

Water Use Licence Application for the Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works Background Information Document

Purpose of the Document

This Background Information Document (BID) provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information on the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) being done by Phelamanga for Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works in the vicinity of Tongaat.

This BID provides I&APs with the opportunity to register as stakeholders in this process; and comment on the Water Use Licence Application. The purpose is to identify and evaluate potential impacts, to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts. The decision-making authority for the WULA is the Department of Water and Sanitation.

You will be included in the stakeholder database and receive further documents for review and comment/s. Your comments will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated. To raise your concerns complete the attached comment sheet, write a letter, call or email us. All documents will be available on the internet at www.phelamanga.co.za or via email through the Phelamanga office.

Phelamanga Contact Details

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Background

Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works is situated to the east of Tongaat in a spur in a meander of the uThongati River (Fig 1). Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works provides waste water treatment for effluent from the Tongaat area. The present works was designed and constructed in 1983 with a design capacity of 3Ml/d. It was upgraded to 6 Ml/d in 1987 and serves the Tongaat Central area and developed area to the north. The Tongaat Wastewater Treatment Works site is surrounded by agricultural land used for sugar cane farming with some informal settlement to the North West of the site.

Proposed Project

eThekwini has identified that the Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works requires a Water Use Licence to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation. eThekwini has recognised a need to expand the capacity of the treatment works to meet the growing demands of the area including service to the development surrounding the airport and the further development and growth anticipated in the area. The City also needs to plan for long term future development in the catchment.

Water Use Licence Application

In order for eThekwini to lawfully continue with the proposed Water Use, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) requires a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) to be submitted. In terms of the National Water Act (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998), the National Government, acting through the Minister of Water and Sanitation, is the public trustee of South Africa's water resources, and must ensure that water is protected, used, development, conserved, managed and controlled in a sustainable and equitable manner for the benefit of all persons.

The Minister is responsible to ensure that water is allocated equitably and used beneficially in the public interest, while promoting environmental values. Government, acting through the Minister, has the power to regulate the use, flow and control of all water in South Africa.

Water Use Licence Application Process

- Uses to be licensed

In terms of the National Water Act the following water uses pertaining to this application require licensing under the following sections of the Act:

Section 21 (c): Impeding or Diverting the Flow of Water in a

Watercourse; (this relates to any construction near to a wetland or a 100 year floodline)
 Section 21 (f) discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit; (this relates to the discharge of treated effluent into the river)
 Section 21 (g) disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource; (this relates to the operation of a treatment works which has the potential to impact surface and underground water) and
 Section 21 (i): Altering the Bed, Banks, Course or Characteristics of a Watercourse.(this relates to any construction near to a wetland or a 100 year floodline)

- Public Participation

The public participation process is designed to elicit a joint effort by stakeholders to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently. The primary aim of such a process is to facilitate better decision-making.

The following activities will be utilised in the public participation process towards the application of the WULA:

- Advertising: Public notice in local newspapers;
- Contacting stakeholders, notifying them of the process;
- Documenting all correspondence within the Draft Technical Report; and
- Notifying stakeholders when the Water Use License is issued.

- Draft Technical Report

The Draft Technical Report includes, amongst others, the following:

- Project Description;
- Environmental Status Quo;
- Quantitative Risk Assessment;
- Integrated Environmental Management;
- Monitoring systems;
- Operational Management; and
- References and Specialist studies

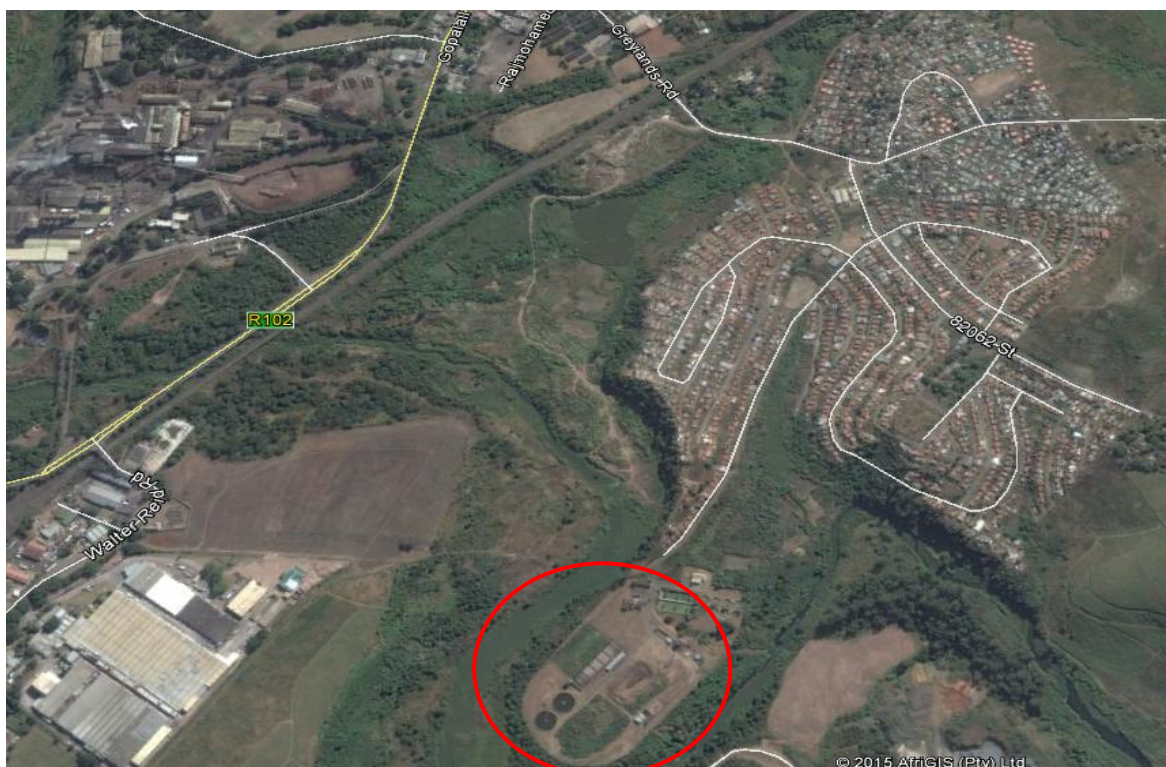


Figure 1 Tongaat Waste Water Treatment Works

**Water Use Licence Application
for the Tongaat eThekweni Waste Water Treatment Works
Registration and Comment Form**

KINDLY COMPLETE THIS FORM IN DETAIL AND RETURN IT TO:

Rose Owen
Phelamanga

Telephone: 031 767 5821
Email: rose@phelamanga.co.za

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Title: First Name:

Surname:

E-Mail:

Telephone: Fax:

Organisation (if applicable):.....

Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc):

Physical Address:.....

Town:

Code:

Postal Address:

Town:

Code:

1. What is your main area of interest with regards to the proposed project?

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2. Do you have any points of concern or support regarding the proposed project?

If "yes", please briefly list these in point form:

YES	NO
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3. Are there any additional stakeholders who you feel should be consulted with regards to the proposed project?

If "yes" please list their names and contact details below:

YES	NO
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