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Engineering Advice and Services (Pty) Ltd

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DEA&DP Ref: TBC
Our Ref: 2266

06 November 2025

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION: PROPOSED UPGRADING OF BULK WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE, EAST OF PLETTENBERG BAY, WITHIN THE BITOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as well as in terms of Section 41(4) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA), you have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) for the above-mentioned project. This serves as notification of the intent to submit an Applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and a Water Use License Application (WULA), for the above-mentioned proposed upgrading, to the Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning and the Department of Water and Sanitation, respectively.

Project Role-Players

The following are the relevant role-players in the Applications:

Applicant:	Bitou Local Municipality
Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):	Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd (EAS)
Competent Authority – Application for EA:	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning and the Department (DEA&DP)
Competent Authority – WULA:	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)

Project Description

The Bitou Local Municipality, proposes the following – kindly refer to enclosed locality map:

- Installation of a 10 km bulk water pipeline from the Plettenberg Bay Water Treatment Plant to the Matjiesfontein Reservoir, following a route mainly within existing road reserves and servitudes. The alignment includes sections along the N2 corridor, two bridge crossings, and a short bridge.
- New Goose Valley Bulk Water Pipeline to be connected to the proposed N2 pipeline, and linking it to the existing Goose Valley Reservoir with necessary valve and meter chambers for flow control.
- The sewer upgrade involves expanding the Aventura Pump Station and installing a pipeline to the Gansevallei Waste Water Treatment Works.

Both bulk water and bulk sewer pipelines will be installed predominantly within existing road reserves.

Legislative Requirements

National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

The proposed upgrading triggers activities contained in the NEMA: EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and published in **Listing Notice 1** and **Listing Notice 3**, thus requiring EA from the DEA&DP subject to a **Basic Assessment** process. The applicable Listed Activities are set out below.

Summary of Listed Activities contained in Listing Notice 1 triggered by the proposed upgrading

Activity No.	Activity Description	Discussion in terms of Applicability
9	<i>The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water— (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more; excluding where— (a) such infrastructure is for bulk transportation of water or storm water or storm water drainage inside a road reserve or railway line reserve; or (b) where such development will occur within an urban area.</i>	A section of the Bulk Water Pipeline is not located within an urban area and therefore Activity 9 of Listing Notice 1 may be applicable.
12	<i>The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; — excluding— (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area; (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves;</i>	Where the proposed bulk water and sewer pipeline routes fall outside the urban edge as per the Bitou Municipality's Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and where the alignment occurs outside existing road reserves, the bulk water and bulk sewer pipelines will cross watercourses (drainage lines). As such, the upgrading is likely to exceed a footprint of 100m ² where it will occur within and within 32m of watercourses outside an urban area and outside road reserves.
17	<i>Development- (i) in an estuary; (ii) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever is the greater; in respect of- (e) infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more- but excluding- (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area.</i>	The majority of the pipelines fall within the Keurbooms Estuarine Functional Zone and within 100m inland of it. Although the upgrading works will occur mostly within Bitou Municipal urban edge, certain sections of the proposed alignment do fall outside the urban area. As such, the upgrading works might exceed a footprint of 50m ² where it will occur within and within 100m of the estuary outside an urban area.
19	<i>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, grit, pebbles or rock or more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</i>	As the installation of the bulk water and sewer infrastructure will occur within several watercourses (drainage lines), it will involve the excavation, removal and/or moving of material of a cumulative volume of more than 10m ³ from these watercourses.
19A	<i>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 of more than 5 cubic metres from- (ii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater;</i>	As the installation of the bulk water and sewer pipeline will occur within the Keurbooms Estuarine Functional Zone and within 100m inland of it, it will involve the excavation, removal and/or moving of material of a cumulative volume of more than 5m ³ from the estuary.

Summary of Listed Activities contained in Listing Notice 3 triggered by the proposed upgrading

Activity No.	Activity Description	Discussion in terms of Applicability
12	<i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in</i>	According to the National Vegetation Map (2018), large portions of the proposed pipelines fall within the Garden Route Shale Fynbos, while a small section of the bulk

	<i>accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i> (i) Western Cape <i>(i) 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;</i> <i>(iii) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;</i>	water pipeline also runs through Eastern Coastal Shale Band Vegetation. Both vegetation types are classified as Endangered. It is likely that more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation will be cleared where the infrastructure occurs within these endangered ecosystems. The majority of the pipelines fall within the Keurbooms Estuarine Functional Zone and within 100m inland of it. Although the upgrading works will occur mostly within Bitou Municipal urban edge, certain sections of the proposed alignment do fall outside the urban area. As such, clearance of indigenous vegetation might exceed an area of 300m² where it will occur within and within 100m of the estuary outside an urban area.
14	<i>The development of -</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs -</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> (i) Western Cape <i>(i) Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i> <i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i> <i>(hh) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined</i>	Where the proposed bulk water and sewer pipeline routes fall outside the urban edge as per the Bitou Municipality's Spatial Development Framework (SDF), the bulk water and bulk sewer pipelines will cross watercourses (drainage lines). As such, the upgrading works is likely to exceed a footprint of 10m² where it will occur within and within 32m of watercourses outside an urban area. Furthermore, a protected area (Keurbooms River Nature Reserve) in terms of National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (2003), Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2023), the Keurbooms Estuarine Functional Zone (National Wetland Map, 2018) are located within this affected footprint.

