

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**FOR**

**THE BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND WATER USE  
LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESSES FOR  
THE PROPOSED 2 KM EFFLUENT PIPELINE FROM  
KING WILLIAMS TOWN PRIVATE HOSPITAL TO THE  
YELLOWWOODS STREAM AND A 1.5 KM  
PORTABLE WATER PIPELINE THAT CONNECTS  
FROM THE PUMPSTATION TO THE PROPOSED  
RESERVOIR WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF  
BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY,  
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

**APPLICANT**

**TRIGEMINAL INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS**

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# 1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application processes for the proposed pipelines and reservoir development in Bisho, King Williams Town, within the jurisdiction of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

This Background Information Document (BID) also aims to explain the Public Participation Process that is prescribed by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and National Water Act, (NWA) 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), which invites all I&APs to comment on issues and concerns related to the project.

Lastly, this BID also provides I&APs with the opportunity to:

- Duly register as an Interested and Affected Parties in the public participation process.
- Understand the Basic assessment, Water Use License application, and the Heritage Permit processes in order to participate effectively.
- Raise issues of concern and/or submit suggestions to enhance the proposed project, and
- Contribute local knowledge.

# 2. INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Applicant (Trigeminal Investments (Pty) Ltd) has an existing Environmental Authorisation (EA) with reference number **EC/11/A/LN1/27/24-16** from the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) for the Construction of Private Hospital on Erf 8912 in King Williams Town, Eastern Cape Province. The EA was granted on 10 March 2025.

The need for the new Environmental Authorisation and Water Use License Application processes came about when the Buffalo Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) indicated that their municipality does not have the capacity for both sewer and potable water. Therefore, an effluent pipeline is required from the Sewer Treatment Plant into the Tributary of the Yellowwood, and the Portable Water Pipeline will be from the nearby pump station.

The proposed development entails the construction and installation of a 2km Effluent Pipeline from the proposed King Williams Town Private Hospital to the Yellowwoods Stream and a 1.5km Potable water pipeline that will connect from the pump station to the proposed reservoir that will measure approximately 10m in height and with a 5m diameter with a capacity of 180kl.

Selahle Consultancy and Projects (Pty) Ltd (herein referred to as SCP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) to handle the BA and WULA processes. The team has approached this proposal with a great deal of experience in undertaking EIAs and all related

Environmental Services. SCP has a team of specialists with the capacity and background to undertake the fieldwork and compile the reports within the required timeframes.

The proposed development requires authorisations under the EIA Regulations published under NEMA, and the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (amended) promulgated under the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998) to ensure compliance with Environmental and Water legislation and regulations. The Competent Authorities that would be responsible for processing these applications are:

- Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) – Basic Assessment
- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) – Water Use License

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed site can be accessed through the R63 in King Williams Town and the co-ordinates to the site are:

Table 1: Project Location Information

PIPELINE	
<b>Province</b>	Eastern Cape
<b>Local Municipalities</b>	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Bisho
1.5KM PIPELINE	
<b>Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Start Point:</b> - 32°52'27.52"S 27°24'37.36"E, <b>Middle Point:</b> - 32°52'15.65"S 27°24'57.32"E <b>End point:</b> - 32°52'0.29"S 27°25'20.19"E  <b>RESERVOIR:</b> 32°52'0.12"S 27°25'20.20"E
2KM EFFLUENT PIPELINE	
<b>Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Start point:</b> - 32°52'5.80"S 27°25'17.78"E <b>Middle point:</b> - 32°52'22.92"S 27°25'30.19"E <b>Endpoint:</b> - 32°52'19.49"S, 27°25'53.51"E)



Figure 1: Pipelines Locality Map

## 4. BASIC ASSESSMENT & WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESS

### 4.1 What is a Basic Assessment?

A Basic Assessment is an environmental impact identification, evaluation and mitigation conducted under the EIA Regulations which were published under NEMA. It applies to activities that are listed under Listing Notice 1 or 3 of these Regulations, which are considered to have a low to moderate potential environmental impact. Basic Assessments are undertaken where the impacts are less likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment.

The process involves the preparation of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR), which outlines the nature and scope of the proposed development, describes the existing environmental conditions, identifies and assesses potential environmental impacts, and proposes mitigation measures. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) is also developed to guide the implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures. Public participation is a key component of the Basic Assessment process, and stakeholder engagement must be documented within the BAR. The completed report is then submitted to the relevant competent authority, which in this case is the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) for decision-making. Figures 2,3 & 4 illustrate the process of the Basic Assessment Process and the Public Participation Process to be conducted.

