

# **PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR THE NGQONDO VILLAGE, CHRIS HANI REGION, EASTERN CAPE**

## **NATIONAL WEB BASED SCREENING TOOL REPORT FINDINGS AND RESPONSE**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The National Web based Environmental Screening Tool is a geographically based web-enabled application which allows a proponent intending to submit an application for environmental authorisation in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended to screen their proposed site for any environmental sensitivity.

The Screening Tool also provides site specific EIA process and review information, for example, the Screening Tool may identify if an industrial development zone, minimum information requirement, Environmental Management Framework or bio-regional plan applies to a specific area.

Some of these documents can then be accessed through the Screening Tool via links, for consideration during screening.

Further to this, the Screening Tool identifies related exclusions and/ or specific requirements including specialist studies applicable to the proposed site and/or development, based on the national sector classification and the environmental sensitivity of the site.

Finally, the Screening Tool allows for the generating of a Screening Report referred to in Regulation 16(1)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017, as amended whereby a Screening Report is required to accompany any application for Environmental Authorisation and as such the tool has been developed in a manner that is user friendly and no specific software or specialised GIS skills are required to operate this system.

The location for the proposed Water Supply Scheme is situated in the Ngqondo Village, 40km northeast of Ngcobobeni (Figure 1). The exact coordinates of the village are -31.525166, 28.144599. The proposed pipeline will connect to the existing Water Treatment Works Facility, 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.

Chris Hani District Municipality have proposed the construction of the Water Supply Scheme with the following scope of works:

- 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.

Refer to figure 2 for the general layout of the project.

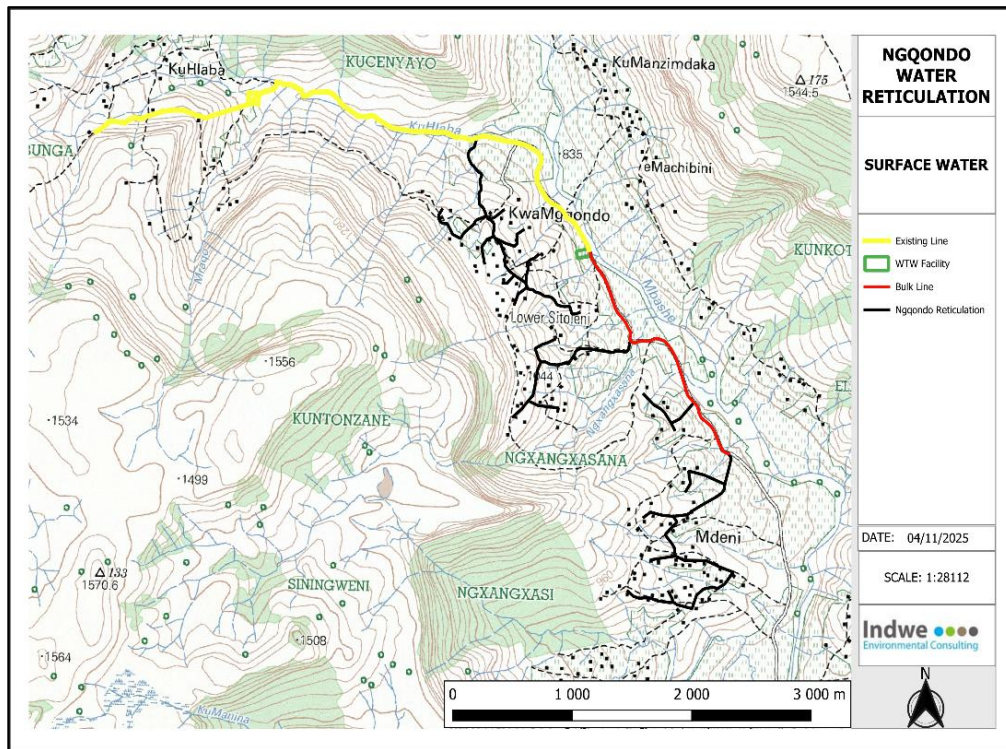


Figure 1: Topographical locality of the proposed Water Supply Scheme.

