



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **MZIMVUBU WATER PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

## **SCOPING REPORT**

### **APPENDIX B6:**

#### **ISSUES AND RESPONSES REPORT**

#### **FINAL VERSION 1**

**July 2014**

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:



**Acronyms**

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
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
JSS	Junior Secondary School
MWP	Mzimvubu Water Project
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PM	Public Meeting
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RAP	Relocation Action Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
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 Affairs (DWA) 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 Affairs and technical team during the public participation process up to 4 July 2014. Changes to the report since the first version for public comment, distributed with the Final Scoping Report are highlighted in yellow.

#### 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 subsequently been corrected to Lalini in this document.**

#### **Authorities Forum Meeting (AFM)**

The following AF Meetings have taken place (date that minutes were distributed in brackets):

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
1.	28 May 2014	East London Golf Club (9 June 2014)

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

#### **Stakeholder Meetings:**

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

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
1.	14 May 2014	Siqhungqwini Junior Secondary School (3 June 2014)
2.	15 May 2014	Tsolo Town Hall (3 June 2014)
3.	16 May 2014	Lalini Junior Secondary School (3 June 2014)

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 ILISO website during the public participation process:

<b>No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Report</b>
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

#### **Written submissions**

The following written submissions has been received and incorporated into this report:

<b>No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Received by whom</b>	<b>Origin</b>
1.	1 June 2014	Sipesihle Magazi	E-mail
2.	9 June 2014	Kholosa Langabi	Faxed registration form
3.	9 June 2014	Swuyile Mazeke	Faxed registration form
4.	9 June 2014	Sivuyise Mange	Faxed registration form
5.	9 June 2014	Zukisa Madasa	Faxed registration form
6.	9 June 2014	Asanda Zihlewele	Faxed registration form
7.	9 June 2014	Yanga Mthathi	Faxed registration form
8.	9 June 2014	Tinyiko Mtati	Faxed registration form
9.	9 June 2014	Mphumli Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form

10.	9 June 2014	Nokomwaba Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form
11.	9 June 2014	Allman Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form
12.	9 June 2014	Nikimbako Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form
13.	9 June 2014	Bolekwa Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form
14.	9 June 2014	Phatiswa Ntshongwana	Faxed registration form
15.	9 June 2014	Nkomeka Somagu	Faxed registration form
16.	9 June 2014	Nokubongs Saunders	Faxed registration form
17.	9 June 2014	Ntombifuthi Nonkenku	Faxed registration form
18.	9 June 2014	Justice Sigenu	Faxed registration form and E-mail
19.	11 June 2014	Masibulele Mkona	Faxed registration form
20.	11 June 2014	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	Faxed registration form and E-mail
21.	11 June 2014	Samkelo Mapotolo	Faxed registration form
22.	11 June 2014	Nonzwakazi Constance Sodinga	Faxed registration form
23.	11 June 2014	Buyisile Godfrey Hlaletseni	Faxed registration form
24.	11 June 2014	Sive Saunders	Faxed registration form
25.	11 June 2014	Lulekile Mbombo	Faxed registration form
26.	11 June 2014	Boxalele Mvubu	Faxed registration form
27.	11 June 2014	Ntombesini Nunu	Faxed registration form
28.	11 June 2014	Olivakhe Vakala	Faxed registration form
29.	12 June 2014	Yolisa Nunu	Faxed registration form
30.	12 June 2014	Sithembiso Jokazi	Faxed registration form
31.	12 June 2014	Zukile Mkhazi	Faxed registration form
32.	13 June 2014	Qondile Paliso	E-mail
33.	14 June 2014	Sipesihle Magazi	E-mail
34.	14 June 2014	Sinniri Jokazi	Faxed registration form
35.	23 June 2014	Dean Muruven (World Wildlife Fund)	E-mail
36.	23 June 2014	Vuyelwa Tobi	Posted registration form
37.	27 June 2014	Pumza Mbatu-Khan	Faxed registration form
38.	27 June 2014	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group)	E-mail
39.	01 July 2014	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	E-mail

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 in **Table 1**. The detailed comments received are recorded in **Chapter 3**.