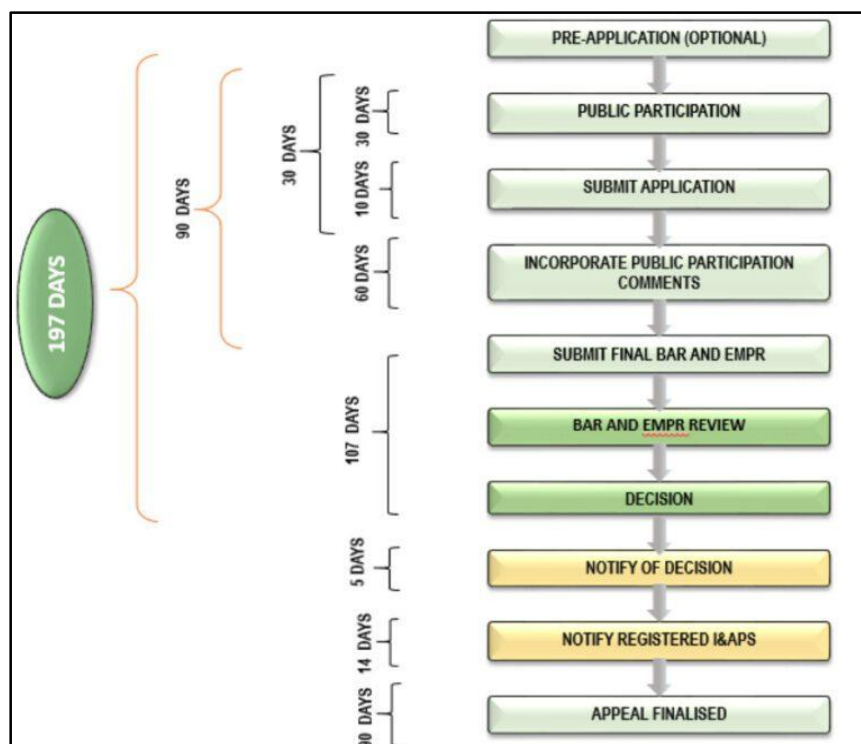


Figure 2: Basic Assessment Process

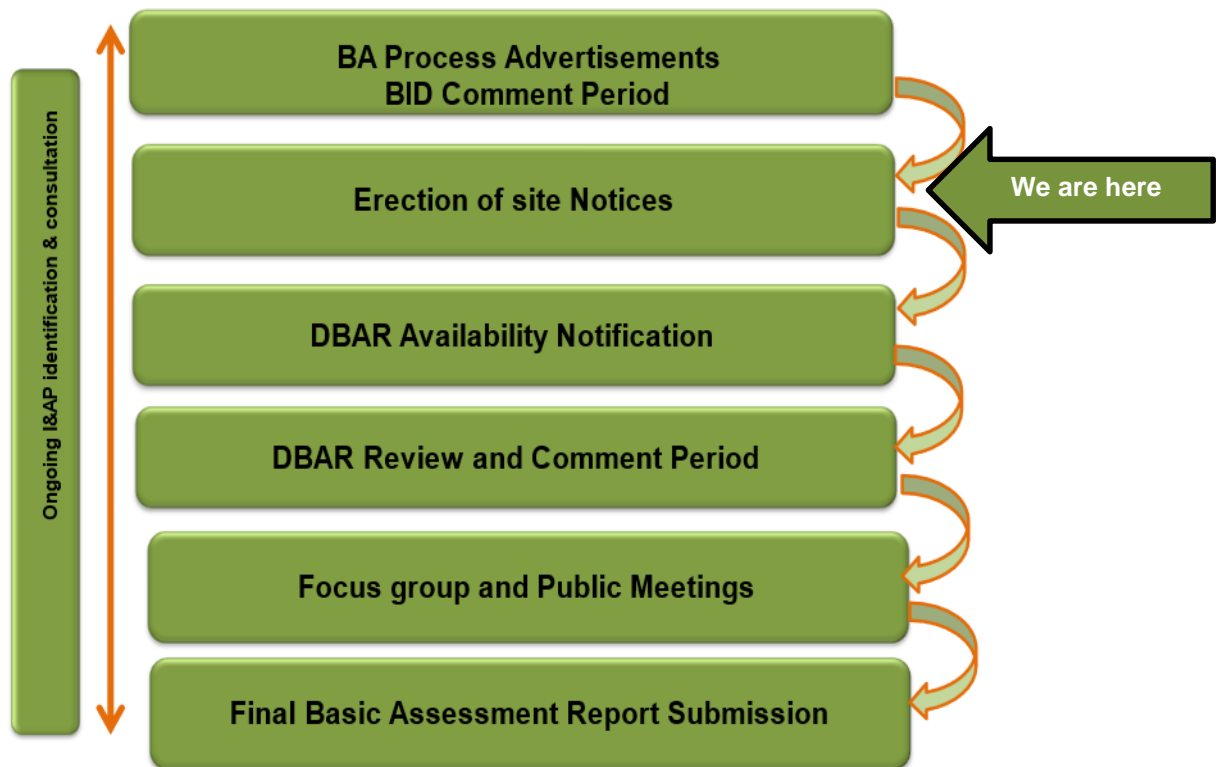


Figure 3: Public Participation Process for Basic Assessment

#### 4.2 What is a Water Use Licence Application?

The Water Use Licence Application is undertaken in accordance with the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations, 2017(amended), promulgated under the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998). The NWA was created in order to ensure the protection and sustainable use of Water Resources in South Africa.

A WULA is required when an activity falls under Section 21 of the National Water Act, which identifies 11 different water uses that require authorisation. These include taking water from a resource such as rivers, dams, or boreholes; storing water in reservoirs or dams; impeding or diverting water flow in a watercourse; and engaging in streamflow reduction activities like commercial afforestation. Other regulated uses involve controlled activities such as irrigation with wastewater, discharging waste into a water resource, and disposing of waste in a manner that affects water bodies. Additionally, activities such as altering the bed, banks, or course of a watercourse, removing or discharging groundwater, and using water for recreational purposes may also require a licence.

Therefore, the proposed project also involves the impeding of the stream /river or diverting of the flow of the river as well as altering the bed, banks of a watercourse, which will trigger Section 21 (a), (b), (c), (f) and (i) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), as promulgated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1998.

