings of the site visit undertaken by Mrs H. Hanise from DEDEAT as well as Ms R. Thomson on 04 February 2020, and
- d) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended.
- e) The motivation submitted with respect to the need and desirability of the proposed activity.

## 3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below:

- a) Provided, detailed qualifications of the EAP indicate that the EAP is competent to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- b) The BAR, included a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity.
- c) The BAR, identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The proposed methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR, adequately covered the minimum requirements as prescribed by the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements for public involvement as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017.

f) The project will assist the affected communities in easing their access to services such as schools, transportation etc. and lower risks to safety posed by the informal river crossings.

## 4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings:

- The negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity will be manageable and not unacceptable provided the Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation are adhered to and fully implemented.
- The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR, and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed, adequately mitigates against the identified impacts.
- All legal and procedural requirements have been met.
- The information as contained in the BAR, is accurate and credible.
- EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR, and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the Conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, the proposed activity/ies will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management as laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 as amended and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.

- 5.1. In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017, you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application.
- 5.2. The notification referred to in Condition 5.1 above in this Authorisation must-
  - 5.2.1. Specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 5.2.2. Inform interested and affected parties of the appeal procedure provided for in the Appeal Regulations published in G.N. 993 of 8 December 2014 in terms of Section 44 read together with Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 as amended; and
  - 5.2.3. Advise interested and affected parties that a copy of the Environmental Authorisation and reasons for the decision will be furnished on request.
- 5.3. Any appeal against the decision as contained in this authorisation must be addressed in writing, to the MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (hereinafter referred to as "the MEC") in terms of Regulation 4(1) of the NEMA Appeal Regulations 2014 and within 20 (twenty) days after the appellant has been notified in terms of paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, of the decision.
- 5.4. An Appeal Submission must be made on a form obtainable from the Department Appeal Administrator and/or the Departmental website on <a href="https://www.dedea.gov.za">www.dedea.gov.za</a> or relevant Regional Office; and
- 5.5. The Appellant must also serve a copy of the appeal to the regional office that processed the application.
- 5.6. In the event that an appeal is lodged, copies of such appeal must be served on the applicant (if not the appellant), all registered interested and affected parties as well as juristic state departments (organ of state with interest in the matter) within 20 days of having been notified in accordance with the requirements as stipulated in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the decision.
- 5.7. The address to which the **original** of any appeal must be mailed is outlined below. Please note that originals may also be delivered per hand or courier.

Department	Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism		
Attention	Senior Manager: Environmental Impact Management		
Postal Address	Private Bag X0054, <b>BHISHO</b> ,5605		
Hand Delivery	Old Safety and Liaison Building (Global Life Complex) Opposite Engen Garage, Bhisho		
In order to facilitate efficient administration of appeals, <u>copies</u> of application form to appeal and any subsequent appeal documentation must also be submitted as follows:			
General Manager: - Environmental Affairs per fax:	Albert.mfenyana@dedea.gov.za		
Senior Manager: Environmental Impact Management per fax:	Gerry.pienaar@dedea.gov.za		
Office of the Appeal Administrator	Phumeza.gxala@dedea.gov.za		
It is strongly recommended that electronic copies of all appeal documentation also be e-mailed	E-mail addresses will be supplied on request		

In the event that an appeal is lodged with regard to this authorisation, the Listed Activities described in this authorisation may not commence prior to the resolution of the appeal in favour of the applicant and prior to the Department's written confirmation of compliance with all Conditions that must be met before construction can commence, whichever event is the latter.

Com	pil	led	Bv:
90111	М.	ou	_,.

Date: 14/02/2020

Date: 14/02/2020

Ms. H. Hanise

Control Environmental Officer: Environmental Quality Management **Amathole Regional Office** 

**Authorised By:** 

Mr S. Gqalangile

**Manager: Environmental Impact Management** 

**Head Office**