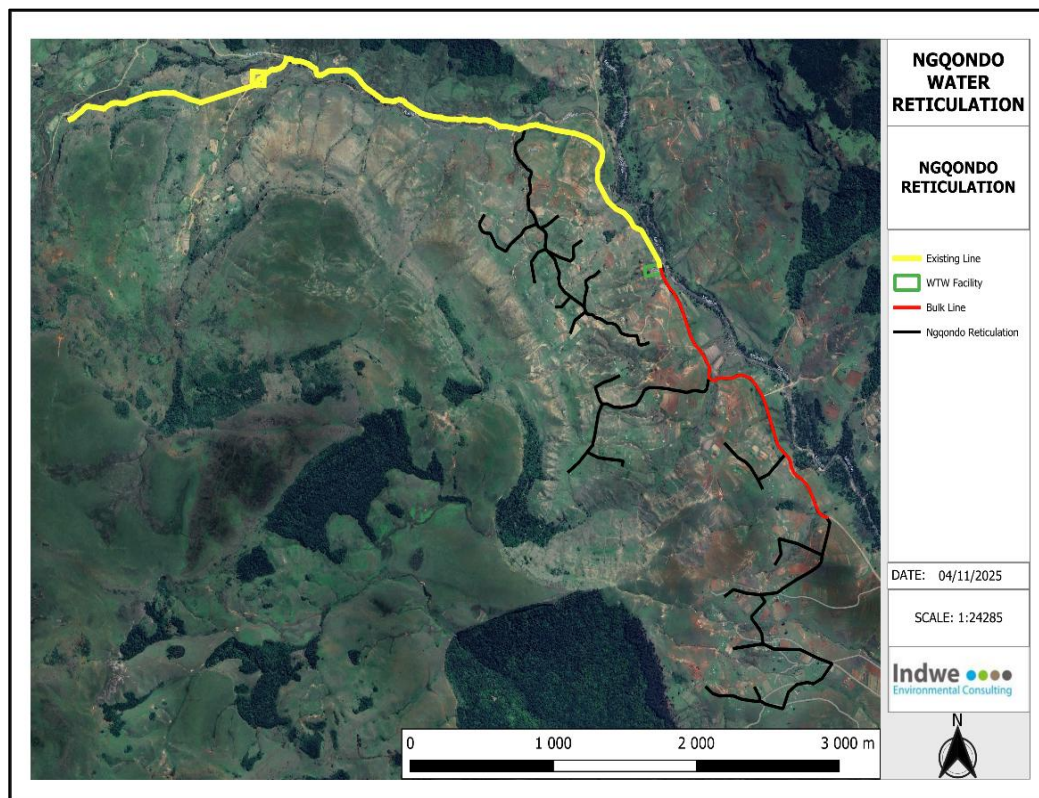


Figure 2: General Layout of the proposed Water Supply Scheme.

## SCREENING TOOL THEME SENSITIVITIES AND ASSOCIATED SPECIALIST ASSESSMENTS IDENTIFIED

According to the Screening Tool Report generated for the site, the following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified below:

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme	X			
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme				X
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments were identified for inclusion in the assessment report by the Screening Tool Report:

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment
2. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
3. Palaeontology Impact Assessment
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
5. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
6. Geotechnical Assessment
7. Socio-Economic Assessment
8. Plant Species Assessment
9. Animal Species Assessment

The Screening Tool Report notes that *it is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.*

## SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE PROJECT

Taking into consideration the environmental sensitivities identified by the Screening Tool, the specialist assessments identified by the Screening Tool, physical site surveys and verifications as well as the current land use and intended land use (in terms of SPLUMA), the following is noted.

Specialist assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process were as follows:

1. Cultural, Heritage, Archaeological Assessment that addresses the cultural heritage and archaeological theme. **Refer to Appendix D.**
2. Palaeontological Assessment that addresses the palaeontological theme. **Refer to Appendix D**
3. Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment Report that addresses the aquatic biodiversity theme. **Refer to Appendix D.**
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity compliance statement that addresses the terrestrial biodiversity theme. **Refer to Appendix D.**



5. Plant and Animal Species Compliance Statement that addresses the plant and animal species themes. **Refer to Appendix D.**

In terms of the remaining specialist assessments that were identified by the Screening Tool, the motivations for not undertaking such are as follows:

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment

*The site has a Very High sensitivity rating for agriculture, and the site is classified for Classes 7 to 8, for subsistence farming. This area does have many agricultural activities taking place, with the majority focussed on subsistence farming.*

*The routing of the pipeline is along main and minor roads given the existing infrastructure that is already in place. No disruption to cultivated lands is expected. Examples of the roads that the pipelines will be routed:*



*However, given the nature of the project, it is not anticipated that the construction and installation of the pipeline will impact the agricultural activities of the area as a whole. The pipeline has also been laid out accordingly to avoid agricultural lands. This was also confirmed by the Terrestrial Specialist in the compliance statement submitted to fulfil the requirement of the Terrestrial Biodiversity theme.*

*It is our opinion that given the above reasons, the significance of the anticipated agricultural impact of the development is low, and therefore an agricultural impact assessment should not be required.*

## 2. Geotechnical Assessment

*Given that no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, it is accepted that a site sensitivity verification will suffice.*

*A Geotechnical assessment is not required for this project as a separate specialist assessment, since the geotechnical requirements have been assessed as part of the engineering requirements prior to the proposal of the project. Additionally, the project does not require deep excavations and formwork.*

*Based on the above, no geotechnical specialist assessment was undertaken.*

## 3. Socio-economic Impact Assessment

*Given that no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, it is accepted that a site sensitivity verification will suffice.*

*This project is aimed at providing potable water to the residents in the Ngqondo Village area, thus, the aim of the project is to provide service delivery rather than economic value. The project will incorporate job creation for the local community during the construction phase. Indirect job creation in the operational phase will occur at the Water Treatment Works facility. It is thus believed that this project will positively contribute towards socio-economic value within the community.*

*Based on the above, no socio-economic impact specialist assessment was undertaken.*