National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)

A Water Use Authorisation (WUA) is required for any construction activity within the extent of a watercourse (i.e., riparian and instream habitat, or within 100m of a watercourse or drainage line or the 1:100-year floodline; whichever is the greatest) or within 500m of a wetland, in terms of the following Section 21 (c) and/or (i) water uses of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998):

- *Section 21 (c) - impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;*
- *Section 21 (i) - altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.*

The installation of the bulk water and sewer pipelines will occur within and within 100m of several watercourses (drainage lines), while a section of the proposed bulk water pipeline falls within 500m of a depression wetland (National Wetland Map, 2018). It should, however, be noted that any water uses in terms of Section 21(c) or (i) of the NWA associated with the construction, installation and/or maintenance of any sewerage pipelines or pipelines carrying hazardous materials to and from the raw water and wastewater treatment works, are excluded from General Authorisation, as stipulated in Section 3 (e) of Government Notice 509 of 2016, and will thus require a full Water Use Licence.

Application for EA: In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) in Chapter 6 Regulation 41 (2) published in GNR. 982 (as amended), all potential I&APs must be notified of the public participation process and informed of the intention to submit an application.

In order to register on the database, please complete the Registration/Comment Form attached to this correspondence or submit your contact details via fax, email, telephone or the website – www.easemp.co.za

stating your full name, address and contact numbers as well as your preferred method of communication to receive notifications. Also state any interest that you may have in this matter. By registering on the project database, you will be notified as and when information on the project is available. Please submit your request to register as an I&AP before **12 December 2025**.

Water Use Licence: In terms of Section 41(4) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), all I&APs are required to be notified of the licence being applied for and that written objections may be lodged against the application within 60 days of this notice (before **04 February 2026**).

To assist you in the submission of any issues and concerns, we have included with this correspondence a Background Information Document, Locality Map. Project information can be accessed through the website www.easemp.co.za. Should the website or online file sharing software platforms not be available to you, please inform us and we will accommodate you to the best of our ability. Should you have any queries or require additional information please contact undersigned using the contact details provided below.

NOTE: You are required to register as an I&AP in order to receive further correspondence regarding the Basic Assessment. The steps in the Basic Assessment and Public Participation Process are as follows:

Step 1: Notification to Authorities and I&AP's: The first stage in the process entails notification of the intention to proceed with the BAR to the DEA&DP as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs). I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database and raise issues of concern.

Step 2: Draft Basic Assessment (BAR) for Public Comment: The Basic Assessment is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential positive and negative environmental impacts (social, economic and environmental), that may be associated with the proposed project. The Basic Assessment will include an overview of the affected environment on which the activity is proposed to take place and migratory measures to reduce potential negative impacts and maximise positive benefits. The Draft Basic Assessment, together with comments received from I&APs will be made available for a 30-day review period. All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the 30-day comment period for the Draft Basic Assessment, copies of the Draft Report and project information can be downloaded from www.easemp.co.za.

Step 3: Submit Final Basic Assessment Report and Application: The comments received from I&AP's during the 30-day review period will be included in the Final BAR before it is submitted to DEA&DP for decision making. All I&AP's will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final Report and any additional comment period.

Step 4: Notification of Outcome of Decision and Appeal Period: All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing regarding the outcome of the decision by the DEA&DP (granting or refusal of environmental authorisation) for the project and the appeal period, as well as the manner of appeal. Commencement of the development may only proceed once approval has been granted.

Kind Regards



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Mr. Kurt Wicht BSc, Reg EAP
for Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd

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Email: enviro@easpe.co.za
Fax: 086 683 9899

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENCE:
PROPOSED UPGRADING OF BULK WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE, EAST OF PLETTENBERG BAY, BITOU LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE**

INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

PLEASE NOTE:

Registration as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) is required in order to receive further correspondence regarding the Environmental Authorisation Process

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date:	Preferred method of communication (email / SMS / fax / post):		
Can you communicate reliably via email?			
Title:	First Name:	Surname:	
Email:			
Telephone:		Fax:	
Organisation & Capacity (If Applicable):			
Physical Address:			
Town:		Code:	
Postal Address:			
Town:		Code:	
1. What is your primary area of interest with regards to the proposed project?			
2. Do you have any comments with regards to the proposed project?			
3. Are there any additional stakeholders who you think should be contacted regarding this project?			
If "YES", please list their names and contact details below:			

PLEASE ADD MORE PAGES IF NECESSARY

Please note that contact details for I&APs are not reflected in the I&AP database in any of our public documents, due to the Protection of Personal Information Act, (No. 2 of 2013) as gazetted on 1 July 2021. This information is available on request from the EAP or the relevant authorities, with a motivation for the need to gain access to such information and will not be distributed in the public domain or to any third party. Such a request will be dealt with on a case-to-case basis and consent for distribution will be obtained from the relevant party whose details have been requested. As a registered I&AP, all personal information is strictly for record keeping purposes and will be retained for the duration of the project.	
I hereby give consent to the above processing of my personal information:	
YES	NO

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO:

EAP: Mr Kurt Wicht
c/o **Engineering Advice and Services (Pty) Ltd**
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