

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environmental Scoping Studies undertaken in the Scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Groot Letaba River Water Development Project have fulfilled the NEMA regulatory requirements and extensive measures have been taken to provide all interested and affected parties with the opportunity to participate in the identification of project alternatives and issues that require investigation.

The Scoping investigation has confirmed that the proposed project, together with supporting non-infrastructure components is the preferred option for providing improved water management to meet increased domestic, socio-economic development and ecological requirements in the catchment.

Although the studies have not identified any environmental fatal flaw issues, a number of potentially significant issues have been highlighted for further investigation in order to assess their significance, and to determine the need for the implementation of mitigation measures in order for the overall project to be environmentally sustainable. These issues are the potential impacts on:

- the quantity and quality of river flows;
- terrestrial ecology;
- social processes;
- economic processes;
- infrastructure;
- public health; and
- heritage resources.

The impacts of construction activities should also be assessed.

It is, therefore, recommended that the following specialist studies be conducted for the proposed project in the EIA Phase:

- Aquatic Ecology;
- Terrestrial Ecology;
- Heritage Resources;
- Social and Landuse processes;
- Health impacts;
- Economic processes;
- Traffic impacts;
- Noise impacts;
- Air quality impacts; and
- Visual impacts.

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