

APPENDIX E - PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR THE NGQONDO VILLAGE, CHRIS HANI REGION, EASTERN CAPE

COMMENT	DATE	PERSON	ORGANISATION/FARM NO/PROPERTY NO	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
PRE-APPLICATION PHASE					
1	10 November 2025	Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo; Bhelinda Mtamo; Siyamthanda Bidi; Bongeka Makosi;	DEDEAT: Chris Hani Region, Komani	<p><u>Summarised Pre-Application minutes MS Teams</u></p> <p><u>10 November 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Hugo (MH) opened the meeting with an introduction and welcome. Each person introduced themselves. The purpose of the meeting was then explained, which included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the project specifications, sensitivities and Listed Activities applicable to the proposed development. Discuss the way forward regarding applicable EIA process. Representatives from DEDEAT and Indwe introduced themselves and an apology from MH was given, excusing Kevin Bickell (Indwe) from the meeting. The details of the project background were provided by MH, who outlined the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indwe has been appointed by Chris Hani District Municipality. The location for the proposed Water Supply Scheme is situated in the Ngqondo Village, 40km northeast of Engcobo. The proposed pipeline will connect to the existing Water Treatment Works (WTW) Facility, which is designed to pump water from the Mbashe River, and distribute water 	

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				<p>to the nearby villages. The pipeline will also connect to existing reservoirs that formed part of separate projects within the nearby villages and towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH supplied an image of the topographical map showing the extent of the bulk line and reticulation. The map also indicated the existing line and WTW facility. • MH continued to describe the project specifications and the scope of work for the project, which outlined the following. • Scope of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction of approximately 1.2km of uPVC pipes of sizes ranging from 63mm diameter of various classes. ○ Construction of approximately 5km of HDPE pipes of size 50mm diameter of various classes. ○ Construction of approximately 4.5km of Klambon steel pipes of sizes ranging from 50mm diameter to 90mm diameter. ○ Construction of stand taps, valve chambers, and all associated pipe fittings. ○ Construction of new and reinstatement of existing stormwater along the reticulation mains. • The project layout was also discussed via the map presented by MH. • No questions were asked during or after the presentation of the scope of works and project specifications. • MH continued to describe the sensitivities 	

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				<p>highlighted by the National Web-Based Screening Tool. A summary of the results was provided and elaborated on during the presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following were described by MH during the presentation, which were the results from the national screening tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Agricultural Theme-Subsistence farming and Land Capability rating of Moderate to high. High Animal Biodiversity- Several sensitive birds and mammal species listed for the area. V. High Aquatic Biodiversity-Falls within a Freshwater ESA 1 and 2. Site also falls within the Drakensberg SWSA. V. High Paleontological- Falls within a very high paleontological sensitive area as prescribed by SAHRIS V. High Terrestrial Biodiversity- Falls within the endangered Mthatha Moist Grassland and Terrestrial ESA 1 and 2, as well as a CBA 1 and 2. Site also falls within the Drakensberg SWSA. MH continued with indicating that the following specialists have been appointed for the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrestrial Ecological Specialist (Fauna and Flora)- Specialist report already compiled as of October 2025. Heritage and Paleontological- Section 38 of NHRA. Required NID form to be submitted to ECPHRA with specialist reports. Heritage and Paleo Reports on hand. Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist- Specialist 	

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				<p>report already compiled as of October 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH continued to show the maps indicating the ECBCP (2019) data, the vegetation unit, and surface water features. • MH continued to provide detailed response to the identified listing notice activities that are anticipated to be triggered. The following activities were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GN. R. 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; ○ GN. R. 324 Activity 12- The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation within the Eastern Cape on land that falls within an endangered ecosystem (Mthatha Moist Grassland) listed in terms of section 52 of NEMBA. ○ GN. R. 324 Activity 14 - The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. <p>a. Eastern Cape (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic</p>	

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				<p>biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions were raised in response to the above. • Following the explanation regarding the identified listing notice activities, MH described the way forward for the EIA process and the WUL process. • It has been identified that a BAR will need to be undertaken, as part of the NEMA regulations, as amended in 2017, as well as a GA application for section 21 (c) and (i) due to the activity taking place within the regulated area of a watercourse. • MH ended the meeting with a closure and DEDEAT responded with questions. • NM asked whether an agricultural assessment has been conducted as the screening tool notes the high sensitivity. • MH responded by noting that during the site investigation and site sensitivity verification, the main pipeline follows the existing main road reserve and within the actual village, the pipeline follows along these man-made tracks. Type of development is linear. The natural state of vegetation pre-construction is expected to be returned once construction is complete. Rehabilitation is good within this area, and the pipelines do not cross any farming lands. Therefore, the site sensitivity verification has been reduced to Low and will be motivated in the BAR. • Nondwe Mdekazi (NM) also requested when submitting the application form, the correct number format as described in the G.N.R Listing Notice 	