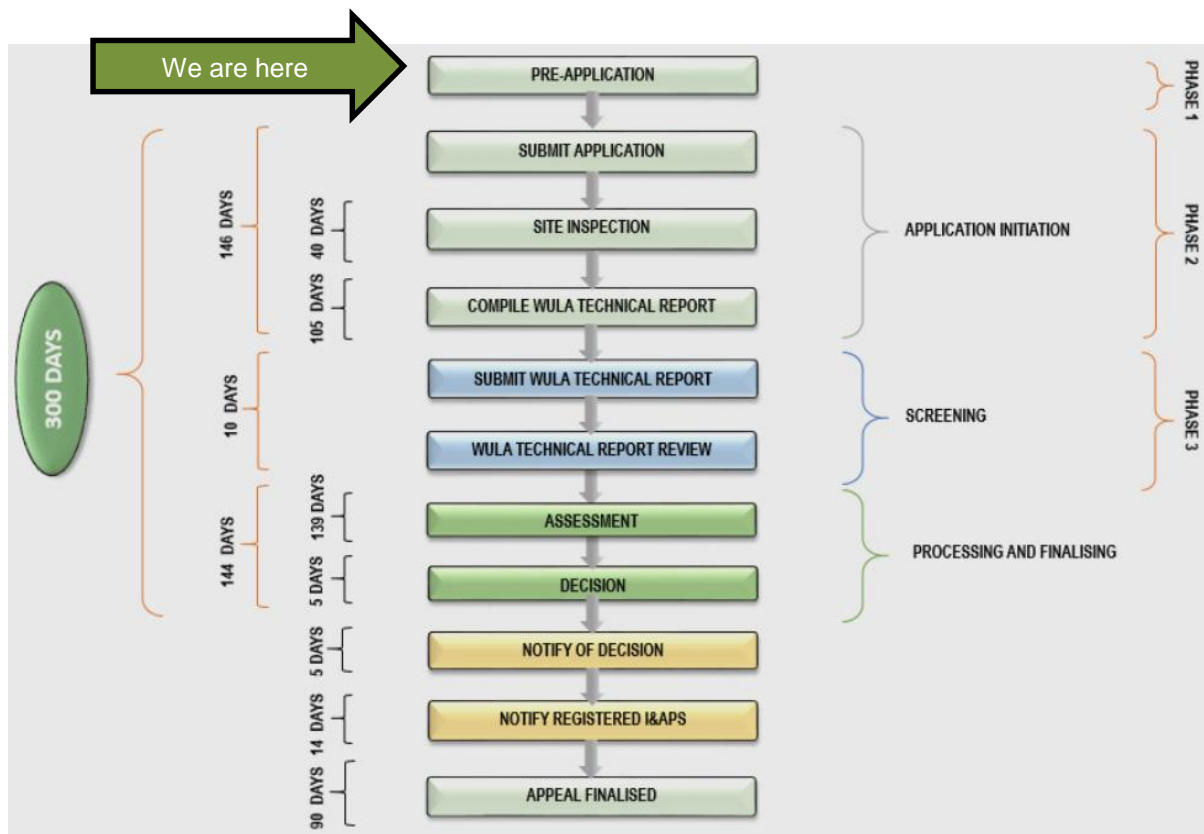


Figure 4: Water Use License Process

## 5. LISTED ACTIVITIES IN TERMS OF THE EIA REGULATIONS, 2014 as amended, and NWA (Act 36 of 1998)

In terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), a legal framework is provided for the regulation of activities that may have a significant impact on the environment. This framework mandates that such activities must be assessed and authorised through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process before they may commence. These activities are referred to as "listed activities" and require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the relevant competent authority. The listed activities are detailed in Government Notices 327 (Listing Notice 1), 325 (Listing Notice 2), and 324 (Listing Notice 3).

In addition to the above, Section 41(1)(a) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) is also applicable. Therefore, the proposed development triggers several listed activities under the above-mentioned legislation and must be assessed accordingly.

Table 2: Listed Activities Triggered by the Proposed Development

Environmental Authorisation	Water Use License
<b>Government Notice No. 327 of 2017(as amended)</b>	<b>National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)</b>
Listing Notice 1: Activities – 9, 10, 13, & 19	Section 21 (a) – taking water from a water resource
<b>Government Notice No. 324 of 2017(as amended)</b>	Section 21(b) – storing water
Listing Notice 3: 12(a), 14(a)	Section 21 (c) – impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course.
	Section 21 (f) – discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit
	Section 21 (i) – altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse;

## 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process during the BA & WULA phases will enable I&APs to influence the course of the technical investigations and to review the findings of the independent studies that are undertaken. The environmental consultants will correspond directly with registered I&APs at various stages during the process to keep them informed of progress in the study and the timing of opportunities to be involved. The steps in the public participation process are outlined below:

- Letters of invitation accompanied by this BID and comment sheet to be distributed to adjacent landowners within 500m radius from the area of the proposed development and alongside or proximity of the route, key individuals and organisations, announcing the project and inviting their comments.
- Placing an advertisement in Local newspaper (Go! Express) announcing the proposed project and providing an opportunity to comment.
