



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MZIMVUBU WATER PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

APPENDIX B6:

ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

FINAL VERSION 2

February 2015

DEA REF No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/677 (Dam construction application)

14/12/16/3/3/2/678 (Electricity generation application)

14/12/16/3/3/1/1169 (Roads application)

Compiled by:



Subsidiary of **NAKO**
Group

Date	Version	Supporting
June 2014	Draft Version 1	Draft Scoping Report
July 2014	Final Version 1	Final Scoping Report
October 2014	Draft Version 2	Draft EIR
February 2015	Final Version 2	Final EIR

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFM	Authorities Forum Meeting
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEDEAT	Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
DM	District Municipality
DPE	Department of Public Enterprises
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
DSR	Draft Scoping Report
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FGM	Focus Group Meeting
IPP	Independent Power Producers
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
JSS	Junior Secondary School
MWP	Mzimvubu Water Project
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEMBA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PM	Public Meeting
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RAP	Relocation Action Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TOPS	Threatened or Protected Species
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

MZIMVUBU WATER PROJECT: ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

The Mzimvubu Water Project is an integrated multi-purpose (domestic water supply, agriculture, power generation, transport, tourism, conservation and industry) project and provides a socio-economic development opportunity for the region. The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is to assess the components of the project that are listed activities by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) for which the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has the mandate and intention to implement. The EIA process will provide the information that the environmental authorities require to decide whether the project should be authorised or not, and if so then under what conditions.

ILISO Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner to facilitate the application for the Environmental Authorisation and to undertake a public participation process.

Purpose of this report

This report provides a formal and integrated record of all the issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) at the meetings or by letters, e-mails or telephone and the responses provided by the Department of Water and Sanitation and technical team during the public participation process up to 12 January 2015.

Structure of report

Comments received have been divided into categories for ease of access (**Chapter 3**) as follows:

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Please note that the spelling of the town Laleni, as published in the previous version of the Issues and Responses Report has changed to Lalini. Additionally, the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has subsequently been changed to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). These have both been amended in this document.

Authorities Forum Meetings (AFM) and Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings

The following AFM and PSC Meetings have taken place (date in bracket indicates the date that minutes were distributed):

No.	Date	Place	Type of Meeting
1.	16 April 2014	East London Golf Club (29 May 2014)	PSC
2.	28 May 2014	East London Golf Club (9 June 2014)	AFM
3.	16 June 2014	East London Golf Club (3 July 2014)	PSC
4.	28 August 2014	East London Golf Club (2 October 2014)	PSC
5.	14 October 2014	East London Golf Club (21 January 2015)	PSC
6.	4 December 2014	East London Golf Club (21 January 2015)	AFM
7.	27 January 2015	East London Golf Club (To be distributed)	PSC

A copy of the minutes are attached in **Annexure i**.

Public Meetings (PM) and Focus Group Meetings (FGM):

The following public meetings have taken place (date in bracket indicates the date that minutes were distributed):

No	Date	Place	Type of Meeting
1.	14 May 2014	Siqhungqwini Junior Secondary School (3 June 2014)	PM
2.	15 May 2014	Tsolo Town Hall (3 June 2014)	PM
3.	16 May 2014	Lalini Junior Secondary School (3 June 2014)	PM
4.	30 September 2014	Nyandeni Local Municipality	FGM
5.	27 October 2014	Traditional Authorities ()	FGM
6.	27 October 2014	Mhlontlo Local Municipality ()	FGM
7.	27 October 2014	Elundini Local Municipality ()	FGM
8.	24 November 2014	Thambekeni: Headman MtheThunzima's household	PM
9.	24 November 2014	Mpetsheni Church	PM
10.	25 November 2014	Shukunxa	PM
11.	25 November 2014	Ngxoto	PM
12.	26 November 2014	Tsolo	PM
13.	26 November 2014	Siqhungqwini	PM
14.	27 November 2014	Lalini	PM
15.	27 November 2014	Lotana	PM

16.	28 November 2014	Shawbury	PM
17.	28 November 2014	Siqikini	PM

A copy of the minutes are attached in **Annexure i**.

Documents made available to stakeholders

The following documents have been distributed to registered I&APs and placed on the DWS website during the public participation process:

No	Date	Report
1.	24 April 2014	Background Information Document (English and isiXhosa)
2.	9 May 2014	Draft Scoping Report
3.	9 May 2014	Summary of the Draft Scoping Report (English and isiXhosa)
4.	13 June 2014	Final Scoping Report
5.	15 July 2014	Approval from DEA of Scoping Report
6.	24 November 2014	Draft Environmental Impact Report
7.	24 November 2014	Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (English and isiXhosa)

Written submissions

A copy of all written submissions are attached in **Annexure ii**.

2. SUMMARY OF THE KEY ISSUES

The key issues that have been raised are summarised below. The detailed comments received are recorded in **Chapter 3**.

1. The dams will store water that would previously have flowed down the Tsitsa River into the Mzimvubu River, and ultimately through the estuary to the sea. Some water will be abstracted from the dams for primarily, domestic and agricultural use. Other water will be released from the dams for power generation in a way that alters the natural flow regime. At some times the rivers will therefore have less water than natural and at other times they will have more. Changes to the flow regimes in rivers, especially where potentially sensitive areas, such as the Tsitsa Falls and associated pristine gorge downstream of the proposed Lalini Dam as well as the Mzimvubu estuary, could impact on the aquatic and riparian ecosystems and associated ecosystem services provided by the rivers. The impact of the proposed altered flow regimes in the rivers on the **aquatic and riparian ecosystems** therefore need to be assessed.
2. The Mzimvubu Project is located in a part of the country that currently experience severe soil erosion with associated high **sediment** levels in the rivers. Concern has been raised that this condition will cause the dams to silt up, reducing their yield and affect the functioning of the works (e.g. abstraction and water treatment). Impacts on the river channel and water quality immediately downstream of the dams where water carrying less sediment than when entering the dam is released are also envisaged.
3. When a dam is constructed the land that will be inundated by water will be permanently altered and the current functionality will be lost (and replaced with a lake). The proposed dams (both Ntabelanga and Lalini Dams together) are expected to inundate approximately 10.34 km² of wetlands as well as grassland and savannah habitats, man-made structures, roads and powerlines. The plants and animals that currently depend on the river, wetland, grassland or savannah habitats will either have to move/be moved to use other resources or will die. The significance of this **ecological impact** needs to be assessed.
4. Some people are currently living and providing for their existence from the resources in the areas that will be inundated by water or replaced by infrastructure. These families will have to be **relocated** to new homes and **compensated** for their loss of livelihoods. This is usually a socially disruptive and personally traumatic experience that needs careful attention and management.
5. The Mzimvubu Water Project is expected to cost R 12.5 billion. The **financial and economic viability** has been questioned. Financial viability implies the project is evaluated at market prices. Economic viability implies that the project is evaluated at prices which reflect the relative scarcity of inputs and outputs. The main purpose of this project is to contribute to the development of an impoverished rural area of the Eastern Cape by making water available to the area. The investment by government must therefore be evaluated against the background of the projected contribution to social and economic development. A project of this nature may make economic sense, but not be affordable. In such a case government's continuous grants and subsidies may be necessary. The EIA study is not the right vehicle to determine financial viability and affordability. An economic cost benefit analysis (ECBA) was therefore done as part of this EIA and not a financial cost benefit analysis. The funding of the project is an important issue and during this analysis it became clear that it will take up to 10 years to attain maximum production from the irrigation scheme and possibly financial profitability. Financial viability can only be attained by grant funding on an annual basis without any repayment pre-conditions. The high poverty levels in the project area are such that it is improbable that more than 10% of the domestic users will be able to pay for the water. Therefore, a long term annual subsidy will have to be provided for. The Lalini Dam Hydro-Electricity Generation is financially viable and can be funded by loans.

6. The specific area of the Eastern Cape Province has a large untapped **agricultural potential**. Any agricultural development based on commercial principles will, however, be faced with a number of stumbling blocks. These include the problem of land ownership, shortage of management skills for commercial farming, available markets, and support structures such as production inputs and funding.
7. A large infrastructure project of this nature will result in an influx of people and consequently increase the demand for municipal services such as water, electricity, roads, sewerage, housing and social services (clinics, schools etc.). This will place a significant burden on an already over-extended **Local government**.
8. There is a need for better roads in the study area. **Road upgrades** are especially welcomed by communities.
9. As some roads and bridges will be inundated by the dams, new bridges and road realignments will be required. This will influence travel routes, distances and travel times. Where the proposed realignments will result in significant increases in **travel times and distances** (e.g. travelling from the villages north of Ntabelanga Dam to Maclear), alternative routes must be provided in order to maintain or improve the current level of service in the areas concerned.
10. Community members recognize that this project has the potential to generate opportunities for **employment**. Community members requested that **skills development** programmes be implemented in the area before construction commences so that the recipient communities can equip themselves to take up these opportunities. Community members also requested advise on **what courses/qualifications** at what institutions would be best to embark on to prepare themselves for the upcoming opportunities.
11. The objective of this project is socio-economic development of the region. The requirements of the NEMA EIA regulations include that an EIA consider alternative activities that will achieve the same objective. Because the mandate of the DWS is water resources development and management. No non-water related projects / use of the financial resources (R12.5 billion) were assessed in the EIA. The return on investment of any non-water socio-economic developments have not been compared to this project.

3. ISSUES AND RESPONSES

The comments and issues received from I&APs are recorded in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Issues and Responses

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
1. Design and Implementation				
1.1 General				
1.1.1	How does the naming of the project work and why is it named Mzimvubu.	14.05.2014	Mr Sigenu Siquhungqwini JSS PM	The two multipurpose dams are located on the Tsitsa River. The Tsitsa River is a tributary of the Mzimvubu River. This project takes its name from the Mzimvubu River Catchment in which it is located. The Mzimvubu Local Municipality is, however, not affected. The object of the project is to stimulate socio-economic development in the Mzimvubu Development Zone, as defined by the EC Provincial Government, and so the scope of the feasibility study covered the whole catchment. At the beginning of the investigations it was not known which dam sites would be the best to meet the project objectives, and so it was not possible to limit the investigations to the Tsitsa River catchment alone.
1.1.2	Has the new N2 been taken into consideration in the design of the project?	28.05.2014	Cecilia Gyan (Department of Environmental Affairs) AFM	The new N2 will be much further south-east of the existing one, and will not be impacted by the project. The dams will also not impact on the existing N2.
1.1.3	An enquiry about the new or upgraded bridges was made.	28.05.2014	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs) AFM	Access roads and existing bridges in the vicinity of the proposed dam sites and basin will need to be upgraded. Two bridges crossing the Tsitsa River will have to be demolished and relocated or raised.
1.1.4	At each dam there will be a waste water treatment works. Why is this needed or what is it for?	27.06.2014	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group) via email	The infrastructure associated with the dams includes accommodation for operational staff. The Waste Water Treatment Works are relatively small facilities that treat the effluent from these households and offices.
1.1.5	When will construction of the dam start?	16.04.2014	Mr Fukutwa	The Department of Water and Sanitation is planning to

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	When will this construction commence?	27.11.2014	Lalini JSS PM Lotana	start construction (DWA to provide new date). This will be dependent on obtaining the environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs. This authorisation is a legal requirement and needs to be obtained before construction can commence. Mr Mugumo stated that the technical feasibility study has just been completed and the Environmental Impact Assessment is currently underway. The law requires the Department of Water and Sanitation obtain Environmental Authorisation before construction can commence. The public will have an opportunity to appeal the decision made by the Department of Environmental Affairs, after which the Department of Water and Sanitation will commence with the implementation. It is anticipated that construction will commence towards the end of 2015.
	When will the actual construction would start, because during the meeting in May 2014 they were told that construction would start this year? What had changed that had caused construction not to start this year?	27.11.2014	Lalini	
	What about the timeframes for implementation?	27.01.2015	Paul Chilton PSC Meeting	
1.1.6	Assurance was requested that this project would start on time.	16.04.2014	Mr Ngamlana Lalini JSS PM	There is commitment from Government to start this project as soon as possible. The timing, however, depends on when authorisation is obtained. If there are complex appeals lodged against the project then this may delay the authorisation. Land ownership and compensation issues will be addressed during the EIA and implementation phase. The planning investigations have been done in two parts: (1) the Feasibility study, which has taken three years and should finish by January 2015; (2) The Environmental Impact Assessment is planned to finish by the end of February 2015. This may, however, require more time if there are any appeals made that need to be addressed. It is anticipated that authorisation should be in place around April 2015, after which implementation can start. The implementation stage is expected to take approximately 6 years and will include the design, construction and commencement of the dam. This may take longer since there are two dams and bulk water infrastructure. The ideal plan is that the dams are commenced in 2021.
	Stakeholder explained that this project is long overdue. In 1959 a group of people came to investigate the Tsitsa River, at Qamata. The project was subsequently aborted due to land ownership and compensation issues. He expressed his hope that this project does not get cancelled again.	09.06.2014	Justice Sigenu (Resident) via fax	
	What is the estimated implementation start date?	27.10.2014	Chief Mabandla Traditional Authorities FGM	
	When will construction commence?	24.11.2014	Chief Matiwane Mpetsheni Church PM	
	The team was thanked for the presentation and the interpreter for his assistance. He stated that most	26.11.2014	Chief Mabandla Siqhungqwini	

