

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (12/12/20/978) FOR
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's
GROOT LETABA RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (GLeWaP)
INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS**

EIA Public Participation Office
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10 July 2007

Dear Stakeholder

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (12/12/20/978): PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS OF THE GROOT LETABA RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(GLeWaP)**

- **Invitation to register as an interested and affected party**
- **Invitation to provide initial comment**

For many years the Groot Letaba River Valley has experienced growing water needs for domestic, industrial and irrigation use. The degradation in the conservation status of the river has also been a concern. A Feasibility Study, to investigate these needs was conducted in 1998. The recommendations made during these feasibility studies took stakeholder contributions into account.

As a result of the study, it was proposed that the following be undertaken: construction of a large dam on the Groot Letaba River at the Nwamitwa site, downstream of the confluence of the Nwanedzi River, realignment of the roads to accommodate the dam, and construction of bulk water pipelines and pump stations from the dam for water supply for domestic and industrial use in the area. The raising of the Tzaneen Dam wall was also proposed.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) is reviewing the water supply needs of this area and post feasibility bridging studies are being conducted to confirm whether the recommendations made previously are still relevant and how they should be taken forward. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) aimed at obtaining environmental authorization for the proposed recommendations is being undertaken.

With the positive support of the Limpopo Provincial Government and the recognition of the importance of the proposed project by the Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, in a recent budget speech, the Post Feasibility Bridging Studies phase in the project lifecycle is firmly on its way.


Recommendations included construction of infrastructure components, as well as non-infrastructure interventions. These are outlined in the **enclosed** Background Information Document.

Environmental authorization in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations under Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No 107 of 1998) and other legislation is required before the infrastructure components of the project may be implemented. Therefore, an environmental authorization process commenced in May 2007 and will continue until the last quarter of 2008. The environmental decision-making authority is the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), in close collaboration with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. Scoping and the Environmental Impact Assessment will be conducted according to the provisions of the National Environmental Management Act and its associated Regulations (copies are available from the public participation office).

We welcome you to become involved in this process. We would appreciate receiving your registration as an interested and affected party and your initial comments by 31 July 2007. Please feel free to distribute the information to friends, colleagues or other people whom you think may be interested in participating in this EIA.

Please call either myself or Wilhemina Mosupye at telephone (012) 254-4855/4905, facsimile (012) 805 2100 or email aodendaal@zitholele.co.za / wmosupye@zitholele.co.za should you require any further information.

Sincerely



ANELLE ODENDAAL,
Public Participation Office for the GLeWaP Infrastructure EIA