- Site notices will be erected at strategic places along the property in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, to announce the project.
- Key stakeholders in the area will be informed by telephone, e-mail or facsimile.
- All issues received from stakeholders will be captured in the Comments and Response Report (CRR), which will be used to screen and prioritise issues for evaluation.

## 6.1 Your comments are important.

Your comments will ensure that all relevant issues are evaluated in the BA and WULA phases. You are requested to complete the enclosed registration form and comment sheet. Use the contact details below in this document to make any comments or raise issues.

## 6.2 How to become involved

- Respond (by phone or e-mail) to our invitation for your participation, which has been advertised in the printed media.
- WhatsApp, fax, or e-mail the attached Registration and Comment Form to Selahle CP;
- Contact us telephonically should you have a query, comment or require further project information.
- For more information about the project scan the QR code.

By completing and submitting the accompanying registration and comment form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, ensuring that your comments and/or concerns raised regarding the proposed project will be noted. The public participation consultants will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the project:

### Selahle Consultancy & Projects Pty Ltd

Contact Person : Sibongile Hamisi / Bothale Phiri  
Tel No : 011 026 2560  
WhatsApp No : 079 569 5277  
Fax No : 086 532 0398  
Email : [ppp@scprojects.co.za](mailto:ppp@scprojects.co.za)  
Postal : P. O. Box 1059, Halfway House, 1685



### **6.3 Next Step**

Interested and Affected parties should register on or before **Monday, 30 March 2026**, in the first round of Stakeholder engagement to raise issues about the proposed project. The next step is the release of the draft BA Report, which will detail the project, baseline conditions of the affected area, and the issues and concerns raised so far. It will also describe how the report will address the concerns raised. Copies of the report will be placed in public venues for review. Registered I&APs will be informed where to review the report and will be given 30 days to comment on the report.

Information regarding public meetings and the review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available at your earliest convenience. If you wish to raise any initial issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, or if you would like to register as an I&AP, please contact the Public Participation office as detailed above.