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	<p>people are interested in when construction will commence.</p> <p>It was stated that during the meeting in May 2014 they were told that construction would start this year. It was asked what had changed that had caused construction not to start this year.</p> <p>It was requested that the new bridge be built and is functional before the old bridge is inundated.</p> <p>Most people are interested in when construction will commence.</p>	<p>26.11.2014</p> <p>27.11.2014</p> <p>24.11/2014</p>	<p>Community Member Siqhungqwini PM</p> <p>Community Member Lalini PM</p> <p>Chief Matiwane Mpetsheni Church PM</p>	<p>The requirements of the law state that construction cannot start until all the environmental authorisations have been granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The Environmental Impact Assessment is done in order to comply with South African legislation, and it is anticipated that the Environmental Impact Assessment process will be completed around February 2015. The Department of Environmental Affairs will then make a decision to give authorisation for the construction and then the public will be given an opportunity to appeal this decision. If there are difficult decisions then the construction process may be delayed, otherwise it is anticipated that implementation will commence around April 2015, which includes the detailed design, and construction may begin towards the end of 2015. This project has been classified as a strategic project and it is being driven from the presidential infrastructure co-ordinating commission. Because this is a strategic project a very tight program was given in order to put pressure on the Department of Water and Sanitation, unfortunately the tight program could not fit within the requirements of the South African law. Funding from National Treasury can only be released once this Environmental Authorisation has been received. This is why we have not been able to live up to the promises made in May 2014. Implementation will commence as soon as the environmental authorisation has been received.</p>
1.1.7	<p>How will completion of the tertiary infrastructure be aligned with completion of the bulk infrastructure? Will there be a way for communities to access water while construction is taking place (through boreholes for example)?</p>	28.05.2014	<p>Mzandile Mbokwana (OR Tambo District Municipality) AFM</p>	<p>Construction will start at the Ntabelanga Dam site first, as the dam will take longer to build than the pipelines. It will be possible for communities to be supplied from other sources in the interim, but these sources will not be looked at by the Department of Water and Sanitation as they fall outside the mandate of the Department.</p>
1.1.8	<p>What is the construction period?</p>	28.05.2014	<p>Siboniso Mbense</p>	<p>A 3-year construction period is an indicative period for each dam. Construction may start at different times for</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
			(Department of Environmental Affairs) AFM	each dam. Other construction activities can run in parallel if there is enough capacity. This will be looked at in more detail in the detailed construction programme.
1.1.9	How much time will it take for the dams to fill up?	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	Without releases, it will take about 1.5 seasons of average rainfall (the dam is 1.5 times the mean annual runoff from the catchment). The dam will not, however, need to be full in order to start supplying water.
1.1.10	Will secondary infrastructure be constructed by the Department of Water and Sanitation?	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	The intention is that the Department of Water and Sanitation constructs the primary and secondary water supply pipelines and for the District Municipalities to construct the tertiary water supply pipelines. The EIA will cover the primary and secondary domestic water supply infrastructure and the raw water supply system up to field edge of irrigated agriculture. However, the ecology, economic and social studies take into account the proposed irrigated agriculture and change in land use and are seen as impact (consequence) of the project.
1.1.11	It was asked that the stages be completed before the summer rains start.	09.06.2014	Justice Sigenu (Resident) via fax	Scheduling of construction work will take into account the disruptions of the rainy season.
1.1.12	It was asked why the sod turning, on 11 April 2014 was not done in the area where the Ntabelanga Dam wall is being constructed.	14.05.2014	Community member Siphungqwini JSS PM	The conditions of the existing roads make the Ntabelanga Dam site difficult to access. Once this project starts, the roads will be improved, making access easier and safer. The opening of the dam will therefore be done at the dam wall site.
1.1.13	What wards in the Nyandeni LM will be impacted by the project?	30.09.2014	Nyandeni Local Municipality FGM	Only Ward 1 in the Nyandeni Local Municipality will be impacted by the Mzimvubu Water Project. This will include new access roads, a power line from the hydropower plant, below the Tsitsa falls as well as a new flow gauging weir.
1.1.14	The two dams have a combined storage capacity of 640 million m ³ but what are the yields and assurance levels? What size will the WTW and WWTWs be?	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	The storage capacity of the proposed Ntabelanga Dam is 490 million m ³ with a yield of 240 million m ³ . This dam can supply the domestic and irrigation water requirements (60 million m ³) with a 99% level of assurance. The

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				<p>remainder of the yield will be released to Lalini Dam for hydropower generation. The preferred option for the proposed Lalini Dam has a storage capacity of 232 million m³. The yield of this dam is not relevant as it is intended to be operated as a balancing dam for hydropower generation only.</p> <p>The WTW at Ntabelanga Dam is planned for a capacity of 102 000 m³ per day. The WWTW's at the two dams are planned to treat effluent from the operators housing and office complex and will be sized during implementation.</p>
1.1.15	<p>The justification that a dam needs to be built in the Mzimvubu Catchment because it does not have a dam seems a rather poor project starting point and seems ill considered. However, accepting that water services are urgently required (which is the actual justification) and that a dam needs to be constructed to provide these services, of the 539 000 people are going to receive water benefits from Ntabelanga Dam, how many are currently receiving water services? Does Ntabelanga Dam really need to be this big?</p>	15.10.2014	<p>Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission</p>	<p>The communities in the Mzimvubu catchment currently receive water from a large number of small schemes and other local sources (boreholes, etc.). These water supplies are not reliable and the schemes are difficult and expensive to maintain. The proposed regional water supply scheme (from a single source) is therefore favoured by the district municipalities. Information on the actual number of people receiving water services could not be reliably ascertained.</p> <p>The proposed capacity of the Ntabelanga Dam makes efficient use of the available water resource to also provide water for hydropower generation, which can provide a substantial income for the project.</p>
1.1.16	<p>Who will be in charge of the management of the dam during operation?</p>	27.10.2014	<p>Mr Ngeketho Mhlontlo Local Municipality FGM</p>	<p>The Department of Water and Sanitation are still in discussions with the key role players in order to put in place the institutional arrangements. Once this is done discussions regarding operation and control of different aspects of this project will commence.</p>
1.1.17	<p>A gentleman asked where the dam would be built as he is unsure if the land that he uses will be affected.</p>	24.11.2014	<p>PM zhambekeni: Headman MthetThunzima's household</p>	<p>This project is still in the planning phase. Once the project has been approved then a team of people will come and mark off the affected area on the ground with white pegs/stones. The consultants that will implement the project will further consult with the Chiefs, Headsmen and Ward Councillors to discuss affected structures, graves</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				and grazing land and to prepare a plan to move the affected people. The principle is that no-one should be worse off after the project than they were before. Only once this has happened will the affected people be directly consulted with about their houses and the proposed replacement houses. This process can only commence once the inundated area has been confirmed and marked off on the ground.
1.1.18	<p>What is total area of the dam?</p> <p>Where will the dam be built.</p> <p>It was asked how big the Ntabelanga Dam would be and where the dam would end.</p>	<p>25.11.2014</p> <p>25.11.2014</p> <p>26.11.2014</p>	<p>Chief Mabandla Ngxoto</p> <p>Mr Mango Shukunxa</p> <p>Community Member</p> <p>Siqhungqwini</p>	The Dam would be 40 km ² and the Ntabelanga dam wall would be 67 m high and hold 490 million litres of water, making it the 10 th largest dam in South Africa once completed. The location of the Dam has not yet been marked on the ground. The dam wall location is far from Shukunxa, near Siqhungqwini and the water will then flood in the direction of Shukunxa. The construction closest to Shukunxa will be upgrading of the roads.
1.1.19	Concern that information given later will differ from what was presented at this meeting.	25.11.2014	Shukunxa	Noted.
1.1.20	It was asked how the attendance had been at the other meetings as there was poor attendance in the Tsolo meeting. She stated that this project is a good initiative for the OR Tambo District Municipality. meeting arrangements.	26.11.2014	Ms Siwahla Tsolo	<p>There has been very good attendance at all the previous meetings, with the following amount of attendees per meeting.</p> <p>Thanbekeni – 46</p> <p>Mpetshehi – 33</p> <p>Shukunxa – 47</p> <p>Ngxoto – 41</p> <p>Tsolo – 4</p> <p>Siqhungqwini – 46</p> <p>Laleni – 68</p> <p>Lotana – 72</p> <p>Shawburry/KuNotsweleba – 2</p> <p>Siqikini – 43.</p> <p>The Chiefs and headsman as well as the Ward Councillors have been involved with the meeting</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				arrangements.
1.1.21	It was asked how far the supply area would be from Tsolo.	26.11.2014	Ms Siwahla Tsolo	The supply area line, as shown on the maps has not been finalised, this is just for the planning of the project.
1.1.22		26.11.2014	Chief Mabandla Siqhungqwini	<p>This project is currently in the planning phase. Only once environmental authorisation is obtained can the project be implemented. The Environmental Impact Assessment is still in progress and is expected to be completed in February 2015. Once the reports have been finalised and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs then they will make a decision according to the South African law. It is expected that a decision will be received in April-May 2015. An appeal period must then be allowed for the final decision. Once authorisation is obtained then the Department of Water and Sanitation will start implementation. The implementation phase starts with the detailed design of the project and it is anticipated that construction should commence by the end of 2015.</p> <p>Contractors will be appointed to build the dam and the Contractor will be required to employ as many local people as possible. Some jobs may be very specialized and these people will need to be brought in from other areas. The recommendation in the Environmental Impact Assessment is that the Department of Water and Sanitation and all other departments involved start planning what skills may be required and that they initiate training to prepare the local people to enable them to do the work when it becomes available.</p>
1.1.23	Which roads will be upgraded/	26.11.2014	Chief Mabandla Siqhungqwini	Roads to be upgraded have been identified as is shown on Figure 20 in the FEIR. Other roads may be upgraded at a later stage. Funding has been provided to upgrade roads directly affected by this project, however the Department of Water and Sanitation will motivate at a later

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				stage to get additional funding to upgrade roads that are not part of the project. The road from the R396 through to Somersville will be upgraded up until the dam wall. The existing bridge will be underwater but a new bridge will be built downstream of the dam wall.
1.1.24	What size will the dam be?	26.11.2014	Community Member Siqhungqwini	The classroom that the meeting is taking place in is about four metres high, the dam wall would be about 15 times this classroom and that the top of the wall would be 450 m wide. The Lalini Dam will be smaller than the Ntabelanga Dam. The height of the wall is counted from the river bed and not the banks.
1.1.25	It was asked where the Lalini Dam would be.	26.11.2014	Community Member Siqhungqwini	The Lalini Dam will be between the N2, going towards Qumbu and the Tsitsa Falls.
1.1.26	What will the age limit for employment be?	26.11.2014	Community Member Siqhungqwini	The age limits stipulated by the labour laws of South Africa.
1.1.27	Will people be allowed to sell food and have stalls during construction?	27.11.2014	Community Member Lotana	This will be allowed.
1.2 EIA Process				
1.2.1	What is the difference between the footprint of the project and the water supply area?	28.05.2014	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water and Sanitation) AFM	The footprint in terms of the EIA refers to the area that will be directly impacted by the physical infrastructure components of the project. The water supply area is the area in which people will receive water as a result of this project.
1.2.2	Reference is made to 'Presidential launch' of the project – does that mean the decision has already been made, irrespective of the EIA findings?	11.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	The sod-turning that occurred in April 2014 is not viewed as any kind of Environmental approval and all the usual environmental authorisations will still be required before any construction activities can commence.
1.2.3	The Government have already indicated that the dam is going forward. How much will this influence any outcomes of the EIA? Will it be possible to come with a different view from what has already been	27.06.2014	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group) via email	The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is undertaking the EIA in compliance with all of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Regulatory

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	published by Government? There has already been a sod turning even though the community had not yet been consulted for this development. The President's speech on the 17 June 2014 reiterated that the dam is going ahead. That is why I wonder whether the EIA processes will truly influence the government's decisions.			requirements. The EAP and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), who are the environmental authorising authority, do not consider the project to have commenced until a Contractor has been appointed and physical construction has commenced. The potentially affected communities and authorities have been consulted about the proposed development (see Chapter 7: Public Participation of the FEIR).
1.2.4	Why is the EIA being fast-tracked? Under whose legal authority?	11.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	<p>While the EIA is indeed being fast-tracked, all the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, including Scoping and all the public participation requirements, are being met. The fast-tracking refers only to the time within which the reports are being produced, the Department of Water Affairs is reviewing and approving them, and the competent authority is reviewing them. There has been no compromising of any of the specialists' studies. In order to achieve this, however, some of the specialist studies had to commence (at risk) before the Scoping Report had been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Should the approval of the Scoping Report and plan of study for EIA include any conditions that affect the specialist studies these will have to be addressed at that point in time?</p> <p>Our instruction, as the EAP, to fast-track the project in this manner, comes from the applicant, who is the Department of Water Affairs. Fast-tracking in this context must be understood to mean the avoidance of unnecessary delays.</p>
1.2.5	When will the permits and licences be obtained.	28.10.2014	Mayor Leys Elundini Local Municipality FGM	EIA investigations are expected to be completed by February 2015. Once the reports are submitted there will be an appeal period and, depending on the complexity of the appeals received, there could be further delays. If there are no major appeals all permits should be in place by April 2015.

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1.2.6	The landscape in the project area was put together by a certain logic embedded in a certain culture(s). Cultural mapping is needed to show how people living in the area view their village and the broader landscape. The viability of the project will be reduced to nothing if communities oppose the proposed use of the land for the dams and associated infrastructure. The approach adopted in the EIA must be about more than livelihoods and structures, it must also consider the fact that the land has significance. That information is missing from the EIA. A better understanding of the risks is necessary upfront.	04.12. 2014	Tony Williams ECLGTA Authorities Forum Meeting	This was the view that the team adopted and this is reflected in the Relocation Policy Framework. The project will have a very high impact on communities within the area and part of that impact will be negative, regardless of the mitigation implemented.
1.2.7	Have all the organs of state that been consulted and know they will need to play an active part in the project and had committed budget to undertake the tasks that will fall upon them.	27.01.2015	Isa Thompson PSC Meeting	Part of R12.5bn budget allocated to the project would be allocated to the District Municipalities to build the tertiary infrastructure. The institutional arrangements will nonetheless have to be resolved as a priority.
1.3 Alternatives				
1.3.1	The EIA is not assessing any possible activity alternatives in the construction of the dam, and the justification is that the money comes from the Department of Water and Sanitation and they do not have the mandate to implement other types of development projects. I, however, differ with this view. The Department of Water and Sanitation could: a. Construct smaller dams. Improve water infiltration by improving vegetation cover in the catchment to provide more volume and quality with improved winter flows. Then the extraction from those small dams will be more sustainable. This improvement of filtration will mitigate	27.06.2014	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group) via email	The technical feasibility study has looked into options of building smaller dams vis a vis the project objectives of supplying as many households as possible within economic reach of the dams, maximising the development of irrigated agriculture, developing hydropower for local consumption on the scheme as well as excess energy for revenue generation to improve the economics of the scheme, employment creation and above all socio-economic development of the area. On the technical side of the analysis, the potential sedimentation into the newly created reservoirs worked against smaller dams that could easily be silted up, thereby shortening the useful life of the project. Catchment rehabilitation and management is