**Table 1: Key issues raised during meetings, fax or email as listed above until 4 July 2014**

No	Issue/concern/suggestion	Raised by whom	Response
1.	The upgrading of <b>access roads</b> is needed.	Mrs Lawana Mr Sigenu	The road to access the dam construction sites will be upgraded. Additional roads in the study area will also be upgraded.
2.	It was asked if <b>jobs</b> would be created through the construction of the dams.	Miss Magazi Mr Tshitshi Kholosa Langabi Mr Nqxiti Zandisile Kanise Samkelo Mapotolo Nonzwakazi Sodinga Sive Saunders Lulekile Mbombo Baxolele Mvubu Ntombesibini Nunu Yolisa Nunu	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 of the dam and agriculture that would be permanent. The Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme will also create additional employment for the community.
3.	Will the <b>Presidential launch</b> as well as the programme <b>fast-tracking</b> impact the EIA?	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group) Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	The sod-turning in April 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. 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 the reports are being produced, the Department of Water Affairs is reviewing and approving them, and the competent authority is reviewing them.
4.	Concern regarding the efficiency of the <b>consultative process</b> .	Zandisile Kanise D.C. Lourens Qondile Paliso	We are striving to achieve effective consultation with all interested and especially potentially directly affected parties. All specific suggestions and recommendations for improved consultation are considered.

No	Issue/concern/suggestion	Raised by whom	Response
5.	<b>Potential pollution</b> to the river and dam.	John Gerringerh (Eskom) Swuyile Mazeke Sivuyise Mange Sivuyile Mazeke Asanda Zihlwele Zukisa Madasa	Part of the EIA an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) will be compiled which will state 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, water samples will be taken for testing to make sure that there is nothing harmful in the water.  The impact of irrigation return flows during the operational phase will be assessed in the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA.
6.	<b>Soil Erosion</b> within the Mzimvubu River Catchment.	Sivuyise Mange Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	Soil erosion is indeed a big issue in this catchment. The Department of Environmental Affairs has therefore initiated a Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme aimed at addressing this any related issues.
7.	Mzimvubu River is critical for water supply.	Dean Muruven (WWF)	The project will supply domestic water needs of the communities in the project area. The Reserve determination took into account basic human needs. This will be assessed further during the EIA to confirm the availability of water for human needs.
8.	What areas will be <b>irrigated</b> as part of this project?	Mrs Kasa Puleng (DAFF)	This has not yet been determined. The studies will still be undertaken to determine what the best crops will be for irrigation and the areas will be determined from there.

### 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
<b>1. Design and implementation</b>				
1.1	It was asked how the naming of the project worked and why it was named Mzimvubu.	14.05.2014 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Mr Sigenu	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.
1.2	What is the difference was between the footprint of the project and the water supply area?	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	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 us the area in which people will receive water as a result of this project.
1.3	Has the new N2 been taken into consideration in the design of the project?	28.05.2014 AFM	Cecilia Gyan (Department of Environmental Affairs)	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.
1.4	An enquiry about the new or upgraded bridges was made.	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	Existing bridges and access roads in the vicinity of the proposed Ntabelanga Dam site will need to be upgraded.
1.5	In each dam there will be a waste treatment works. It was asked why this would be needed or what is it for.	27.06.2014 via email	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group)	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.
1.6	It was indicated that there will be no possible activity alternatives in the construction of the dam, and the justification is that the money comes from the Department of Water Affairs and they may not have other mandates. I, however, differ with this view. The	27.06.2014 via email	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group)	a. 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