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				<p>activities be used. This was noted by MH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siyamthanda Bidi (SB) asked for the dimensions of the proposed access roads. • MH replied to the question by stating that the municipality has a prerequisite as to how far each house can be from a standpipe. Therefore, the standpipes need to be clustered around homesteads as this determines how far people have to walk to these stands. The access roads need to be implemented for the TLB which will compact the grass and soil when driving over it. The TLB will excavate to lay down the pipe, backfill and move off the track. These tracks will only be for construction purposes and will not be used during operation. • NM recommended sending the site sensitivity verification report before submitting the application form in case there are any issues that may arise in the report that may be limited by the 90-day timeframe. • Bhelinda Mtamo (BM) requested 2x hard copy (black and white) and 1 x electronic copy in the form of a USB for the DBAR. 1 x FBAR hard copy must also be provided. • MH responded that the request is not a problem and that an electronic link will also be provided to download the files if required. • The following was also highlighted by MH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application for EA through Basic Assessment process ○ Advertisement in The Rep completed on 30 October 2025 and the signboard was erected on 9 September 2025. ○ Notifications to be emailed to stakeholders following engagement with DEDEAT 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BID's have been hand delivered to surrounding communities and public meetings have been done. ○ 30-day public review period to be undertaken once Application form for EA and Draft BAR submitted ● No objections or questions were raised based on the above closing items. ● The meeting was concluded at 14:37 pm and action items were noted. 	
2	8 April 2026	Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo	DEDEAT – Chris Hani	<p>8 April 2026</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR THE NGQONDO VILLAGE, DR AB XUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, EASTER CAPE.</p> <p>The Department confirms having received the application form, details of EAP, and Declaration of interest, locality map, submitted on 02 April 2026 for environmental authorisation of the above-mentioned project. The application has been assigned the reference number EC137/CH/LN1/M/26-03, and the responsible official for your application is Ms Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>The acknowledgement of application is for activities as listed in the submitted application form; the department will not take any responsibility for any delays caused by</p>	

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				<p>the exclusion of activities which form part of this project.</p> <p>All documents must be submitted to Ms Bhelinda Mtamo and Ms Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo</p> <p>In addition, please consider the following during compilation of reports for this application for environmental authorisation:</p> <p>Please be advised that in terms of the EIA Regulations and NEMA the investigation of alternatives is mandatory. Alternatives must therefore be identified, investigated to determine if they are feasible and reasonable. It is also compulsory to investigate and assess the option of not proceeding with the proposed activity.</p> <p>In the reports to be submitted it must clearly be demonstrated in which way the proposed development will meet the requirements of sustainable development. You must also consider energy efficient technologies and water saving devices and technologies for the proposed development.</p> <p>All relevant departments should also be involved during the public participation process as per chapter 6 of NEMA EIA regulations 2014 as amended and have the opportunity to comment on all the reports to be submitted to this department. The 30-day commenting period must be complied with and as per the EIA Regulations requirements.</p>	

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				<p>The specialist reports must be conducted as per the outcome of the screening tool, unless motivation is made to the department in a form of site sensitivity verification report and approved prior to submission of Final Basic Assessment Report. Applicant/EAP must ensure that the Specialist declaration are in the DEDEAT template, not the DFFE template.</p> <p>A detailed and complete EMPr must be submitted with the Basic Assessment Report. This EMPr must not provide only recommendations but also indicate the actual mitigation measures/remediation activities which will be binding to the applicant. The EMPr to be submitted as part of the application must comply with Appendix 4 of the NEMA EIA 2014 regulations as amended and should include the following:</p> <p>A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility including timeframes for restoration which must indicate rehabilitation within the shortest possible time after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.</p> <p>An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.</p>	

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				<p>A storm water management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface subsurface flows.</p> <p>An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plant to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.</p> <p>In terms of Regulation 19 the applicant must within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the Competent authority a Final Basic Assessment Report. You are therefore advised that your 90-day period ends on 06 July 2026.</p> <p>In terms of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, no triggered listed activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.</p> <p><u>Please note the following:</u></p> <p><u>1. After Submission of the application form the</u></p>	