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	<p>against big floods that are prevalent in this area.</p> <p>b. With improved underground water reserves (based on a. Above) develop boreholes in villages which will provide more quality water.</p> <p>c. Change from dam provision to provision of rain-fed tanks.</p>			being implemented as part of the broader development in the catchment and also in direct support to the project. However, catchment management is not a mandate of the Department of Water and Sanitation, and so the Department has no real control of what should be done and when to improve infiltration capabilities of the country's river systems. Besides the issue of mandate, the real problem with the catchment is not insufficient stream flow, but rather soil degradation and the concomitant threat of sedimentation.
1.3.2	<p>What is the development alternative that will be considered? What about alternatives such as smaller schemes that can achieve the same, but without the requirement of two fairly large dams, close together, on a single river that has ecologically important and sensitive areas. Are there no alternatives that can achieve the same but without the environmental consequences that this proposed development will have? Is one large conjunctive scheme really the best utilisation of the water resource? At what cost to the environment and society? Should the alternatives not be smaller schemes, considering an array of water resources (and not only a single water resource), not be the alternatives? Is the Lalini hydropower scheme really the best possible use of the water resource?</p> <p>Having peak load versus base load as the only alternatives for power generation seems too narrowly defined. The environmental consequences of hydropower, whether base load or peak load, may be significant. The question that needs addressing is whether hydropower really is the best energy producing option. Should real alternatives, such as wind power, not be considered as true project alternatives?</p>	<p>15.10.2014</p> <p>15.10.2014</p>	<p>Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission</p> <p>Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission</p>	<p>Ground water could be a cheap source of water for the villages if the yields and quality are confirmed, but it will not address the objectives of the project especially socio-economic development of the area. The district municipalities will still likely continue to develop groundwater to supply those communities that cannot be reached by the project and other developments in the area. Isolated boreholes scattered throughout a wide area have been found by district municipalities (confirmed by Amatola Water at PSC meetings) to pose huge operational challenges. It is important to note that the development and operation of village boreholes is the mandate of district municipalities and not the Department of Water and Sanitation, although the Department can provide support where possible.</p> <p>Rain water harvesting will not, meet the project objectives as presented above. A rain water harvesting programme can be implemented in complementarily with the Mzimvubu Water Project. The two are not exclusive.</p>
1.3.3	Mike Muller produced a report for the ECSECC, in which the risk of a single large dam development	22.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water)	

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	<p>seems to outweigh those of several small scale water supply options, and is being used to support the proposed development. And may, in fact, also provide the answer for why “no-alternative” scenario is being considered. But no details on the report are provided – just that small scale alternatives were considered versus a single large development. But there is no indication of their scale, nor how any of those alternatives relates to existing water supplies and proposed developments (e.g. Sidwadweni): could any of these be expanded to provide the level of water services that this single large dam will provide (at what environmental, social and financial costs). Are there medium-sized developments that could be considered alternative options? Is groundwater an option in this area, did Muller’s report address this?</p>		via email	
1.3.4	<p>How did the Ntabelanga Dam go from 33 million m³ in the Feasibility Study to the current 490 million m³ that is being considered in the EIA? If the current size was not considered in the Feasibility Study, then how can this possibly have become the preferred option? The total high demand for Ntabelanga is 22 million m³/a. At the dam size of 33 million m³, it had a 98% reliable dam yield of 26.8 million m³/a (which also caters for sediment allowance). The Ntabelanga Dam option was the only one considered further for hydropower in a conjunctive scheme with Lalini Dam: so then how was this conjunctive scheme considered as the best option when similar options were not considered for the other two dam sites? When the environmental screening was done for the Ntabelanga Dam site, that was based on 33 million m³. Would the Feasibility Study have come up with a different outcome if the 490 million m³ was assessed</p>	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	<p>The three development options (dam sites) were investigated during the Phase 1 Preliminary study to decide on a preferred option, which was investigated to feasibility level detail in Phase 2 of the study. The latter included the investigation of the smaller dam for water supply only and the larger dam for the conjunctive scheme. The feasibility study however found that the conjunctive scheme is the preferred development option which defined the components for the EIA study.</p> <p>The Ntabelanga Dam is the storage dam for the conjunctive scheme. The other two alternative sites for a storage dam, which were investigated during the preliminary study, were found to be less favourable options. This means that they would remain less favourable when considered for a conjunctive scheme.</p>

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	instead?			
1.3.5	This proposed development is a massive capital investment. I get that it is a fait accompli (certainly, the water supply dam), having had ceremonial diggings etc. And the pressure is on to get construction going. However, I am concerned that not adequately considering alternatives, or providing sound reasoning for lack thereof, may call the EIA process into question and result in delays down the line.	22.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) via email	The alternative water supply options were adequately considered in the EIA study, together with all the other legislative requirements. The official announcement of the Mzimvubu project has not detracted from the EIA process or presumed to be prescriptive on the outcome thereof. The independence of the EIA process should be evident during a study of the reports. Please refer to the Key issues listed in Chapter 2
1.3.6	Was the site for the dam chosen by the community or by the Department of Water and Sanitation.	25.11.2014	Community Member Ngxoto	This is a very big dam and The Department of Water and Sanitation investigated the entire Mzimvubu River catchment to identify where the topography is suitable to build a dam wall. There were 19 original sites that were looked at where the dam could be built. Some of the most important things that needed to be looked at were where the rock would be suitable to build a dam wall, where the least number of people would need to be relocated and where water could be distributed to the largest possible area. The Ntabelanga Dam wall location was carefully selected based on various conditions. Mr Mugumo added that this project that the Department of Water and Sanitation is implementing is part of a broader program to develop the Mzimvubu Catchment and there may be other projects that are implemented in the catchment in future.
1.3.7	A tunnel should be considered to avoid the environmental impacts associated with the access road to the hydropower plant.	14.10.2014	Paul Chilton PSC Meeting No. 13	A tunnel would be a shorter distance but a steeper road which would be too steep for abnormal loads/vehicles. The cost is also much higher.
1.4 Financial				
1.4.1	Is all the funding in place for this project?	28.08.2014	OR Tambo District Municipality PSC Meeting	There is no allocation for the 2014/2015 financial year but there is for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 financial years. The Director General of the DWS has met with Treasury to discuss this.

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1.4.2	How much money has been released by Treasury towards this project?	27.10.2014	Cllr Mpatane (Mhlontlo Local Municipality)	R18 million has been released for the technical investigations and R9 million for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Lalini detailed investigations. Treasury have also released R450 million over a 10 year period for the Mzimvubu Catchment Rehabilitation Programme. There is another R264 million approved for the 2015/2016 financial year and R430 million for the 2016/2017 financial year. This is the only money that has been released by National Treasury to date. The costs of relocation will be included in the final costs of this project. The project is anticipated to cost approximately R12.5 billion and it is expected that once the Environmental Authorisation has been granted the remaining money will be made available
1.4.3	Who will be responsible for the funding of the farms?	24.11.2014	Community Member Mpetsheni Church PM	National Treasury is the funder. The Department of Water and Sanitation has requested that funding be provided in the form of a grant. The Department of Water and Sanitation has requested additional funding from National Treasury to fund the development of the farms. This funding will cover the day-to-day operation costs of the farms for a period of time, after which it is expected that the farmer will be able to cover the costs.
1.4.4	The Local Economic Development components of the municipalities need to be active in mobilising the Contractors and people to make them ready and prepared to tender for work on this project. The Department of Water and Sanitation will need to confirm that there is space for local entrepreneurs to participate in the construction of this project.	26.11.2014	Community Member Tsolo	Noted.
1.4.5	He enquired about the economic impacts and what the terms of reference for the economist were. In particular, he asked whether the economic impact of the project was assessed in comparison with the economic impacts of other possible projects. In other words, is this the right project for the money spent? This is a pertinent issue regarding SIP projects and	27.01.2015	Dawid Bosman PSC Meeting	This was not assessed. Strictly speaking, looking at alternatives in the EIA should include alternative projects that achieve the same objective (i.e. socio-economic development). However this was not done as the mandate of the applicant (DWS) is to implement water related projects. Such investigations of alternative projects have

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	an answer on this would be of value to the PICC for decision-making.			not been done in other studies, which is a gap and probably a weakness in terms of decision-making.
1.5 Access Roads				
1.5.1	Concern was expressed about the access road to Lalini as it already has potholes. What will be done about this road?	16.04.2014	Mrs Lawana Lalini JSS PM	The road to access the dam construction site will be upgraded. Additional roads in the study area will also be upgraded.
1.5.2	Has provision been made to upgrade the roads as part of the project?	28.10.2014	Cllr Leteba Elundini Local Municipality FGM	The detailed design has not yet been done for this project as it is still in the concept phase. Any access roads that are affected by the dam will be look at as part of the project design. This will become a discussion between the project team and the Municipalities.
1.5.3	What is the long term relationship with the Department of Roads for funding for the maintenance of roads in the area? Roads are much more than they seem as they attract other development. The better the roads the more the associated development. Secondary roads therefore also need to be developed to support the socio-economic development.	13.10.2014	ECSECC Meeting	The roads directly affected by the project (dam basins, access to site, etc.) will be upgraded/ relocated during implementation of the project. Further upgrading or development of roads should be considered and implemented by the Provincial Department of Roads as part of the associated development of the area. This process can be initiated and supported by other role players during the consultative forums which should be part of project implementation. The on-going maintenance of roads and other infrastructure in the area is the responsibility of the provincial government departments and district municipalities.
1.5.4	A new road to connect Siqikini with Lotana and Lalini was requested.	28.11.2014	Siqikini	The new road that is currently proposed does not connect the village to Lotana. The requested road should be considered by the Provincial Department of Roads in consultation with the development plans of the District Municipality during the implementation of the project.
1.5.5	The community cross a river to get across to Lotana. It was requested that a new bridge be built to make it easier for them.	28.11.2014	Siqikini	This will be taken into consideration as part of the mitigation of the project.
1.5.6	As some of the roads and bridges will be inundated by the dams, new bridges and road alignments will			The link road from Siqikini to Lotana should be investigated during implantation in conjunction with the

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	be required. This will influence travel routes, distances and travel times. Where the proposed realignments will result in significant increases in travel times and distances (e.g. travelling from the villages north of the Ntabelanga Dam to Maclear), alternatives routes must be provided in order to maintain or improve the current level of service in the areas concerned. The necessary studies (e.g. traffic study and cost benefit analysis) must be conducted to determine the best way to provide an alternative route/crossing point to Maclear.			Provincial Department of Transport This should be part of the further development of the area to be investigated during implementation of the project.
1.5.7	An enquiry about the recommendation to realign the haul road that will go through Lalini to avoid safety risks and nuisance vs. the long-term benefits of having an upgraded road go through the village was made. If the existing road was upgraded, this could be beneficial for the community after construction. It could also make the dam site accessible to tourists.	27.01.2015	Joseph Macatshaza PSC Meeting	the haul road as it is currently planned goes from the borrow areas to the dam wall construction site through Lalini village. This road is temporary and will be rehabilitated. A recommendation could be to have the haul road bypass the village but also upgrade the existing road through the village.
1.5.8	Road maintenance will be critical.	27.01.2015	Seutloali Makhetha PSC Meeting	This was one of the reasons the Department of Roads and Public Works was present at the PSC: to pick up on these issues and make sure there is cooperation on their part for these aspects of the project.
1.5.9	What about the road upgrades and will the roads would be surfaced.	27.01.2015	Charles Kumbula	The upgraded roads would still be gravel roads.
2. Legal				
2.1	The basis of your waste listed activities seems to be fairly outdated. Are you aware that there were amendments done in November 2013?	27.06.2014	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group) via email	The November amendments to the waste listed activities have been taken into account in the EIR. Please refer to section 2.4.4 in the EIR.
2.2	With regards to additional authorization, please consider National Environmental Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations in respect of protected plants other than	01.07.2014	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	The NEMBA TOPS have been considered in the Fauna and Flora specialist studies. Please refer to section 8.4 in the EIR or refer to the Floral Report in Appendix C(1).

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	trees covered by National Forest Act.			
2.3	<p>The DWS newsletters indicate very roughly that sometime last year DWS made a decision to change from the Thabeng, Somabadi, and Ntabelanga sites to include Laleni because of the hydropower potential. According to previous information Lalini is not great for a number of reasons. Why then was the decision made to include it? If it is purely hydro power then how will this project be enabled? The DWS are not interested in power generation and it is too small for Eskom. If the dam is planned to be built by DWS only to be tendered to IPPs then it is an irresponsible use of public funds.</p>	10.09.2014	Christiaan Bode	<p>Lalini dam site is attractive when developed and operated as part of the conjunctive scheme. The screening table referred to in the query was prepared during the Preliminary Phase when dam sites were assessed individually before the conjunctive scheme option arose. It is thus incorrect to base the suitability of the site on the screening table. Also the Lalini dam site that was assessed at that stage was the bigger dam size originally investigated by Eskom, much bigger than the current Lalini – hence the distorted picture showing high capital cost and high environmental impacts. The poor score on irrigated agriculture is not valid any more since the site is now dedicated for hydropower generation, and so it would not make sense to assess its suitability based on irrigation potential. Low score on job creation is also misleading since Lalini is now coupled to Ntabelanga through the conjunctive scheme, and the score for Ntabelanga on job creation is very high (score of 1). Since the two sites are coupled it follows that Lalini should also score a 1; the score belongs to the conjunctive scheme and not the individual dam sites.</p> <p>The decision was made to investigate the Lalini Dam as a balancing dam and headrace for hydropower generation to be used conjunctively with the Ntabelanga storage dam. Hydropower generation will provide a significant income to subsidise the high energy cost to supply potable and irrigation water to the communities in the supply area. For this reason the hydropower component will not be implemented as an IPP project, but a competent operator will most likely be appointed to operate the conjunctive scheme, including the hydropower plant. The funding model will dictate the ownership structure and no misuse of public funds will be allowed.</p>