	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	<p>Department of Water Affairs could:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 against big floods that are prevalent in this area.</li> <li>With improved underground water reserves (based on a. above) develop boreholes in villages which will provide more quality water.</li> <li>Change from dam provision to provision of rain-fed tanks.</li> </ol>			<p>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 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 Affairs, 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ol>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				<p>of Water Affairs, although the Department can provide support where possible.</p> <p>c. Rain water harvesting will not, again, meet the project objectives as presented above. In any case, a rain water harvesting programme can be implemented in complementarity with the Mzimvubu Water Project. The two are not exclusive.</p>
<b>2. Construction</b>				
<b>2.1 General Construction</b>				
2.1.1	When will construction of the dam start?	16.04.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mr Fukutwa	The Department of Water Affairs is planning to start construction before the end of 2014. 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.
2.1.2	Assurance was requested that this project would start on time.	16.04.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mr Ngamlana	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.
2.1.3	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)?	28.05.2014 AFM	Mzandile Mbokwana (OR Tambo District Municipality)	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 Affairs as they fall outside the mandate of the Department.
2.1.4	What is the construction period?	28.05.2014 AFM	Siboniso Mbense (Department of Environmental	A 3-year construction period is an indicative period for the Ntabelanga 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.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
			Affairs)	
2.1.5	How much time will it would take for the dam to fill up?	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	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.
2.1.6	Will secondary infrastructure be constructed by DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS?	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	The intention is that the Department of Water Affairs 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 will take into account the proposed irrigated agriculture and change in land use.
2.1.7	It was asked that the stages be completed before the summer rains start.	09.06.2014 via fax	Justice Sigenu (Resident)	Scheduling of construction work will take into account the disruptions of the rainy season.
2.1.8	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 via fax	Justice Sigenu (Resident)	Government is committed to seeing this project implemented as soon as environmental authorisation is obtained. Land ownership and compensation issues will be addressed during the EIA and implementation phase.
<b>2.2 Project Launch</b>				
2.2.1	It was asked why the sod turning, on 11 April 2014 was not done in the area where the dam wall is being constructed.	14.05.2014 Siphungqwini JSS PM	Community member	The conditions of the existing roads make the 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.
2.2.2	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 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	The President undertook a ceremonial sod-turning in April. This 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. No Contractor has been appointed and no construction activities have commenced.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
2.2.3	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 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.	27.06.2014 via email	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group)	The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is undertaking the EIA in compliance with all of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Regulatory 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 6: Public Participation of the Scoping Report).
<b>2.3 Access Roads</b>				
2.3.1	Concern was expressed about the access road to Lalini as it already has potholes. What will be done about this road?	16.04.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mrs Lawana	The road to access the dam construction site will be upgraded. Additional roads in the study area will also be upgraded.
<b>3. Legal</b>				
3.1	Why is the EIA being fast-tracked? Under whose legal authority?	11.06.2014 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	<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 has 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</p>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				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.
3.2	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 via email	Ayanda Sigwela (Restoration Research Group)	The November amendments to the waste listed activities have been taken into account in the final Scoping Report.
3.3	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 tress covered by National Forest Act.	01.07.2014 via email	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Noted. Will do.
<b>4. Public Participation</b>				
4.1	This project 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 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs)	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 is being investigated.
4.2	How do communities in the catchment get involved/what processes are in place to involve them?	11.06.2014 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	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
4.3	There is a protocol through the Traditional Affairs and they should be informed to assist with informing the public.	15.05.2014 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs)	

