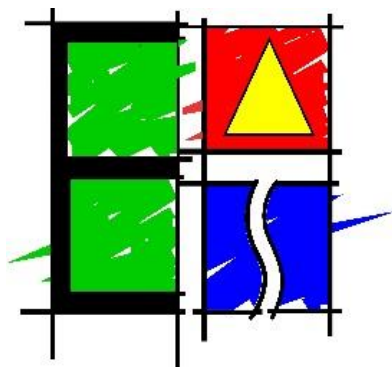




BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT

Proposed Upgrading of Bulk Water and Sewer Infrastructure, East of Plettenberg Bay, within Bitou Local Municipality, Western Cape

Introduction

Engineering Advice & Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to apply for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed *Upgrading of Bulk Water and Sewer Infrastructure, east of Plettenberg Bay, within the Bitou Local Municipality of the Western Cape Province*. In addition, a parallel application will be undertaken for a Water Use Licence (WULA) which will be necessary due to wetlands, riparian and river features noted to be present along the extent of the pipeline and associated activities.

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 scope of work envisaged for the Plettenberg Bay East – Bulk Water & Sewer Upgrades includes the upgrade of water and sewer infrastructure between Plettenberg Bay and Keurbooms, predominantly along the N2 and within existing road reserves and facilities.

a) Water Infrastructure Upgrades:

This phase of the proposed project involves upgrading the existing bulk water pipeline between the Plettenberg Bay Water Treatment Plant and the Matjiesfontein Reservoir in Keurbooms. Refer to Locality Map enclosed.

The bulk water pipeline is proposed to be installed as follows:

- The proposed pipeline will be approximately 10 km long, with a preliminary diameter of 315 - 450 mm and a peak flow of 130 ℓ/s.
- The first section of the pipeline, starting at the Water Treatment Plant, will be installed within the road reserve of several streets in Plettenberg Bay Town and then continue through a steep bushy servitude within Plettenberg Bay's urban edge.
- A short bridge (approximately 20 m) will be needed as the embankment along the road reserve is too steep for in-ground installation.
- Two alternative routes have been identified for the portion of the pipeline that connects to the N2 corridor. Both are expected to have similar environmental implications.
 - Option 1: Pipeline to be installed within the road reserve, running behind the mall through a bushy area adjacent to the N2
 - Option 2: Pipeline to be predominantly in the road reserve (diverting behind residential properties and a local school) before connecting into the N2 portion.
- The N2 portion of the pipeline will be laid primarily on the eastern side of the N2, positioned within the existing pedestrian walkway, and will cross two existing bridges, where the pipe will be bolted onto the bridge structures.
- The remaining N2 section will be installed within road reserves and existing servitudes.

- The final section of the pipeline will be constructed within the gravel access road leading to the Matjiesfontein Reservoir site, where it will connect to the existing reservoir infrastructure.

b) Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades:

This phase involves the upgrade and expansion of the existing bulk sewer network between the Aventura Pump Station and Goose Valley areas.

The upgrade of the sewer infrastructure will consist of the following components:

- The Aventura Pump Station will be upgraded to a capacity of 160 l/s; and,
- A UPVC Class 16, 355 mm diameter pipe will be installed from Aventura Pump Station to Gansevallei Waste Water Treatment Works.

Legislative Requirements

National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA), 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> <i>(i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or</i> <i>(ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;</i> <i>excluding where—</i> <i>(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</i> <i>(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—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —</i> <i>excluding—</i> <i>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</i> <i>(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> <i>(i) in an estuary;</i> <i>(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;</i> <i>in respect of-</i> <i>(e) infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more-</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.

	<i>but excluding- (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area.</i>	
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-</i> <i>(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 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>	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 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)