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3. Public Participation				
3.1	This is a very large project and the newspapers used to advertise were not sufficient. The Daily Dispatch is recommended to be used for future advertisements. There are not many people in the area that will read the documents provided and it is therefore recommended that the project be announced via the communal radios to announce meeting dates.	15.05.2014	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs) Tsolo Town Hall PM	Additional isiXhosa advertisements were placed in the Daily Dispatch as well as the Mthatha Fever and an English advertisement in the EP Herald. The use of the local radio stations has been investigated and it has been concluded that the Umhlobo Wenene FM is the most commonly listened to station within the affected project area as well as surrounding areas, with a listenership of 4.43 million people. An advertisement will be aired FEIR comment period.
3.2	How do communities in the catchment get involved/what processes are in place to involve them?	11.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	Involvement of the communities has primarily been through the Traditional Authority structures and Ward Councillors in the affected areas. The Nkosis have nominated local facilitators that have been appointed by ILISO on a contract basis and form an integral part of our public participation team. Consultation commenced with an announcement phase during which newspapers adverts were published, on-site notices put up, and hand delivery of both English and isiXhosa Background Information Documents to residents of the villages in the study area, with the objective of making the project known and giving I&Aps the opportunity to register on the database. The public comment period for the DSR took place from 8 May to 9 June 2014. During this period, public meetings were held in key locations in the study area as advised by the Nkosis. English and isiXhosa copies of a Summary of the Scoping report were distributed to the public at these meetings. Additionally, full sets of the documents were available at six venues (four in the direct study area, as well as copies in Mthatha and East London as some of the municipalities and other government agencies are located in these towns), and on the Department of Water and Sanitation website.
3.3	Concern was expressed about efficiency of the consultation process with the tribal authorities.	13.06.2014	Qondile Paliso (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	
3.4	The traditional leaders for the areas need to be included in the process. Identifying key stakeholders should be done with care and a clear plan for engaging stakeholders needs to be put forward as the stakeholders are the ones who could delay the project. All NGO's should be engaged with and their comments included from the beginning of the project. There is a protocol through the Traditional Affairs and they should be informed to assist with informing the public.	16.04.2014 15.05.2014	PSC Meeting Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs) Tsolo Town Hall PM	
3.5	It was asked where hard copies of the draft Scoping Report were available for the local people to review.	15.05.2014	Mrs Silo (Department of	Hard copies of the DSR were left at the following venues

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				<p>27 November 2014 – Lalini 28 November 2014 – Shawbury 28 November 2014 – Siqikini</p> <p>Due to the fast-tracked schedule for this project, due to its national importance, there was insufficient time to visit all the neighbouring villages. It was requested that Mr Madasa's details be given to ILISO Consulting so that contact with him can be made.</p>
3.7	Mzimvubu Dam stands out as a project that will not only affect the life of people where construction will take place, but it also stands to unlock the economic potential of this region as well for the entire resident population of our district. As such, a transparent consultative process that is opened to informed inputs from all interested stakeholders would assist raise pertinent strategic questions, and provides answers.	09.05.2014	Zandisile Kanise Email	The public participation process for this EIA aims to be transparent and all inputs from I&AP's are considered.
3.8	Has the Mzimvubu Catchment Forum been engaged with?	28.05.2014	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water and Sanitation) AFM	The Mzimvubu Catchment Forum are registered I&APs.
3.9	Concern was expressed that no meetings have been held in the upper part of the Ntabelanga Dam catchment. That area is not part of the water supply area.	28.05.2014	D.C. Lourens (Joe Gqabi District Municipality) AFM	
3.10	How do the Authorities Forum meetings related to the other public participation activities, such as the stakeholder forums?	11.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	The Authorities Forum was established at the request of the Department of Environmental Affairs with the primary objective of expediting input to the EIA process and specifically to comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports to enable the Department of Environmental Affairs to undertake their reviews timeously. For this project two meetings coincide with the public comment period for the

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				draft reports took place. At these meetings the possibility of extending the scope and duration of the Forum was proposed, but this falls outside of the EIA mandate. For the EIA the Forum meetings are being dealt with as part of the public participation process, so minutes are included in the PPP records and issues and comments captured in the Issues and Responses Report. The other usual public participation activities including public meetings in the study area, as documented in the Scoping Report, to consult with other I&As are being conducted.
3.11	It was stated that nobody approached Mhlontlo LM which is directly affected while a presentation was made to Nyandeni LM. This creates the wrong impression. In future the Mhlontlo LM should be invited to participate.	14.10.2014	Mayor Giyose PSC Meeting No. 13	The first round of consultation included a meeting at the Mhlontlo Municipal office in Tsolo and all municipal officials on the database had been invited. Social facilitators have been appointed to disseminate information in smaller villages around the Ntabelanga and Lalini Dams. Focus Group Meetings were also held with representatives of the Mhlontlo and Elundini Local Municipalities, as well as the Traditional Leaders and the Ward Councillors of the towns that have been identified as being directly affected by the project. A second public meeting was held with Tsolo on 26.11.2014
3.12	Sustaining community engagement is critical to the success of the project. The communities should be made ready for this big project through participation and engaging with them from an early stage will make them appreciate this project.	26.11.2014	Mr Motsilili Tsolo	Noted.
3.13	Any concerns submitted be acknowledged and that a note of receipt be smsed so that that the people know that their concerns have been added.	26.11.2014	Community Member Sihungqwini	Noted.
3.14	In the past the Environmental Impact Assessment process has been frustrating as the Department of Environmental Affairs take a long time to make decisions. It is much appreciated that the team consulted with the authorities early in this process as this will prevent future complications. The traditional	28.10.2014	Mayor Leys Elundini Local Municipality FGM	Noted.

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	leaders are a very important component of the rural social structure and it is therefore important that they are included in all phases of this project.			
3.15	When will the next meeting be?	24.11.2014	Community Member Mpetsheni Church PM	There were various meetings around the project area. All the comments and concerns raised at the public meetings have been considered in the Final Environmental Impact Report and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs. There will not be any more meetings for the EIA as there will not be any new information available. Once a decision has been made by the Department of Environmental Affairs, advertisements in the newspaper will be published and notification letters will be distributed among the communities to let the people know the decision. The next meetings will only happen when the Department of Water and Sanitation appoints new consultants to start implementation of the project. This will be in the second half of 2015.
4. Social				
4.1 Social implications				
4.1.1	Will the residents of the area would benefit from this project?	14.05.2014	Community member Sihungqwini JSS PM	Residents will benefit as drinking water will be supplied to the community. The project will also generate jobs. Please refer to Section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR and the Social Impact Assessment in Appendix C(7).
4.1.2	Would the young people receive training for the construction of the dam in order for them to apply for jobs as part of this project?	14.05.2014	Community member Sihungqwini JSS PM	The Contractor will be in control of this but that it has been noted and would be added as a recommendation to the Department of Water and Sanitation. Please refer to Section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR. The Social Impact Assessment report is available in Appendix C(7).
4.1.3	Clarity was requested about permanent and temporary job creation. Job creation will improve the livelihood of the community.	16.05.2014 09.06.2014	Mr Ngxiti (Resident) Nkomeka Somagu	Jobs will be created during the construction of the dam and associated infrastructure, however, these will only be for the duration of construction. Once construction has finished then there will be other jobs related to operation

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	Where will the people getting jobs come from and what skills development will take place?	30.09.2014	via fax (Resident) Lalini JSS PM Nyandeni Local Municipality FGM	of the dams and agriculture that would be permanent. The Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme will also create additional employment for the communities. Please refer to section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR. The Social Impact Assessment report is available in Appendix C(7). The Department of Water and Sanitation have a policy to promote and maximize the job opportunities to the local people as well as provide work for local companies, this will be addressed in the procurement process. The construction activities require various components, the dam wall for example is a specialised area, however, the construction of operation staff housing and upgrading of roads, to mention a few, could easily be sourced to local Contractors. As for the quarries, there are certain Environmental Impact Assessment recommendations and quality requirements and quarries have been identified within the dam basin that meets these requirements. If there are existing licensed quarry facilities that meet the quality standards they would be considered to assist with supplying material for the dam wall. the economist had provided projections in terms of the distribution of labour, looking at both dams, the primary and secondary water distribution infrastructure, roads as well as electrical infrastructure, during construction and during operation. The figures can be found in the Economic Impact Assessment. Projections for permanent jobs had been made and are available in the Economic Impact Assessment. As far as the irrigated agriculture component of the project is concerned, it is predicted that 1300 direct jobs will be created on the farms.
	A question was asked about the construction activity related to the building of the dam walls. It is good that many jobs will be created. Will the local people would get priority and where will the construction material come from?	26.11.2014	Ms Siwahla Tsolo	
	What about the distribution of labour?	27.01.2015	Ray Mandy PSC Meeting	
	What about permanent jobs.	27.01.2015	Isa Thompson PSC Meeting	
4.1.4	Majority of the youth in the area are unemployed. Will this project provide work for the youth so that they do not spend all their time drinking alcohol?	09.06.2014	Mphumli and Nokamwaba Ntshongwana (Residents) Ntombifuthi Nonkenka (Resident) via fax	
4.1.5	The youth need to be first priority as they suffer the most.	27.06.2014	Pumza Mbatu- Khan (Resident) via fax	
4.1.6	Will people within the community be allowed to rent their houses to the Contractors/construction workers during the construction of the dam?	14.05.2014	Community member Siqhungqwini JSS PM	The Contractors, who will be appointed for construction of the project, will be responsible to arrange accommodation for their staff, which includes renting suitable houses within surrounding towns and villages. Depending on the

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				demand, community members could rent out their houses to the construction workers.
4.1.7	Cold wind will come off the dam. This will affect the people living close to the dam site.	16.05.2014	Mr Nomanqina (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	Changes to the microclimate occur near a large water of body, such as a dam as it has greater heat capacity than the ground and absorbs greater heat because of the increase of evaporation. This process of evaporation can contribute to a decrease in the air temperature as well as increase the humidity of the surroundings, however, it has also been known to reduce extremes in temperatures, stabilizing average daily temperatures. Although this is a relevant issue, these changes in micro-climate are expected to be small and therefore are not significant impacts to landuse or 29ccommodate.
4.1.8	I wish you to consider geohydrological impacts.	01.07.2014	Sizekele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	Groundwater levels adjacent to reservoir inundations may rise due to recharge, improving yields of existing boreholes. Boreholes located close to river channels downstream of Ntabelanga Dam might suffer a reverse effect due to slightly less average river flow. However, this is not expected to be a major problem as most settlements are well away from the river banks. In some cases the new water supply system to be constructed will replace existing groundwater supplied schemes (if deemed to be a better solution), some of which have boreholes which in the past proved to be problematical and unreliable.
4.1.9	In line with social impacts consider the possible influx of people for jobs as this may have implications for the municipality (services, etc).	01.07.2014	Sizekele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	Please refer to section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR. The Social Impact Assessment report is available in Appendix C(7).
4.1.10	The fill-and-draw dams proposed may be problematic. People and cattle will move to the dam to collect water, this will be difficult if the edges are muddy. Access points should be included for cattle and people to access the dam safely.	28.08.2014	Isa Thompson (Department of Water and Sanitation PSC Meeting	Please refer to section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR. The Social Impact Assessment report is available in Appendix C(7). One of the recommendations of the EAP is that access to water for stock watering be provided.
4.1.11	How will this project impact on tourism and	16.08.2014	Mzimkulu Msiwa	This will be addressed in the Sustainable Water Utilization

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	recreational activities in the area?	28.08.2014	PSC Meeting Andrew Lucas PSC Meeting	Plan for the dams which will be compiled by the DWS at a later stage. Please refer to section 9.5: Social Specialist findings in the EIR and to the SIA in Appendix C(7) for further information.
4.1.12	Maximising benefits of the project could include development for harvesting of animals and associated infrastructure. Has this been considered?	28.08.2014	Andrew Lucas PSC Meeting	Maximising the socio-economic benefits of the project will require all spheres and branches of government to actively improve and support the capacity of the receiving environment.
4.1.13	Stakeholder stated that the down-stream communities who use the river for various purposes need to be considered, there are no bridges so any stream flow changes can significantly impact on them. This links to flooding due to climate change and dam management/operations. In Mthatha the Dam opening during the 2013 April floods negatively affected the downstream land users.	01.07.2014	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	The influence of the project on access across the river has been investigated to maintain the status quo. New bridges to replace those inundated by the dam basins are part of the project infrastructure. The operation of the dams is planned to release the environmental water requirements (low flows in winter and dry periods) which should not significantly affect downstream users. The dams will not have gates for large releases and therefore large floods will pass through the dams, which will decrease the flood peak slightly.
4.1.14	Future development around the dams will result as a knock-on effect from the development of the dams. There will be a migration of people to the area. Has an area been set aside for industrial and urban settlement and development?	28.08.2014	Andrew Lucas PSC Meeting	The capacity of the receiving environment has been identified as a risk of this project and, all spheres and branches of government will have to co-operate to ensure that opportunities are not missed and negative impacts are not consequent.
4.1.15	How do we define/distinguish between skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs?	13.10.2014	ECSECC Meeting	Skilled jobs require specialist training and qualification, such as a telecommunications technician. Unskilled jobs require very little training and no formal qualifications. (A) Highly skilled.- Highly skilled work employee is one who does the work which involves skill or competence of extra-ordinary degree and possesses supervisory ability. (B) Skilled.- Skilled employee is one who is capable of working independently and efficiently and turning out

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				<p>accurate working. He must be capable of reading and working on simple drawing circuits and process, if necessary.</p> <p>(C) Semi-skilled.- Semi-skilled employee is one who has sufficient knowledge of the particular trade or above to do respective work and simple job with the help of simple tools and machines.</p> <p>(D) Un-skilled.- Un-skilled employee is one who possesses no special training and whose work involves the performance of the simple duties which require the exercise of little or no independent judgement or previous experience although a familiarity with the occupational environment is necessary.</p> <p>A skilled job means there is a need for formal training or a degree in the roles of the profession. Such as a doctor, teacher, or a plumber. An unskilled job is a job where no training is required, such as a cashier at a grocery store.</p> <p>In South Africa we combine A and B.</p>
4.1.16	Although the level of water services provision from this project appears to be at a basic level, there will be consequences of the increased water services delivery, namely the inevitable requirements for water sanitation services. When, where and how will this be addressed?	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	District Municipalities were closely involved with the planning process for this project and it is expected that they will use this information to feed into their planning processes for other related services such as sanitation.
4.1.17	What of the impacts of separating communities? Communities becoming separated from their schools, community halls and churches? Either as a consequence of permanent inundation, but what about daily inundation due to changes in flow regime for hydropower generation: crossing rivers is perilous as it is.	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	It is planned to replace affected road crossings and affected communities will as far as possible not be separated from community halls and churches during relocation. Informal crossing of the river should not be significantly affected by releases for hydropower generation as these releases will comply with the EWR.