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				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 Affairs website.
4.4	It was asked where hardcopies of the draft Scoping Report were available for the local people to review.	15.05.2014 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental Affairs)	<p>Hard copies have been left at the following venues from 9 May 2014 and are available until 9 June 2014 for comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siphungqwini Junior Secondary School;</li> <li>• Tsolo (Mhlontlo Local Municipality offices);</li> <li>• Qumbu (Mhlontlo Local Municipality offices);</li> <li>• Mthatha (Walter Sisulu University); and</li> <li>• East London Central Library.</li> </ul> <p>An additional hardcopy was left with Chief Mabantla who is the Chief for the ward where the Ntabelanga Dam will be constructed.</p>
4.5	The venues selected by the consultants have a tremendous limiting effect on creation of a wider and direct interactive opportunity with them. Our place is highly rural and with highly illiteracy rates and local communities to the site of development are not the only ones who are affected or stand to gain from this huge project. A decision to simply distribute documents wider in urban centres does not promote adequate consultation.	06.05.2014 Email	Zandisile Kanise	We are striving to achieve effective consultation with all interested and especially potentially directly affected parties. All specific suggestions and recommendations for improved consultation are considered.
4.6	Mzimvubu Dam stands out as a project that will not only affect the life of people where construction will	09.05.2014 Email	Zandisile Kanise	The public participation process for this EIA aims to be transparent and all inputs from I&AP's are considered.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	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.			
4.7	Has the Mzimvubu Catchment Forum been engaged with?	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	The Mzimvubu Catchment Forum are registered I&APs.
4.8	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 AFM	D.C. Lourens (Joe Gqabi District Municipality)	The project team requested that a proposed venue for an additional meeting be submitted to the EIA team for consideration. This has not been received to date.
4.9	Concern was expressed about efficiency of the consultation process with the tribal authorities.	13.06.2014 via email	Qondile Paliso (Department of Environmental Affairs)	The public participation process has included contact with the Tribal Authorities in the study area through the representative in the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. In addition to being directly involved the tribal authorities have nominated the two local facilitators that ILISO have appointed on a contract basis to assist with the consultation with the communities in the potentially impacted areas, such as distributing documents by hand and arranging meetings.
4.10	Various parties do have special interest in this project.	13.06.2014 via email	Qondile Paliso (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Please advise which parties potentially have special interests in this so that a Focus Group Meeting can be arranged as soon as possible.
4.11	In order for the project to prosper without any difficulties, conflicts will need to be dealt with upfront.	13.06.2014 via email	Qondile Paliso (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Noted. There have been no conflicts that have arisen, to date during the EIA process.
4.12	Stakeholder asked how the authorities forum meetings related to the other public participation	11.06.2014 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	The Authorities Forum was established at the request of the Department of Environmental Affairs with the primary objective

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	activities, such as the stakeholder forums.			of expediting input to the EIA process and specifically to comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports to enable Department of Environmental Affairs to undertake their reviews timeously. For this project two meetings are planned to coincide with the public comment period for the draft reports. At the first meeting 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&APs are being conducted.
<b>5. Social</b>				
<b>5.1 Social implications</b>				
5.1.1	It was asked if the residents of the area would benefit from this project.	14.05.2014 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Community member	Residents will benefit as drinking water will be supplied to the community. The project will also generate jobs for the entire region, not just the community.
5.1.2	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 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Community member	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 Affairs
5.1.3	Clarity was requested about permanent and temporary job creation. Job creation will improve the livelihood of the community.	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM  09.06.2014 via fax	Mr Ngxiti (Resident)  Nkomeka Somagu (Resident)	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 of the dam and agriculture that would be permanent. The Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme will also create additional employment for the community.
5.1.4	Majority of the youth in the area are unemployed. Will	09.06.2014 via	Mphumli and	



