

### Direct Re Use of Sewage Effluent to potable water

Feasibility study recommended that effluent from the Northern and Kwa Mashu sewage treatment works be further treated to a potable water standard and be discharged directly into the aquaducts supplying the northern areas from the Durban Heights water treatment works

EIA draft basic assessment report has been completed and will be published for comment next week

Limited response – both positive and negative – UNTIL a 5000 signature objection petition received in August.

There is a 30 day period for comment on the draft basic assessment report during which period there will be a meeting with the facilitator of the petition. If necessary a public meeting will be held.

Notwithstanding the above there is still a decision to be made whether to proceed based on an assessment of costs and risks

"Currently, South Africa disposes of unthinkable amounts of waste containing fresh water into our rivers, estuaries and ultimately the sea, often to the detriment of these vital water resources. South Africa is a water-stressed country and likely to become increasingly so...this is further exacerbated by the growing demand for fresh water across all sectors. The benefits of recycling wastewater are many. However, sewage recycling is a somewhat controversial subject in public discourse, often eliciting a response known as the 'ick factor.' Logically, most of our drinking water is recycled – considering water is extracted from the same rivers that treated (and sometimes untreated) effluent is discharged into. **Drinking recycled water is a fact of life.** The only difference between the status quo and eThekwin's proposal to recycle wastewater is that, instead of abstracting waste-containing river water, existing wastewater streams will be treated. **Water is the limiting factor when we consider basic human needs,** urban expansion, service delivery, development, economic upliftment and ultimately job creation and job sustainability. **We simply cannot afford to continue flushing our water resources down the loo.'**

~ Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa,

In Ukwandile spring 2012, a joint publication of the

KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs

and the Oceanographic Research Institute