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	What will the impact of the dams will be on the flow regime.	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	
4.1.18	It was suggested that villages that would be affected should have undergone a cultural mapping in order to understand how the space is seen by the locals.	13.10.2014	ECSECC Meeting	This was the view that the team adopted and this is reflected in the Relocation Policy Framework. The project will have a very high impact on communities within the area and part of that impact will be negative, regardless of the mitigation implemented.
4.1.19	There are currently plants near the river that are being used by the community for trade (making brooms and mats etc.). It was asked if this had been considered by the team.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	This has been taken into account and will be further discussed when the relocation of people commences. This is to be included in the report and included in the implementation of the project.
4.1.20	Will there be a sanitation component to this project?	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	Sanitation is the responsibility of the District and Local Municipalities. This project would provide the water for sanitation facilities, but it is not the responsibility of the Department of Water and Sanitation to provide sanitation facilities.
4.1.21	It was asked what would happen to the access bridge.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	The existing bridge will be under water, the Department will, however, build a new bridge below the dam wall as well as new roads and upgrade roads to provide access.
4.1.22	It was stated that the community will be disadvantaged because of the lack of access to the bridge and the distance will be further.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	A new road will be built to the new bridge. The team will determine the distance from this village (Shukunxa) to Tsolo and Maclear to investigate if it would be further and make sure that the people can get to the main towns.
4.1.23	The community stated that the bridge and the roads must be built before the old bridge is flooded and that proper consultation with the communities will be needed before the new bridge is built.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	The new roads and bridge will be built before the dam floods as they must provide the people with access.
4.1.24	Will people need certificates to prove they have skills to be employed to work on the construction of the dam.	26.11.2014	Community Member Siqhungqwini PM	Mr Mugumo stated that the Department of Water and Sanitation would consult with other government departments to find out what the requirements are. Mrs Calmeyer stated that the recommendations, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment is that the government make certain skills training available to the community so

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				they can be prepared to work on the project. Mr Mugumo added that a letter of reference would also be sufficient as proof of skills.
4.1.25	Who would recruit the people?	27.11.2014	Community Member Lotana	The Department of Water and Sanitation will appoint engineers to do the detailed design and will appoint a Contractor. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to hire people to work on the project. The Department of Water and Sanitation will have requirements for the Contractor that they need to give preference to people from the local areas.
4.1.26	It was asked when construction would commence? What job opportunities would be available? Job priority should be given to the wards that the project is taking place in.	28.11.2014 28.11.2014 28.11.2014	Community Member Siqikini Community Member Siqikini Community Member Siqikini	Construction is expected to start near the end of 2015. The technical study was finalised in October 2014, and the Environmental Impact Assessment is currently underway. This process is stipulated by South African law and only once this has been completed and authorisation has been received will implementation commence. Mrs Calmeyer added that a Contractor will be appointed for the infrastructure construction of the project. This company will employ people to do the work for them, and the Department of Water and Sanitation will stipulate that preference be given to local communities for .
4.1.27	There has been a decline in some areas of the Eastern Cape since the 1960s, and the youth are leaving because they do not see a future there. Consideration needs to be given as to how development integrates and addresses these social, economic, as well as environmental aspects.	04.12.2014	William Mullins Economic specialist AFM	The aim of the Mzimvubu Water Project is the social upliftment and development of this area of the Eastern Cape. During and after the implementation of this project, further associated development needs to be initiated and implemented by the various role players in the province.
4.1.28	Water had never been a catalyst for development. It is incorrect to state that socio-economic development is the main objective of the project and this associate water provision with economic development. She stated this was a fatal flaw.	27.01.2015	Isa Thompson PSC Meeting 14	Tony Moore indicated that the Eastern Cape provincial government viewed the development of water resources in the Mzimvubu catchment as a catalyst for development and this is what underpinned their request to DWS to consider the Mzimvubu Water Project.
4.1.29	Assuming job creation is an indicator of the economic impact, the cost per job created was calculated and	27.01.2015	Paul Chilton PSC Meeting 14	That had not been done.

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	compared to other projects.			
4.2 Safety				
4.2.1	Concern was expressed about the young children that will be endangered by the dam. There will be many dangers during construction as well as once the dam is operational, as it would be a large expanse of open water, posing a threat for potential drowning.	16.05.2014	Mrs Nomanqina (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	The construction site will be fenced off during construction as a restricted area, warning notices will be strategically placed around the site and a safety officer will be appointed to manage safety matters on a daily basis according to the safety policy of the Department of Water and Sanitation. Visitors will be escorted around the construction site and provided with safety gear to wear during a tour of the site. The area around the dam wall, and if need be, the dam basin, will be fenced off after construction. If necessary, an education campaign will be conducted to teach the communities about the associated risks. A Sustainable Utilisation Plan for each dam will be developed to address these and other issues. Please refer to the EMPR in Appendix D.
4.2.2	It was asked that the dam be fenced off and closed on top.	16.05.2014	Mr Tshitshi (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	The safety and security policy of the Department of Water and Sanitation has provision for the dam wall and dam basin to be fenced in consultation with the local leadership. The normal practice internationally is not to close the top of the dam.
4.2.3	Stakeholder stated that Safety needs to be addressed in the EIA process.	12.06.2014	Sithembiso Jokazi (Resident) via fax	Please refer to the Social Impact Assessment in Appendix C (7) for Safety of communities and refer to the EMPR in Appendix D for the safety of construction workers.
4.2.4	Stakeholder stated that safety clothing needs to be provided during construction.	11.06.2014	Olivakhe Vakala (Resident) via fax	All construction workers will be required to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. This typically includes safety shoes, a reflective vest, a hard hat, and for some activities, gloves, goggles ear muffs and sunhats,
4.2.5	Concern was expressed about the dam and asked what would happen if the dam overflowed.	24.11.2014	Mr Mzukisi PM Thambekeni: Headsman MtheThunizima' s household	The Dam will spill over the spill way into the existing river. The design of the dam wall will accommodate flooding.

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4.2.6	What safety precautions would be implemented as the dam poses a safety risk for the people, children and animals that could potentially fall in.	25.11.2014	Community Member Ngxoto PM	The Department will build a fence around the dam wall and basin. The safety risks is a problem that has be noted and the Department will need to come up with safety measures. One of these is to create awareness within the communities about the dam. The Environmental Impact Report recommends that areas be developed to allow animals access to drink from the dam.
4.2.7	It was asked if the team was aware of the danger of flooding to the community.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	Part of the design looked at the hydrology of the Mzimvubu catchment and the largest flood possibilities have been considered in the design of the dam.
4.2.8	It was asked what would happen to the water if the dam flooded.	25.11.2014	Community Member Shukunxa PM	The dam wall would be built with a spillway. When the dam gets to a certain level the water would spill over the wall and flow down the river, as it usually would have.
4.2.9	It was stated that there are many existing dongas which are very steep and asked what safety measures would be put in place.	26.11.2014	Community Member Sihungqwini PM	There will be a plan to manage the area around the dam. The dam will have a buffer area that will be reserved for proper management of the dam and to protect the people and animals. Additionally, the Department of Water and Sanitation will fence the dam where necessary in consultation with the people. It has also been recommended that safe watering areas be developed for the people to allow their animals to go to the water to drink.
4.3 Positive Feedback				
4.3.1	I appreciate you letting such a good project in my community, It will help us find jobs opportunities and uplift the standard of living.	01.06.2014 11.06.2014	Siphesihle Magazi (Resident) via email Masibulele Mkona (Resident) via fax	Noted.
4.3.2	Appreciation for the project was expressed. This project will benefit the community, especially with the	14.05.2014	Mr Sigenu (Resident)	Noted.

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	roads being upgraded. The hydropower plant may also, at a later stage, help the community get electricity. The positive benefits seem to outnumber the negatives and this pleases the community.		Siqhungqwini JSS PM	
4.3.3	This project will have positive spin-offs for the area. He looks forward to this project and that he is in favour of it.	15.05.2014	Mr Duma (Resident) Tsolo Town Hall PM	Noted.
4.3.4	The project will be beneficial to the community, in terms of job creation as there is a high number of unemployed youth in the area and will reduce alcohol abuse.	16.05.2014 11.06.2014 11.06.2014 12.06.2014	Mr Tshitshi (Resident) via fax Sive Saunders (Resident) via fax Baxolele Mvubu (Resident) via fax Yolisa Nunu (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	Noted.
4.3.5	The project will assist in relieving poverty and create job opportunities.	09.06.2014 11.06.2014	Kholosa Langabi (Resident) via fax Samkelo Mapotolo (Resident) via	Noted.

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			fax Lulekile Mbombo (Resident) Ntombesibini Nunu (Resident)	
4.3.6	The community will experience growth through the creation of these dams and through water development.	14.06.2014 11.06.2014	Sinniri Jokazi (Resident) via fax Nonzwakazi Constance Sodinga (Resident) via fax	Noted.
4.3.7	This project will help everyone in South Africa, not only the people in the surrounding community. People will also benefit from the jobs that will be created.	09.06.2014	Phatiswa Ntshongwana (Resident) via fax	Noted.
4.3.8	Stakeholder stated he is proud of the project as it will provide the people with better water.	12.06.2014	Zukile Mkhazi (Resident) via fax Samkelo Mapotolo (Resident)	Noted.
4.3.9	Stakeholder expressed appreciation for the project and that it would assist to fulfil the community's need for water for both the households and the businesses. It was asked if permission would be needed in order to utilize water while the EIA is underway.	09.06.2014	Yanga Mthathi (Resident) via fax Tinyiko Mtati	Communities are allowed to continue using existing sources for their domestic water needs including village standpipes, boreholes, springs, streams and rivers. The EIA is only meant for the dams and pipelines, but not existing sources of water.

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			(Resident)	
5. Potential Waste/Pollution				
5.1	Concern was expressed about the chemicals that would be used during construction and how this may affect the community, including livestock and grazing land.	14.05.2014	Community member Siqhungqwini JSS PM	As Part of the EIA, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) has been compiled which states rules and methods that the Contractor must follow with regards to storage and spillage of chemicals. This is in order to reduce the impact on the surrounding land and people. In addition, during construction, river water samples will be taken for testing to make sure that there is nothing harmful in the water. The EMPR is available in Appendix D.
5.2	Inappropriately dumped waste (such as cans and plastic bags) will also pollute the dam and could cause the water pipes to become blocked.	09.06.2014	Sivuyise Mange (Resident) via fax Asanda Zihlwele (Resident) Zukisa Madasa (Resident)	The Environmental Management Programmes applicable to the construction of the dams have waste management requirements that all Contractors must adhere to. These will be monitored for compliance. The EMPR is available in Appendix D.
5.3	A dumping site needs to be created so that waste materials and products can be isolated to one area.	23.06.2014	Vuyelwa Tobi (Resident) via post	
5.4	This project will result in additional water being supplied for domestic use. Has the resultant effluent been considered?	28.08.2014	Nikite Muller PSC Meeting	The project includes the design and construction of the dams and bulk water supply (primary and secondary pipelines) while the tertiary pipelines to water users are the responsibility of District municipalities. The latter are also responsible for waste water treatment and will need to upgrade facilities where necessary.
6. Soil Erosion				
6.1	Soil erosion may be a problem.	09.06.2014	Sivuyise Mange (Resident) via fax	Soil erosion is indeed a big issue in this catchment. The Department of Environmental Affairs has therefore initiated a Catchment Rehabilitation and Management

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6.2	Catchment rehabilitation is “outside the scope of the EIA” – however, soil erosion is a huge issue in this catchment and this is absolutely critical to dam life, so the two cannot be disconnected – how will this be addressed?	11.06.2014	Nick King (NGO) via email	Programme aimed at addressing this and related issues. This project includes the removal of alien invasive species, rehabilitation of eroded areas and other land management exercises. The project has already commenced. Should any activities of the Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme (e.g. the construction of soil erosion abatement structures) require environmental authorisation or a water use licence these are not included in the applications that have been submitted for the dams, and separate EIAs will have to be undertaken for them. There is close liaison between the catchment management and Mzimvubu Water Project teams to focus their initial activities on areas that will most benefit the dams.
6.3	Many dams in the Transkei have been silted up how do you take care of this?	01.07.2014	Sizekele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	A comprehensive catchment rehab and management programme is underway to reduce erosion and sediment deposition. The sizing of each dam’s capacity takes into account the long-term sediment yield that will be trapped in the basin. The proposed dams are much larger in capacity than any of the dams previously built in this region partially for this very reason.
6.4	How will this be monitored and reported on?	27.01.2015	Paul Chilton PSC Meeting	Sedimentation had been taken into account in the design of the dam. Controlling and managing erosion is addressed in the EMPR. The CRMP is a separate project which is managed by DEA. DEA would be responsible for monitoring and reporting on this issue.
7. Relocation and Compensation				
7.1	What will happen to structures (houses) near or within the project footprint?	28.05.2014	Tshililo Vele (Joe Gqabi District Municipality) AFM	The EMPR includes a draft chapter called the Relocation Policy Framework (RPF). The RPF indicates how a Relocation Action is to deal with all impacted houses, graves and lands will be compiled.
7.2	Are there any set measurements regarding the area that would become inundated so that people who	14.05.2014	Community member	A team was sent out on 23 June 2013 to 11 July 2014,

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	may need to be relocated can prepare themselves to be moved.		Siqhungqwini JSS PM	including the local facilitators to identify potentially impacted structures and fields as part of the EIA, in order to determine how big the impact is likely to be.. No negotiations with the occupier or the Chiefs have been done during the EIA. This will be undertaken just before the project is implemented and only then will the individuals affected be communicated with. The policy of Government is that the people that are affected should not be worse off than they are before the project commences. Please refer to the SIA in Appendix C(7) for further information.
7.3	The project will affect the communities, people's homesteads, grazing lands and agricultural fields. What are the plans to compensate for this?	15.05.2014	Mrs Tsama (Department of Environmental Affairs) Tsolo Town Hall PM	
7.4	The land at the site of the Lalini Dam is used as a grazing area. What compensation will be given to the people as they will lose this grazing land?	16.05.2014	Community member Lalini JSS PM	
7.5	Stakeholder asked about the reimbursement for the land and houses that will be affected by the dam. It was asked how this would be compensated for.	09.06.2014	Justice Sigenu (Resident) via fax	
7.6	The following questions need to be answered: What economic opportunities will be unlocked by the dam during implementation, and how local people will be positioned to take advantage of the opportunities? What opportunities will be available during planning and execution of this project – here we have a lot of unemployed graduates – in all fields - who could benefit through internships, short-term employment associated with big companies that would be employed to execute the project? How will the project affect households and communities?	09.05.2014	Zandisile Kanise Email	This issues have been addressed in detail in the Social and Economic Impact Assessments available in Appendices C(7) and C(8) respectively. Generally, the recruitment of labour will benefit the local communities.
7.7	In previous cases, alien vegetation growth that was flooded caused a lot of unhappiness with communities, as the plants were being used by people and because people derived an income from removing the vegetation through, for example, <i>Working for Water</i> . How is this aspect being dealt	28.05.2014 16.06.2014	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs) PSC Meeting AFM	If such plants qualified as a resource that is currently being used, and they are lost, then they will be addressed in the Relocation Action Plan.