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				<p><u>EAP/Applicant must go through a legal public participation process (PPP) (Inclusive of the competent authority of at least 30 days, this relates to the DBAR.</u></p> <p><u>2. The acknowledgement of application is for activities as listed and as described in Section2 of the submitted application form; the department will not take any responsibility for any delays caused by the exclusion of activities which form part of this project.</u></p> <p><u>3. All documents must be submitted to Bhelinda Mtamo and Ms Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo therefore one hard copy and two electronic (USB and email) copies must be submitted.</u></p> <p>Yours Sincerely</p> <p>Nondwe Mdekazi-Nkqubezelo</p>	
3	30 April 2026	Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama	ECPHRA	<p><u>30 April 2026</u></p> <p>Response to NID (Notification of Intent to Develop) in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)</p> <p>Megan Hugo Indwe Environmental Consulting 2 Ayr Place Bonnie Doon East London 5241</p> <p>The location for the proposed Water Supply Scheme is situated in the Ngqondo Village, 40km northeast of Ngcobo. The exact coordinates of the village are 31.525166, 28.144599. The proposed pipeline will connect to the existing Water Treatment Works Facility,</p>	

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				<p>which is designed to pump water from the Mbashe River, and distribute water to the nearby homes. The pipeline will also connect to existing reservoirs that formed part of separate projects within the nearby villages and towns.</p> <p>Chris Hani District Municipality have proposed the construction of the Water Supply Scheme with the following scope of works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of approximately 1.2km of uPVC pipes of sizes ranging from 63mm diameter of various classes. • Construction of approximately 5km of HDPE pipes of size 50mm diameter of various classes. • Construction of approximately 4.5km of Klambon steel pipes of sizes ranging from 50mm diameter to 90mm diameter. • Construction of stand taps, valve chambers, and all associated pipe fittings. • Construction of new and reinstatement of existing stormwater along the reticulation mains. <p>ECPHRA acknowledges and accepts the submitted NID, BID, PIA (Millstead, BD. dated November 2025) and the AIA (Booth, C. December 2025).</p> <p>Following assessment of the development and the heritage sensitivity of the area, ECPHRA hereby confirms that the project is supported and development may continue as planned, in terms of Section 38(4) of the NHRA, provided that the following recommendations are adhered to.</p> <p>1. AIA report, page 49-51. If there are any changes</p>	

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				<p>to the development, an archaeologist will be required to re-assess the proposed footprint.</p> <p>2. PIA report, page 35. Amend report to reflect that ECPHRA not SAHRA is the responsible heritage authority, in regard to the proposed development.</p> <p>3. ECPHRA Recommendations: ECPHRA General pre/construction phase requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project proponent/representative must notify ECPHRA of the date of commencement of the project or share the project schedule and the Environmental Authorisation (EA). • The project proponent/representative must submit a site specific, detailed heritage & paleontological chance finds procedure (CFP), before the start of the pre/construction phase, for ECPHRA's approval. The CFP must outline stop-work procedures, emergency protection measures, reporting protocols, contact details for ECPHRA and approved heritage specialists, guidance on recognising heritage materials and graves. The CFP must form part of the EMPr and be available on site at all times. • Heritage induction and training for all ground crew, must include identification of archaeological, palaeontological, historical, and burial-related material. This ensures lawful heritage compliance during all phases of the project. • There must be monitoring after vegetation clearing and during excavations. <p>Post Construction phase requirements:</p>	

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				<p>Upon completion of the project, a final heritage compliance report, which must include the monitoring reports, to be submitted to ECPHRA.</p> <p>Project Payments:</p> <p>NID fee (R 500 - paid)</p> <p>HIA fee (R 1 500 – paid)</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p> <p>Yours faithfully Ayanda Mncwabe-Mama</p>	
COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE ADVERTISING AND NOTIFICATION PERIOD					
4	8 September 2025	Vuyokazi Mzuku	Ward 19 Councillor	<u>8 September 2025</u> <p>I confirm that this water project we need it with the community. We appreciate it with our community.</p>	
5	8 September 2025	Neliswa	Ward Committee	<u>8 September 2025</u> <p>I hope the ward committee accepts the project and let's proceed.</p>	
6	8 September 2025	Mawethu Dalasite	Chief	<u>8 September 2025</u> <p>I am happy that the project is happening. We are struggling to get water sharing streams with animals. Please make sure that the project doesn't stop.</p>	

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7	1 April 2026	Khumbulani Thobani	Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPWI)	<p><u>1 April 2026</u></p> <p>Good day</p> <p>Kindly assist with additional information for the proposed Water Supply Scheme in Ngqondo Village.</p> <p>Regards, Khumbulani Thobani</p>	<p><u>1 April 2026</u></p> <p><u>Response from Megan Hugo (Indwe Registered EAP)</u></p> <p>Good afternoon Khumbulani,</p> <p>See attached Background Information Document and Locality Plan of the project.</p> <p>Please advise if you would like to be registered as an I&AP? If so, kindly complete the final page of the BID and return to us via email.</p> <p>Kind regards, Megan Hugo</p>