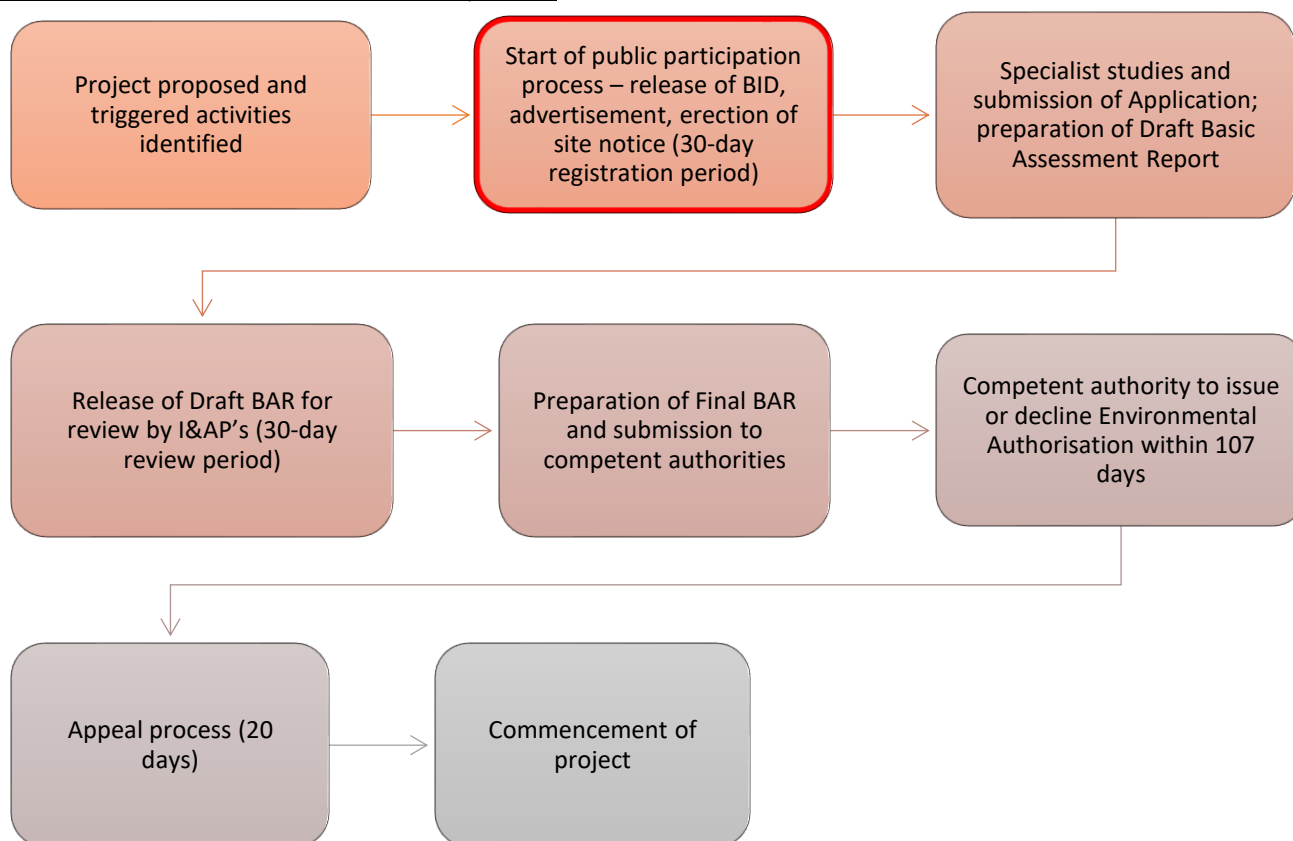
A Water Use Authorisation (WUA) is required for any construction activity within the extent of a watercourse (i.e., riparian and instream habitat, or within 100m of a watercourse or drainage line or the 1:100-year floodline; whichever is the greatest) or within 500m of a wetland, in terms of the following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

Such licence will be obtained from the DWS via the electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAS) prior to commencement of construction of those infrastructure components occurring within and within close proximity to surface water features. The WULA will be made in accordance with the provisions of Sections 40 and 41 of the Act and will run concurrently with the Basic Assessment process.

Where we are in the Basic Assessment process



Public Consultation

The aim of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with information about this project, the process being followed and to provide for an opportunity to be involved in the Environmental Assessment process. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may raise issues of concern or support. Results of the Environmental Assessment process will be submitted to the DEA&DP and the DWS to assist the competent authorities in making an informed decision regarding the EA and WULA. Additional project Information and documentation is available on the following website: www.easpe.co.za

Get involved as an I&AP

To register, please complete the attached I&AP Registration form and to the contact details below.

Engineering Advice and Services (Pty) Ltd
73 Heugh Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth, 6070
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Mr Kurt Wicht (EAP)
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**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:

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