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	with in the EIA?			
7.8	<p>How will the homes that have graves be moved? Culturally, a cow needs to be slaughtered to apologise to the ancestors if a grave is to be removed.</p> <p>This area has sections where the ground sinks considerably. It is recommended that this be noted when relocating people. They should not be moved into an area where the ground could potentially sink as this will destroy their structures and pose safety risks.</p> <p>It was asked if Shukunxa would be affected by the dam and what the process would be for the relocation of people and graves.</p>	<p>14.06.2014</p> <p>25.11.2014</p> <p>25.11.2014</p>	<p>Siphesihle Magazi (Resident) via email</p> <p>Community Member Ngxoto</p> <p>Mr Amos Shukunxa</p>	<p>The Environmental Impact Assessment is intended to inform the authorities that must approve the development of the Project which is now at a proposal stage. The Impact Assessment will inform the authorities on, for instance, how many graves will be affected and what processes will have to be followed to deal with that matter. There are various laws that must be complied with when the impact on graves and other cultural and heritage resources is managed during implementation of the project. This happens during the implementation phase, when dams and other structures are constructed, and not during this assessment or preparation phase. Various options are open to the families of deceased persons, whose graves are affected by such development, including relocation of the graves to another cemetery. The relocation process includes exhumation and reburial in close cooperation and after consultation with the affected families. The consultations include agreeing on the processes to be followed which usually include all the traditional customs and rituals which are for the cost of the project. These customs include paying homage to the ancestors which often involve the slaughtering of animals. The project also covers the cost of these animals. If the affected family itself has to be relocated because their house is affected by the project then the graves are usually reburied in a cemetery at or close to their new house.</p> <p>There is no intention of physically touching or removing any graves during the Environmental Impact Assessment which is now being undertaking. It is now only necessary to determine, as accurately as possible, how many graves are affected and to estimate the extent of the work that will be necessary to relocate these graves after detailed social</p>

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				<p>consultations. It is also necessary to estimate the cost of these activities so that a budget can be prepared for purposes of securing the necessary funds for the project. Please refer to section 9.8: Heritage Specialist Findings in the EIR or the HIA in Appendix C(5) for further information.</p> <p>This project is currently in the planning phase, only once environmental authorisation is obtained can the project be implemented. A new team will come and survey the valley and mark off the area that will be affected by the dam, only then will the people know if they will be affected by the water. If anyone's house is affected then these people will be relocated within their current village and the Department of Water and Sanitation will pay for building the new house. A meeting will be held at a later stage with the municipalities, ward councillors, chiefs and representatives of the community to agree on the process for relocation and affected individuals will get a choice over what the house looks like. Likewise, a meeting will be held to discuss the rituals done for graves and the relocation process to be followed will also be discussed. This will only happen, earliest, during the second half of 2015, and this could be further delayed.</p>
7.9	How will people that are directly affected by the project (e.g. houses that will be inundated) be compensated?	30.09.2014	Nyandeni Local Municipality FGM	During implementation the Relocation Policy Framework will form the basis of the Relocation Action Plan to be agreed between the role players and affected communities. During this process it will be agreed how the affected parties will be compensated. The main aim of this compensation is to ensure that communities are in a similar or better position after relocation.
7.10	The loss of land for food production and grazing will be a problem. Will individuals be compensated or will the entire community be compensated? This needs to be done carefully as people will get very upset.	27.10.2014	Chief Veco Traditional Authorities FGM	It will be up to the Traditional Leaders and the Municipalities to help with the arrangements and process of dealing with these sensitive matters.

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7.11	Will there be a formal exhumation of the graves that need to be relocated?	27.10.2014	Chief Veco Traditional Authorities FGM	There are various rules on grave relocation and that it is a long process. The plan is to form a committee within each community to understand which families are connected to the graves that need to be relocated. Negotiations with the family would then be needed to discuss where the grave should be relocated to. First option is to move graves to an official cemetery. If this is not agreed to by the families then the Chief would need to give approval for a new piece of land to be used to relocate the grave. The Municipality will also need to provide a permit to allow the moving of the grave. Only then can a funeral undertaker be appointed to arrange the exhumation and the funeral.
7.12	When would be the appropriate time for the Municipality to consult with the people who will be affected by this project, in order to facilitate the process of relocation? People may become aware that they will be impacted before the Municipality has had a chance to consult with them and this can cause problems.	27.10.2014	Mr Sotshongaye Mhlontlo Local Municipality FGM	The Department of Water and Sanitation may not do any work on the ground until the relevant authorisations are in place. Only when project implementation starts will the Municipality get involved with social facilitation. It would not be appropriate to consult with people until the final detailed designs are done, so as to prevent expectations being created.
7.13	Who will be in charge of rebuilding the structures that need to be relocated?	28.10.2014	Mayor Leys Elundini Local Municipality FGM	Further consultation will be required during the implementation phase, and would include the traditional authorities and the municipalities to discuss where the people would need to be relocated to. The project would cover the expenses of re-building and would use Contractors from the same town or municipal area.
7.14	People will want proof that they will get a new house, this will be a potential challenge to consider.	28.10.2014	Clr Lehata Elundini Local Municipality FGM	Once the implementation phase has started the dam basin will be marked off by the land surveyor to indicate the area that will be inundated. This will provide proof to the local people if they fall within the inundated area.
7.15	There may be infrastructure/services from the southern side of the Tsitsa river that are currently being used in the north. These services will be lost once the dam is built and the infrastructure will need to be redirected in order to continue providing to the	28.10.2014	Clr Lehata Elundini Local Municipality FGM	This will be addressed in consultation with the affected parties during the compilation of the RAP

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	people north of the dam.			
7.16	Will new farms that will be developed result in existing farms being lost?	24.11.2014	Mphetsheni Church PM	If the individuals can no longer farm on the piece of land they had before the dam, this land will be replaced as part of the project. This still requires further discussion with the Chiefs, Municipalities and Ward Councillors.
7.17	What will happen to the graves that are affected?	24.11.2014	Mphetsheni Church PM	The families, Chiefs and ward councillors will be consulted and agree to the process for moving of affected graves. This will only happen during the second half of 2015.
7.18	Who will be responsible to pay for the people that need to be relocated?	24.11.2014	Mphetsheni Church PM	Any houses that need to be relocated because of the dam will be paid for by the Department of Water and Sanitation. These houses will be moved away from the water but not out of the village they currently reside in. Exactly where the houses are to be moved to, what type of house will be built and moving of any graves will still be agreed on with the traditional leaders, municipalities and the family. This can only be done once the project is in the implementation phase.
7.19	If she is affected she would not be comfortable moving to another place.	24.11.2014	Mrs Noweziwe Mbasuana PM Thambekeni: Headsman MtheThunizima's household	If possible, people will not be moved out of the village they currently reside in.
7.20	She is happy that someone has already told her that her house will be affected.	24.11.2014	Ms Nothembaletu PM Thambekeni: Headsman MtheThunizima's household	No individuals to be affected have been confirmed as the detailed design has not been completed. Affected households can only be confirmed when the affected area is marked on the ground, once the project has the necessary authorisations. The people speaking to this lady where the team assessing the size of the impact
7.21	What procedure would be followed for the relocation of households.	25.11.2014	Chief Mabandla Ngxoto	This project is currently in the planning phase. Only once environmental authorisation is obtained can the project be implemented. A new team will come and survey the valley

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				and mark off the area that will be affected by the dam. Then the people will know if they will be affected or not. If anyone's house is affected then these people will be relocated within their current village and the Department of Water and Sanitation will cover the relocation costs. A meeting will be held at a later stage with the municipalities, ward councillors, chiefs and representatives of the community to come up with a process for the relocation. Only when this is in place will the affected individuals be approached to discuss what the new household should look like. Most of Ngxoto will not be impacted. Only a few structures nearest to the river may require relocation.
7.22	It was stated that people should be made aware of other dam projects that have been built where the process has been followed. This will ease the tension of the people.	25.11.2014	Mr Chris Motsilili Ngxoto	There are other dams that have been built, such as de Hoop Dam and Spring Grove Dam. The Department of Water and Sanitation will follow similar dam processes as was done for other projects.
7.23	It was asked how many houses will be affected in Shukunxa.	25.11.2014	Mr Gwija Shukunxa	The dam details have not yet been finalised, however, most of the village will not be affected by the dam. A few households on the edge may need to be moved further up into the village.
7.24	Clarity on the relocation process was requested. It was stated that there is a section of the land that will be underwater. He stated he will have to look for other land for his people since they will lose grazing and agricultural land.	27.11.2014 26.11.2014	Lotana Chief Mabandla Siqhungqwini	Mrs Calmeyer explained that this project is currently in the planning phase, only once environmental authorisation is obtained can the project be implemented. A new team will come and survey the valley and mark off the area that will be affected by the dam, only then will the people know if they will be affected by the water. If anyone's house is affected then these people will be relocated within their current village and the Department of Water and Sanitation will pay for building the new house. A meeting will be held at a later stage with the municipalities, ward councillors, chiefs and representatives of the community to come up with a process for relocation and affected individuals will get a choice over what the house looks

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				like. A meeting will also be held to discuss the rituals done for graves and the relocation process to be followed will also be discussed. This will only happen, earliest, during the second half of 2015, and this could be further delayed.
7.25	Concern was expressed that there would be more people affected once it became known that infrastructure would be constructed in the area, due to people seeking to obtain compensation.	18.06.2014	Ayanda Sigwela PSC Meeting	The Traditional Authorities and Ward Councillors have been consulted with and their assistance sought to control use of land (which has not yet been allocated to anyone) in the study area, in order to avoid this.
7.26	A land reservation agreement should be entered into with the Kings (not the Chiefs or the Councillors).	18.06.2014	Mzimkulu Msiwa PSC Meeting	The project area to be inundated does not currently have a King, but the proposal will be pursued through other local authority structures.
8. Borrow areas and Quarries				
8.1.	There are no permitted quarries or mining areas within OR Tambo Municipality. What will be done about this?	15.05.2014	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs) Tsolo Town Hall PM	All the quarry areas identified will be within the dam basin. They will be new quarries and borrow areas and an Environmental Management Plans are being compiled which will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources for approval. If there are insufficient materials available within the dam basins then additional material will be bought from the local suppliers.
8.2.	A request was made for clarity on the source of construction materials. If materials need to be sourced from commercial sources, the traffic impact may be significant. If that is the case, it should be included in the EIA.	28.05.2014	Sindi Dlomo (Department of Environmental Affairs) AFM	It is anticipated that all or most of the materials required will be obtained from new quarries and borrow areas in the dam basins. If extensive use of commercial becomes necessary, then a Traffic Management Plan should be compiled
8.3.	Are there any mineral resources that could be found in the dam basins?	27.01.2015	Seutloali Makhetha PSC Meeting	ILISO/DMR to confirm
9. Agriculture, irrigation and drinking water				
9.1	Fencing for the agricultural fields was requested.	16.05.2014	Mrs Jamjam (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	This is not part of the Department of Water and Sanitation infrastructure project, but may form part of the Catchment Management Programme for future projects.
9.2	What areas will be irrigated?	16.05.2014	Mrs Kasa (Resident)	The exact locations of the pieces of land to be developed for irrigation have not yet been demarcated.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
			Lalini JSS PM	
9.3	Request for additional equipment such as tractors to help the people plant crops.	16.05.2014	Mr Ndyoki (Resident) Lalini JSS PM	The development of on-farm infrastructure is not a part of the project that this EIA is applying for authorisation.
9.4	It was asked whether aquiculture could be developed as part of the project.	20.05.2014 28.08.2014	Puleng (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) Agriculture workshop PSC Meeting	The development of aquaculture is not a component of the project as configured for this EIA. However, it is acknowledged that aquaculture would be a viable option in the impoundments. This is especially true since the segment of the river is not sensitive from a fish ecology point of view. The Ntabalanga Dam may be suitable for aquaculture with trout as the water in the dam may be cool enough to support the fish there. Both the Ntabalanga dam and the Lallini dam can potentially be used for aquaculture of Tilapia (<i>Oreochromis mossamicus</i>) and/or catfish (<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>). Tilapia have more commercial value but both species can contribute to the production of protein in the area. This can be assessed further when the DWS compiles the Resource Management Plan.
9.5	Another EIA may be required to establish commercial agriculture in the area (e.g. to apply for vegetation clearance).	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	Noted.
9.6	Are there any plantations in the area?	28.05.2014	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs) AFM	Most of the land is being cultivated or has been previously cultivated, or is being used for grazing. There were no plantations identified in the project area.
9.7	Stakeholder stated that drinkable water is a scarce resource in the project area and asked if this dam would provide clean drinking water for the people.	09.06.2014 via fax	Mphumli and Nokamwaba (Residents) Allman Ntshongwana	Yes. The project includes a Water Treatment Works to clean the water to drinking quality. This potable water will then be pumped in pipelines to reservoirs. The district municipalities will distribute the water from these reservoirs to individual households or communities.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
9.8	A request was made to supply purified water to the rural areas.	09.06.2014	(Resident) Ntombifuthi Nonkenka (Resident) via fax Nokubonga Saunders (Resident) Bolekwa Ntshongwana (Resident) Nikimbako Ntshongwana (Resident) Buyisile Godfrey Hlaletseni (Residents)	
9.9	<p>What about the villages further from the dam that will not be impacted? These villages have arable land, will any infrastructure be provided to assist these villages with irrigation?</p> <p>It was stated that there are people who are not close to the dam (about 30 km away) but they are interested to know about the dam and require assistance for irrigation for farms. He asked if pipes would be constructed to these areas.</p>	<p>27.10.2014</p> <p>26.11.2014</p>	<p>Chief Mabandla Traditional Authorities FGM</p> <p>Chief Mabandla Siqhungqwini</p>	<p>There is a large area surrounding the dam that will get access to drinking water. Raw water will be supplied to the identified agricultural lands only. If there are any other areas that are suitable for large scale farming then they should be brought to the attention of the Department of Water and Sanitation and, during implementation these areas will be assessed. If they meet the Department of Water and Sanitation criteria then they will also be included in the irrigation water pumping scheme.</p> <p>There are some areas suitable for irrigation that are too far or too high to receive water economically from this project. Crops can be grown on these areas without irrigation water (rain-fed) or another water source (stream or groundwater) may be available for these areas. These</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				options should be further investigated by Department of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.
9.10	It was asked how the community would get water, and if each house would get a tap or if the water supply would be based on the RDP standards.	24.11.2014	Community Member Mpetsheni Church PM	The Department of Water and Sanitation is providing enough water for households, based on 60 l per person. This is above the RDP standards. The implementation of the water delivery to the households is the responsibility of the District Municipality, and the Department of Water and Sanitation is only responsible for the transportation of the water to reservoirs. Additional funding has been applied for from National Treasury for the District Municipality work that needs to be done to supply the water from the reservoirs to the households. The dam water would be cleaned at a water treatment works and then pumped to reservoirs. The project will bring water to the villages, however the Department of Water and Sanitation is only mandated to take the water to the reservoirs, the District Municipality will be responsible to take the water to the households. He concluded that Government has allocated responsibility to the different spheres of government.
	It was asked if the people would benefit by getting drinking water from the dam.	25.11.2014	Mr Gwija Shukunxa	
9.11	It was asked if the water would be purified and then pumped to a reservoir before being pumped to the people.	26.11.2014	Community Member Siqhungqwini	There will be a new water treatment works that will treat the water before it is pumped to reservoirs for drinking purposes.
	The community is struggling to get water and they requested that more water be brought to the village.	28.11.2014	Community Member Siqikini	The Department of Water and Sanitation will bring the water to large reservoirs and then it will be up to the District Municipality to bring the water to the villages.
9.12	Is the construction and operation of the WWTW part of the EIA?	14.10.2014	Cecilia Gyan PSC Meeting No. 13	The WWTW was indeed part of the EIA and WULA. However the infrastructure at the hydropower plant is not part of the EIA as this information became available after all the studies had already been done.
10. Hydropower				
10.1.	There are various options in terms of connection points from the new power line to the existing grid. If	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	Discussions with Eskom have been initiated and are ongoing.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	a new sub-station is required, this will need to be discussed with Eskom.			
10.2.	An enquiry about the hydropower component at Ntabelanga Dam was made.	28.05.2014	Magazi Mhlanga (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform) AFM	In addition to the main hydropower plant at the Lalini Dam, a small hydropower plant will be built to harness the hydropower potential at the Ntabelanga Dam.
10.3.	There will be local needs for the electricity generated (e.g. Water Treatment Works and Waste Water Treatment Works, operators housing, as well as communities within the immediate vicinity). Will the Department of Water and Sanitation operate the power plant? If so, it will need a generating licence. Will Eskom or an IPP be operating the hydropower scheme?	28.05.2014 18.06.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM Charles Kumbula PSC Meeting	Institutional arrangements are still being looked at. A decision regarding ownership and roles and responsibilities has not yet been taken. This decision will be taken at a higher level. Separate applications have been submitted to Department of Environmental Affairs (water infrastructure, roads and power generation) in order to facilitate the transfer of authorisations to the various implementing authorities (if required). This will be decided at a later stage as part of the institutional arrangements.
10.4.	If Eskom is invited to be the operator of the hydropower plants, the Department of Energy should be involved.	28.05.2014	Joan Arrikum (DPE) AFM	Consultation with the Department of Energy is ongoing.
10.5.	Has the effect of the releases from the Lalini Dam been looked at all the way to Port St Johns?	28.08.2014	Isa Thompson PSC Meeting	Yes. With regards to Ntabelanga Dam only, provided that the EWR requirements are met, then the impact on the estuary was nil given the relative volumes of water passing through the Ntabelanga Dam compared with the 2 800 million m ³ /yr in the main Mzimvubu river, as well as the distance from the estuary, which is some 200 km along the river. Similarly, whatever flows enter the Lalini Dam are routed relatively quickly through, either as EWR or via the hydropower plant. The total daily release downstream is fairly "in and out" with little change to the overall flow regime. In such a case, it would be logical that this does

