

APPENDIX E- COMMENTS AND RESPONSE: PROPOSED NGQMAKAHWE PHASE 3 BULK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, AMATHOLE DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE

COMMENT	DATE	PERSON	ORGANISATION/FARM NO/PROPERTY NO	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE ADVERTISING AND NOTIFICATION PERIOD					
2018 NOTIFICATION PERIOD					
1	29 May 2018	Hlomela Hanise	DEDEAT: Amathole Region, East London	<p><u>Indwe Environmental Consulting issued notifications to I&APs and Organs of State of EIA process in 2018.</u></p> <p>Hlomela Hanise, officer at DEDEAT (Amathole) at the time, acknowledged receipt of the notification issued by Megan Hugo of Indwe Environmental Consulting.</p>	None.
2	14 June 2018	Zinzile Gade	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 18 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>The Councillor has been informed about the project. The current standard of water services doesn't meet RDP standards. There were solar panels that provided electricity but they were all stolen and therefore water services were interrupted. The community was then required to use generators to pump water. The Councillor requested that all water related challenges are attended to.</p>	None.
3	22 June 2018	Malungisa Ndungane	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 16 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>The Councillor wished that the phase be implemented as soon as possible. Communities were competing with animals for water. The issue must be resolved immediately because water is a basic need. Drinking unhealthy water results in illnesses.</p>	None.

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				The scarcity of water compromises health standards of the people. Communities have been waiting a long time for the scheme to be implemented.	
4	27 June 2018	Thembisile Mpeta	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 20 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>People travel long distances to fetch water from the springs. Some of the springs are not reliable. The process needs to be fast tracked. In other villages people are forced to share water resources with the animals. The ward is happy that the municipality is undertaking the planning phase of the project.</p>	None.
5	12 July 2018	Zoyisile Collen Mfazwe	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 13 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>Water that is used for drinking is contaminated as it comes from the hospital and sewage system. Some areas do not have toilets and they relieve themselves in the fields which ultimately goes into the streams. The project will help in poverty alleviation and it will provide temporary employment.</p>	None.
2025/2026 NOTIFICATION PERIOD					
6	25 June 2025	Kwandiswa Gobeni	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 20 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p>	None.

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				The project is important for water supply in our area. Active community inclusion and involvement is critical.	
7	25 June 2025	Prim Veliswa Bulube	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 20 Committee	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>The area needs attention and water supply is needed. The community must be included.</p>	None.
8	25 June 2025	Magobiane Mboneleli	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 13 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>The project needs to progress quickly. The Cllr will advise the community in the ward about the project.</p>	None.
9	25 June 2025	Maputeni Sithethi	Mnquma Local Municipality: Ward 16 Councillor	<p><u>Following public meetings undertaken by Mr Vusi Klaas of Indwe Environmental Consulting, the Councillor issued the following:</u></p> <p>The community is aware of the project. The project needs to move quickly and the community is in need of water.</p>	None
COMMENTS RECEIVED POST APPLICATION SUBMISSION PHASE					
10	17 December	Ndileka Nazo (Registered)	Environmental Officer-EIM: DEDEAT Amathole	<u>Following the submission of the application form for Environmental Authorisation by Megan Hugo of Indwe</u>	Recorded in the reports.