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				<p>not affect the estuary – the main Mzimvubu River is such a larger component of total estuary flow, and the estuary is 138 km downstream of Lalini HEP.</p> <p>Please refer to sections 9.1.3, 9.2.3, 10.1.3, and 10.2.3 for the Aquatic Ecology findings in the EIR or to the Aquatic Ecology Report in Appendix C(3) for further details.</p>
10.6.	One of the original motivations for the Ntabelanga Dam was to transfer water to surrounding catchments. How will this impact the Hydropower scheme?	28.08.2014	David Keyser PSC Meeting	If the inter-catchment transfer from Ntabelanga Dam happens it would be part of a bigger scheme of dams to be built in the Mzimvubu River catchment. The Ntabelanga Dam will thus mainly act as a transfer node tapping into the yields of the other dams still to be developed in the future.
10.7.	Could the mini hydropower plants be able to supply the demands of the project, and thus not need to be transferred into the grid?	28.08.2014	Andrew Lucas PSC Meeting	This is not practical. This type of power generation would be variable and season dependent and thus there would be no reliability from this system for running the pumps
10.8.	The viability of the development appears to be centred on the Lalini hydropower scheme. If the hydropower scheme is not approved or approved at a level that is not viable (e.g. due to the ecological implications of the proposed power generation), then what? Does Ntabelanga then also not go ahead?	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	The project is economically viable with or without the hydropower component, and the capital cost requires grant funding (National Treasury). The hydropower component does not make the project financially viable, but will generate an income to subsidise the high cost of pumping domestic and irrigation water to the end users. Without the conjunctive scheme (Lalini Dam) a smaller Ntabelanga Dam could be built, but all other infrastructure components would be the same size and cost. The reduction in capital cost would therefore be minimal.
10.9.	Is there an alternative to hydropower? People seem to think that because it is not coal, it is green energy, and this is a fallacy: the ecological implications of hydropower are large. The size of Ntabelanga Dam seems to hinge on hydropower, irrespective of the size of Lalini Dam. Is there an alternative renewable energy source, such as wind or solar, that could be considered a reasonable and feasible alternative, providing the same amount of energy but at a smaller ecological and social cost. If you take hydropower out of the mix, how big will Ntabelanga Dam need to be	22.10.2014 via email	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water)	<p>Wind power is not considered a viable alternative to hydropower generation in this project area as wind power has a much lower availability than hydropower. There will be a significant income generated from the sale of hydropower, which makes the hydropower component financially viable. A large number of wind turbines, with associated environmental impacts and carbon footprint,</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	to provide the necessary water services? There is a big jump from 33 million m ³ /a considered in the Feasibility Study versus the 490 million m ³ /a being considered for the development. Could the hydropower be the flaw in the project?			<p>will be required to generate the same income as the proposed hydropower scheme. In addition to the financial viability, the proposed base load hydropower generation can supply power on a continuous basis throughout the year, while adhering to the environmental water requirements. The construction of the hydropower scheme components (mainly the access road) will have significant environmental impacts, but these impacts are very low during the operation phase. Wind power generation however can have a significant impact on avifauna during its operation.</p> <p>A Ntabelanga Dam size of 33 million m³ was considered as an option during the preliminary phase of the study, but during the detailed feasibility phase the feasible size for Ntabelanga Dam was found to be 490 million m³.</p>
10.10.	Concern was expressed about the power generation and stated that the community already suffer from the many power failures. He asked what the impact of the hydropower generation would be.	24.11.2014	Mr Mzukisi PM Thambekeni: Headsman MtheThunizima's household	The hydropower generation should assist in bettering the Eskom system, thus reducing the power outages.
10.11.	It was asked if the hydropower would provide electricity to the village. Mrs Calmeyer stated that the power will be fed into Eskom's National grid.	28.11.2014	Siqikini	The electricity will first go into the National grid and from there it will be transmitted and distributed to local households. The more power generated in South Africa, the more stable electricity will be around the country. This will therefore result in an indirect benefit.
11. Water Quality				
11.1	Will the Reserve determination go all the way to the mouth of the river? The potential impacts on the estuary need to be considered and managed.	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	The estuarine Reserve has previously been done for the Mzimvubu River, and has been addressed in the Aquatic Ecology Study, available in Appendix C(3).
11.2	An enquiry was made about the areas close to the dam that have been earmarked for irrigated agriculture. Will the EIA consider potential pollution	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	The impact on water quality by fertilizers contained in the runoff from irrigated areas was determined by calculating the potential salinity level in the dam. The results show

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	from those areas (e.g. from the use of fertilisers) into the river?			that the conductivity in the dam will increase by 2%. The contribution from phosphorus will occur in the same ratio as conductivity and will thus also increase by 2%. Although this increase is relevant it is not significant and the water quality will still fall within the ideal range.
11.3	The trees that are surrounding the Tsitsa River that will be inundated may at some point pollute the water, thus affecting the water quality. Before the dam is flooded the trees need to be removed.	09.06.2014 via fax 23.06.2014 via post	Sivuyise Mange (Resident) Sivuyile Mazeke (Resident) Asanda Zihlwele (Resident) Zukisa Madasa (Resident) Vuyelwa Tobi (Resident)	A potential problem that could occur is that any vegetation that is left in the dam basin will begin to decompose once the dam basin is filled with water. This will create anoxic conditions that may persist for a considerable period of time, and will pose a risk to downstream aquatic life and will render the dam basin itself unfit to support aquatic life. The anoxic zone may occur as close as two meters from the surface. For the above reasons, it is recommended that the dam basin is cleared before inundation.
11.4	The dams will impact the water quality downstream. Sediment that will now be trapped by the dams will have a nutrient load attached. These nutrients will no longer be available downstream. What will the impact of this be and has this been considered/investigated?	28.08.2014 x	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) AFM	Yes, the dams will result in less sediment in the reaches of the river immediately downstream of the dam walls, and some nutrients will be attached to the sediment that remains in the dams. But, sediment and nutrients are higher than desirable in the river system and therefore pollutants. The construction of the dams is therefore likely to improve the situation with respect to sediment and nutrients, as the dams are likely to trap a large proportion of these pollutants.
11.5	What is the ecological sensitivity of the area that may be impacted by significantly altered flow regime, due to the hydropower generation flow requirements?	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) Written submission	The ecological sensitivity of the Tsitsa River for both the reaches of river affected by the Natbalanga and Lalini Dams is Moderate, as described in the xtract from the Reserve Determination report below. Ntabelanga

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response																
				<p>3.4.3 Ecological Importance and Sensitivity</p> <p>The EIS for the Tsitsa River was determined as moderate as shown in Table 3-18. The Evolutionary Significant Unit (<i>Barbus cf. anoplus</i>) is potentially present in the system. Furthermore, <i>Oligoneuridae</i> (that are dependent on high velocities) were sampled during the high flow survey. <i>Perlidae</i> and <i>Prosopistomatidae</i> (that are sensitive to water quality changes) are also present at the EWR site.</p> <p>Two waterfalls are present in the system, namely the large Tsitsa Falls downstream (below N2 road) and the smaller falls upstream (below R56 road) of the EWR site. These falls act as barriers that could result in the creation of an evolutionary significant unit. DNA analyses of fish from this river reach and comparison with chubbhead bard populations upstream of the Upper Tsista falls and in adjacent rivers, will be required to resolve this issue. Until this information is available, the precautionary principle is prudent.</p> <p>Table 3-18: Ecological Importance and Sensitivity of the Tsitsa River</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1318 1036 1963 1401"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY</th> </tr> <tr> <th>DETERMINANTS</th> <th>PRESEN T SCORE (0-4)</th> <th colspan="2">COMMENT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">BIOTA (RIPARIAN AND INSTREAM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rare</td> <td>and</td> <td>0</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY				DETERMINANTS	PRESEN T SCORE (0-4)	COMMENT		BIOTA (RIPARIAN AND INSTREAM)				Rare	and	0	None
ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY																				
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	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response		
				endangered Unique (endemic, isolated)	3	Unique <i>Barbus anoplus</i> -type minnow likely to be present in system as high waterfalls both up and downstream create barriers to fish movement, thus enabling the development of an Evolutionary Significant Unit.
				Intolerant (flow and flow related water quality)	3	<i>Oligoneuridae</i> dependant on high velocities was sampled during high flow survey. <i>Perlidae</i> and <i>Prosopistomatidae</i> present in the system
				Species/taxon richness	2	22 invertebrate families. ASPT=6.7 SASS=147 0 of 3 expected fish species sampled.
				RIPARIAN AND INSTREAM HABITATS		
				Diversity of types	2	Cobbles, boulders, marginal vegetation, gravel, mud and sand (GSM), riffle, pools
				Refugia	2	Pools might serve as refugia for BANO and eels during low/no flows
				Sensitivity to flow changes	2	Presence of pools and isolated riffle sections
				Sensitivity to flow related water quality changes	1	-
				Migration route/corridor (instream and riparian)	1	Limited due to Tsitsa Falls downstream, although longfin eel (<i>Anguilla mossambica</i>) have been recorded upstream of this barrier

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response									
				<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 240 1543 373">Importance of conservation and natural areas</td> <td data-bbox="1543 240 1633 373">0</td> <td data-bbox="1633 240 1967 373">(Kotze & Niehaus 2003) None</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 373 1543 446">MEDIAN OF DETERMINANTS</td> <td data-bbox="1543 373 1633 446">2</td> <td data-bbox="1633 373 1967 446"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 446 1749 527">ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY</td> <td data-bbox="1749 446 1967 527">MODERATE</td> <td data-bbox="1967 446 1974 527"></td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="1312 527 1974 592">4 – Very high; 3 – High; 2 – Moderate; 1 – Marginal/Low; 0 – None</p> <p data-bbox="1312 641 1386 665">Lalini</p> <p data-bbox="1312 673 1869 706">3.4.3 Ecological Importance and Sensitivity</p> <p data-bbox="1312 706 1974 812">The EIS for the Tsitsa River was determined as moderate as shown in Table 3-16. The Evolutionary Significant Unit (<i>Barbus cf. anoplus</i>) is potentially present in the system.</p> <p data-bbox="1312 852 1974 990">Furthermore, <i>Psephenidae</i> (that are dependent on high velocities) were sampled during the low flow survey. <i>Perlidae</i> and <i>Prosopistomatidae</i> (that are sensitive to water quality changes) are also present at the EWR site.</p> <p data-bbox="1312 1031 1974 1388">Two waterfalls are present in the system, namely the large Tsitsa Falls approximately 20 km upstream (below N2 road) and the smaller falls further upstream (below R56 road) of the EWR site. These falls act as barriers that could result in the creation of an evolutionary significant unit. DNA analyses of fish from this river reach and comparison with the chubb head barb populations upstream of the Upper Tsista falls and in adjacent rivers will be required to resolve this issue. Until this information is available, the precautionary principle is prudent.</p>	Importance of conservation and natural areas	0	(Kotze & Niehaus 2003) None	MEDIAN OF DETERMINANTS	2		ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY	MODERATE	
Importance of conservation and natural areas	0	(Kotze & Niehaus 2003) None											
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11.6	Increasing the water availability for irrigation (2 900 Ha), will likely have catchment run-off implications, in the form of reduced water quality to in-stream ecosystems (soils, fertilizers, biocides etc.). What consequences to water quality as a consequence of the impoundments? E.g. sediment retention in the dams, altering of in-stream nutrient concentrations (esp. those bound to nutrients), increased nutrient concentrations in the dams and potential for eutrophication (impacts to water quality both in the dam and downstream river).	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	A water quality assessment was undertaken (Appendix C-9). This project is not expected to have a significant impact on water quality.																					

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	Removing sediment from the system may well have significant downstream implications: increased water column transparency, with associated consequences (increased temperature, algal growth etc.), reduction in sediment transport and nutrients to estuary and ocean (impacts on those ecosystems).			
11.7	Potential impacts of discharges from WWTW becomes especially pertinent: nutrient inputs to the system.	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	A water quality assessment was undertaken (Appendix C-9). The discharges from the WWTW are not expected to have a significant impact on water quality.
11.8	Sediment management will require careful consideration: sediment build-up within the dams as well as sediment from the WTW from the treatment process. Releasing sediment from bottom / scour releases in the dam will have significant ecological consequences.	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	No scour releases are planned
12. Ecological implications				
12.1	Impacts on terrestrial plants to consider search and rescue of protected plants including where they will be relocated to (Rescue Plan for Plants).	01.07.2014	Sizekele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	Please refer to section 9.3: Flora Specialist Findings of the EIA or to the Flora Specialist Study in Appendix C(1).
12.2	What about impacts on geomorphology and riparian vegetation, particularly to river ecosystems? What will the altered flows be, both downstream of Ntabelanga and Lalini Dams: base-flows, floods, patterns of flow etc.? Are the impacts of these assessed in the EIA report or only considered in the Reserve studies? Impacts (both environmental and social) of base-load versus peak load electricity generation are vastly different. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What impact to the Tsitsa Falls of the water being used to generate electricity now by- 	15.10.2014 15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	The sections of the river where construction will physically take place and the section to be inundated will be irreversibly altered. The Ecological Water Requirements to maintain acceptable geomorphology and riparian vegetation will be released for all other sections of the river (including the section where the Tsitsa Falls is, and the section of river downstream of the HEP discharge point). The objective of the Reserve determination is to determine the flow regime required to achieve this. The project has been designed taking this flow regime requirement into account.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	<p>passing the Falls? Is there an EWR site downstream of the Lalini Dam and upstream of the hydropower return flows, to determine the flow requirements for the Falls?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is known of the hydropower water return flows to the Tsitsa River: high velocity water will surely have high scour potential, with ecological consequences. 			
12.3	It was asked how the hills and valleys would be affected by the dam.	26.11.2014	Siqhungqwini	The Department of Water and Sanitation would not change the topography of the area, the water will fill into the valleys and as it fills some hills will remain and form islands. The dam will not be a straight line, it will follow the valleys and hills.
12.4	Climate change will impact on the province, with some areas getting dryer and others having big fluctuations in the rainfall patterns. How will the project contribute to solving some of these problems going forward and assist in setting a sustainable agenda in terms of water (for the province)?	04.12.2014	Tony Williams ECLGTA Authorities Forum Meeting	<p>The irrigation component of the project will assist with food security, while the dams will be able to capture flood water and will assist in managing water resources for improved water security in the long term.</p> <p>The management of the catchment in the long term, including educating the people, will also be important to ensure water security.</p> <p>In addition, the project is intended to cater for the long term water needs of the area.</p>
12.5	What are the downstream impacts?	04.12.2014	Tony Williams ECLGTA Authorities Forum Meeting	Reserve determinations for sites between the Ntabelanga and Lalini Dam and just above the HEP return flow. The design specifications, both in terms of the physical characteristics of the dams and the operating rules have taken the Reserve requirements into account. This will ensure that the

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				<p>river will have adequate flow regimes during and after the construction of the dams to maintain the river in an acceptable ecological state.</p> <p>Some downstream communities will benefit from water supply from the scheme as well as employment opportunities during construction and operation.</p> <p>The flows in the Tsitsa River will be altered by the project. Communities that cross the river for any purposes may therefore be affected. The bridges and crossings between the two dams that will be affected have been identified and replacement bridges are being constructed. No crossings downstream of the Lalini Dam were identified during the EIA process, but this should be confirmed during implementation.</p>
13. Other				
13.1	What is the purpose of the weirs?	16.04.2014	PSC Meetings	The weirs will be used to monitor the water flow in the river, both upstream and downstream of the proposed dams. The information gathered will be used to determine how much water needs to be released from the dam in order to protect the ecological functioning of the river..
13.2	Have the impacts on tourism been considered, especially at the Tsitsa Falls?	28.05.2014	John Geeringh (Eskom) AFM	The issue of tourism has been investigated from both the social and ecological perspectives. The Reserve determination has been finalised, see section 5.2.5 and as part of the Water Quality study and has been taken into account in the design of the scheme.
13.3	An enquiry was made about the dynamics of land ownership in the area and asked if there was any	28.05.2014	Magazi Mhlanga (Department of	All land in the project area belongs to the State and the Traditional Authorities are the custodians of this land. The

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	land owned privately.		Rural Development and Land Reform) AFM	Department of Water and Sanitation will only acquire land once the project has been authorised and is ready for implementation.
13.4	A SEA should be done for the whole catchment, not EIA's for individual projects.	12.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	<p>The following have been taken into account in the Scoping Phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2011 • National Development Plan (NDP); • National Spatial Development Plan (NSDP); • Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), • Eastern Cape Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) (2nd edition as in GN 82 on 24 March 2014), and • Integrated Development Plans (IDP) for all municipalities which should include Strategic Environmental Frameworks). <p>The alternative dam site assessment process undertaken in the Feasibility Study is summarised in Chapter 5.2 of the Scoping Report. A Reserve determination for an Ecological Water Requirements site downstream of the proposed Ntabelanga Dam and for the estuary was undertaken in the Feasibility Study and is being used in the yield analysis and EIA.</p> <p>A detailed Reserve for downstream of the proposed Lalini Dam was undertaken by DWS in September 2014. This information will be used in the EIA as well as the WULA.</p>
13.5	Mention is made that the Department of Water and Sanitation will only be responsible for primary and secondary infrastructure, and tertiary infrastructure will be for the Municipalities – as experienced with other such projects, there are never guarantees/contracts/ budgets in place in Municipalities in order to do so! Please clarify how this will be addressed/assured?	12.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	Municipalities are involved in the planning and implementation of the project, so they should be able to plan ahead to pick up on their roles at the appropriate times. The cost estimate developed is for the whole project including tertiary infrastructure, and this information will be used to inform decision making on the appropriate institutional and financing arrangements for the different components of the project. These

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				arrangements are being investigated in the ongoing feasibility study and will be finalised during the decision making phase. As a Strategic Integrated Project, the project is being coordinated by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission who provide the necessary oversight.
13.6	There is quite some momentum building around how best to integrate climate change concerns into EIA processes (in SA as well as elsewhere) especially in large infrastructure projects with long lifetimes, such as dams – are there any specific requirements in the Terms of Reference on this?	12.06.2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO) via email	Please refer to Chapter 8: Key Issues, section 8.2.1: Climate change projections and risks in the Final Scoping Report.
13.7	<p>Will the project consider any offset programmes?</p> <p>The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) would be reluctant to make a decision based on incomplete information (relating to budget, manpower etc.) regarding offsets.</p> <p>An agreement upfront on what DWS can implement is needed. So that when the funds are spent, they are spent in such a way that they add value, including socio-economic benefits. The recommended offset must be feasible and enforceable. Responsibilities need to be clearly spelt out. Other projects within the catchment should be identified and contribution to those considered</p> <p>She enquired about the issue of offsets and who should be responsible for implementing them. She indicated that on the MMTS-2 project, one of the proposals was to give funds to a conservation body to implement an offset but DWS said that it was not within their mandate and that the funds should come from DEA.</p>	<p>23.06.2014</p> <p>04.12.2014</p> <p>27.01.2015</p>	<p>Dean Muruven (World Wildlife Fund) via email</p> <p>Siboniso Mbense and Sindiswa Dlomo DEA AFM</p> <p>Mpumi Msezane Authorities Forum Meeting</p>	<p>The EAP and specialists will consider the mitigation of all potential significant impacts. The mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, restore or rehabilitate and offset) approach enables an infrastructure development project to work towards “no net negative impact”, and ideally a net gain.</p> <p>The following mitigation hierarchy is being used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance: measures taken to avoid creating impacts from the outset, such as careful spatial or temporal placement of elements of infrastructure, in order to completely avoid impacts on certain components of biodiversity; • Minimisation: measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and / or extent of impacts (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, as appropriate) that cannot be completely avoided, as far as is practically feasible; • Rehabilitation/restoration: measures taken to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems or restore cleared ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely avoided and/ or minimised;

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offset: measures taken to compensate for any residual significant, adverse impacts that cannot be avoided, minimised and / or rehabilitated or restored, in order to achieve no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity. Offsets can take the form of positive management interventions such as restoration of degraded habitat, arrested degradation or averted risk, protecting areas where there is imminent or projected loss of biodiversity. • The EAP has recommended that some initiative to offset the impact on cranes be implemented, and an amount of R100 million has been included in the project budget to implement this. A traditional wetland rehabilitation or conservation offset is NOT recommended because the availability of suitable resources and chance of success are doubted. Alternative mechanism to achieve a translocal offset are being investigated.
13.8	The Mzimvubu River is one of the main rivers flowing in the Eastern Cape Drakensberg and Pondoland Coast water source areas, these have <3% protection and are critical for water supply. This should be taken into account during the EIA.	23.06.2014	Dean Muruven (World Wildlife Fund) via email	Part of the purpose of the project is to supply domestic water needs of communities in the project area. In addition, the Reserve determination undertaken in the feasibility study took into account basic human needs of communities living downstream of the two dam sites.
13.9	Although the Catchment Rehabilitation is a separate project but in respect of any suggestions on Biodiversity offset it presents an opportunity.	01.07.2014	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs) via email	The DEA officials responsible for the Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Plan have been notified of this suggestion.
13.10	What about in-stream sacred pools or sites? These are not mentioned explicitly and may well be implicitly included in “places associated with oral traditions or living heritage”. In the upper catchment, there are several known sites so there may be sites in the Tsitsa River.	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller (Amatola Water) written submission	The heritage specialist did not identify any in-stream sacred pools or sites. This was not identified by any of the community members either. If it comes up during the implementation of the project then it will be dealt with in the RAP.
13.11	Are there any land claims in the area that may impact	15.10.2014	Nikite Muller	An enquiry has been sent to the Department of Rural

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	on the proposed developments?		(Amatola Water) written submission	Development and Land Reform regarding potential land claims in the project area. No response has been received as yet and this remains to be confirmed.
13.12	It was stated that there was a concern relating to people coming into the area to work without explaining to anyone what they are doing. He requested that anyone coming into the village for work need to introduce themselves to the Headsmen and the Chief.	24.11.2014	Headsman MtheThunzima PM Thambekeni Headsman MtheThunzima's household	Noted.
13.13	It was stated that there is a rumour in other towns that people have come and made other promises and are not part of the Department of Water and Sanitation.	27.11.2014	Councillor Dawedi Lalini	There are other projects from other organisations like the DMs in the study area. The Department of Water and Sanitation will follow up on this rumour.
13.14	There was an enquiry about the rumour about people already working in the Ntabelanga area.	27.11.2014	Chief Madolo Lalini	These people may be from the Mzimvubu Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Plan, which is a Department of Environmental Affairs project and is not part of the dam project. These projects are interlinked but the people working on the Mzimvubu Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Plan are not hired as part of the Department of Water and Sanitation's project. No people have been appointed to work on the dams as a Contractor has not yet been appointed. These people are working further up in the catchment, above where the dams will be as this is where the siltation will originate from.
13.15	It was stated that members of the Premiers office and the Department of Environmental Affairs attended the first round of public meeting. He recommended that the other departments should also have attended these meetings to report back on other projects.	27.11.2014	Councillor Dawedi Lalini	These departments were invited to all the public meetings but this request will be carried forward to them.
13.16	Regarding offsets, has provision been made for an operation and maintenance budget, in addition to the budget required to acquire land and design and implement the offset?	04.12.2014	Menard Mugumo DWS Authorities Forum Meeting	No. This will depend on how the offset is implemented. The offset envisaged in this case is not an offset in the traditional sense of the word. This is because implementing a traditional offset (i.e. buying land and managing it as a conservation area) is likely to fail, and

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	<p>One way to achieve the type of offset that is being recommended would be to add value to an existing project (e.g. crane conservation project), and thus link the offset to an ongoing concern. This has the merit to allow specialised organisations to manage the offset, rather than the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), who does not have the expertise to do that. Eskom for example has been granted a servitude in a park managed by SANPARKS; in exchange, Eskom bought land to expand the park.</p> <p>Focused engagement between the Provincial Department (DEDEAT) and DEA will be required regarding the biodiversity offset. DEA will facilitate such engagement.</p>	<p>04.12.2014</p> <p>04.12.2014</p>	<p>John Geeringh Eskom Authorities Forum Meeting</p> <p>Siboniso Mbense DEA Authorities Forum Meeting</p>	<p>deviation from the traditional offset model is recommended in this instance. The recommendation is to have a conservation initiative for cranes, as crane populations in the project area are likely to suffer from the habitat loss resulting from the project (i.e. inundation of wetlands currently used by cranes for breeding and foraging). Maintaining the offset will require its own budget, however this has not been investigated at this stage.</p> <p>This will be discussed further with the relevant parties.</p>
13.17	The Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is looking at provincial legislation for land management that would be relevant for this project. A special meeting may need to be held to unpack this issue.	04.12.2014	Tony Williams ECLGTA Authorities Forum Meeting	Noted.
13.18	The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) should be consulted. The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) does not issue a decision without SAHRA's comment as well as the environmental authorisation.	04.12.2014	V V Kubheka DMR Authorities Forum Meeting	SAHRA and the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority have been consulted and the heritage impact assessment has been submitted for their comment.
13.19	The project should be included in the relevant IDPs to ensure that the necessary planning takes place, this will capture what will need to be managed and who will need to manage what.	04.12.2014	Tony Williams ECLGTA Authorities Forum Meeting	High level coordination exists, through a committee involving various Directors General. However cooperation between the various organs of state had been identified as an issue in the environmental assessment and emphasised in the EIR.