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	2025	EAP)		<p><u>Environmental Consulting, the designated case officer issued the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This letter serves to acknowledge receipt of the Application for the above-mentioned project. The Application received by this Department on 12 December 2025 was submitted by Indwe Environmental Consulting on behalf of Amathole District Municipality. • The above-mentioned project proposes to undertake Listed Activities scheduled in Government Notices R. 327, and R. 324 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended. • The reference number assigned to your application is EC/15/A/LN1/LN3/M/25-34. • The Environmental Case Officer assigned to your application is Ms. Ndileka Nazo and is reachable as per the contact details outlined in the header to this letter. • Any correspondence regarding this application, with correspondence being addressed to the appointed case officer. • The processing of this application is based on the information reflected in the Application Form being maintained as a true and accurate reflection of the proposed development and the listed activities applied for. In the event that corrections to these are required, such amendments must be formally communicated by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and acknowledged prior to the competent authority being in a position to consider final submissions. • All requirements as contained in Appendix 1 of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended must be addressed in the Final BAR. 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans prior to submission of the Application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority. • The Draft BAR must be submitted to all I&APs and the relevant juristic Organs of State for the minimum prescribed comment period as per the Regulations. • Reference to the public participation process and engagement with I&APs must be substantiated, with relevant written and dated correspondence being provided. A copy of the I&AP register and all comments received must be included in the Final reports submitted to the Department. • The EAP is advised to remain aware of the 90-day timeframe for submission of the Final Report as contained in the 2014 Regulations as amended, this includes the prescribed commenting period of 30 days for both I&AP's and the competent authority. If the BAR is not submitted within 90 days or 140 days (where an extension is applicable), the application will lapse in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, and your file will be closed. Should you wish to pursue the application again, a new application process would have to be initiated. A new Application Form would have to be submitted, and the prescribed application 	

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				<p>fee would have to be paid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that one (1) bound hard copy as well as one (1) an electronic copy of all reports is submitted to the competent authority (i.e. Amathole Region). • The Environmental Assessment Practitioner is required to notify and inform the applicant in writing that the activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the competent authority. 	
11	29 January 2026	Azola Mkosana	ECPHRA: Manager	<p>Following the submission of the Notification of Intention to Develop (NID) inclusive of the Archaeological and Palaeontological Reports to ECPHRA, the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Committee issued the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no objections to the proposed development, provided that specialists' recommendations, including those by ECPHRA, are adhered to. • ECPHRA acknowledges and accepts the LoR & AIA report (van Ryneveld, November 2024 & 2018 respectively), subject to the condition that any newly identified heritage resources must be immediately cordoned off in accordance with the recommendations. • However, the committee noted with concern the limited community input on living heritage. Future studies must place greater emphasis on oral histories and living heritage, and during the Public Participation Process, information relating to the cultural landscape must be actively obtained from surrounding communities. 	Recorded in the reports.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PIA report (Millsteed, BD. November 2025) is also acknowledged and acceptable, provided that the stated conditions are incorporated into the Environmental Authorisation (EA). ECPHRA contact details must be included in the Chance Finds Procedure (CFP), which must be submitted to ECPHRA for approval prior to implementation. The project commencement date and construction schedule must be submitted to ECPHRA. Heritage awareness training and induction are required for all ground-based personnel. A final Heritage Compliance Report must be submitted to ECPHRA upon completion of works. <p>All payments for the submissions fees have been paid by Indwe Environmental Consulting to ECPHRA and there is no outstanding fees owed.</p>	
12	31 March 2026	Megan Hugo	Registered EAP: Indwe Environmental Consulting CC	<p>The EAP notified the Case Officer of DEDEAT that the Basic Assessment Report will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application dated 12 December 2025. The extension required is due to weather conditions inhibiting final site assessments.</p>	<p>Ms Ndileka Nazo of DEDEAT responded on 7 April 2026 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of your letter dated 31 March 2026 and received by the Department via email on 01 April 2026 wherein requesting for extension in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations, Regulation 19(1)(b) regarding submission of Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Ngqamakhwe Regional Water Supply Scheme, Phase 3, Ngqamakhwe, Amathole District Municipality is hereby acknowledged. You are hereby informed that the request for extension to submit the Basic Assessment Report has been approved for which period will lapse on 28 May 2026 (CORRECTED TO 29 MAY 2026). According to NEAS, the final date for submission

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					<p>of the Final Basic Assessment Report is 28 May 2026 (CORRECTED TO 29 MAY 2026).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Assessment Practitioner is required to notify and inform the applicant in writing that the activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the competent authority.