	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	this project provide work for the youth so that they do not spend all their time drinking alcohol?	fax	Nokamwaba Ntshongwana (Residents)  Ntombifuthi Nonkenka (Resident)	
5.1.5	The youth need to be first priority as they suffer the most.	27.06.2014 via fax	Pumza Mbatu-Khan (Resident)	
5.1.6	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 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Community member	This issue will be considered in the Impact Assessment phase.
5.1.7	Cold wind will come off the dam. This will affect the people living close to the dam site.	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mr Nomanqina (Resident)	This issue will be considered in the Impact Assessment phase.
5.1.8	I wish you to consider geohydrological impacts; as well as in line with social impacts consider the possible influx of people for jobs as this may have implications for the municipality (services, etc). Impacts on terrestrial plants to consider search and rescue of protected plants including where they will be relocated to (Rescue Plan for Plants). Many dams in the Transkei have been silted up how do you take care of this,	01.07.2014 via email	Sizekele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	This will be addressed in the Impact Assessment Phase.
<b>5.2 Safety</b>				
5.2.1	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 Lalini JSS PM	Mrs Nomanqina (Resident)	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 Affairs. 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

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				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.
5.2.2	It was asked that the dam be fenced off and closed on top.	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mr Tshitshi (Resident)	The safety and security policy of the Department of Water Affairs 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, but the dam wall and basin will be managed according to international best practices.
5.2.3	Stakeholder stated that Safety needs to be addressed in the EIA process.	12.06.2014 via fax	Sithembiso Jokazi (Resident)	Noted.
5.2.4	Stakeholder stated that safety clothing needs to be provided during construction.	11.06.2014 via fax	Olivakhe Vakala (Resident)	This will be done.
<b>5.3 Positive Feedback</b>				
5.3.1	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 via email  11.06.2014 via fax	Siphesihle Magazi (Resident)  Masibulele Mkona (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.2	Appreciation for the project was expressed. This project will benefit the community, especially with the 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.	14.05.2014 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Mr Sigenu (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.3	The community were encouraged to submit	14.05.2014	Community	Noted.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	comments on the project because if they do not the project could be delayed whereas the community want the project to start as soon as possible.	Siqhungqwini JSS PM	member	
5.3.4	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 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mr Duma (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.5	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 Lalini JSS PM  11.06.2014 via fax  11.06.2014 via fax  12.06.2014 via fax	Mr Tshitshi (Resident)  Sive Saunders (Resident)  Baxolele Mvubu (Resident)  Yolisa Nunu (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.6	The project will assist in relieving poverty and create job opportunities.	09.06.2014 via fax  11.06.2014 via fax	Kholosa Langabi (Resident)  Samkelo Mapotolo (Resident)  Lulekile Mbombo (Resident)  Ntombesibini Nunu (Resident)	Noted.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
5.3.7	The community will experience growth through the creation of these dams and through water development.	14.06.2014 via fax  11.06.2014 via fax	Sinniri Jokazi (Resident)  Nonzwakazi Constance Sodinga (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.8	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 via fax	Phatiswa Ntshongwana (Resident)	Noted.
5.3.9	Stakeholder stated he is proud of the project as it will provide the people with better water.	12.06.2014 via fax	Zukile Mkhanzi (Resident)  Samkelo Mapotolo (Resident)	Noted.
<b>6. Potential Pollution</b>				
6.1	An enquiry was made about the areas close to the dam that have been earmarked for irrigated agriculture. Will the EIA consider potential pollution from those areas (e.g. from the use of fertilisers) into the river?	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	This will be addressed in the Water Quality Specialist Study.
6.2	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 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Community member	Part of the EIA an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) will be compiled which will state 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, water samples will be taken for testing to make sure that there is nothing harmful in the water.
6.3	The trees that are surrounding the Tsitsa River that	09.06.2014 via	Sivuyise Mange	This will be addressed in the Water Quality Specialist Study.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	will be inundated may at some point pollute the water. Before the dam is flooded the trees need to be removed.	fax         23.06.2014 via post	(Resident)  Sivuyile Mazeke (Resident)  Asanda Zihlwele (Resident)  Zukisa Madasa (Resident)  Vuyelwa Tobi (Resident)	
6.4	Stakeholder stated that 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 via fax	Sivuyise Mange (Resident)  Asanda Zihlwele (Resident)  Zukisa Madasa (Resident)	The Environmental Management Programme applicable to the construction of the dam will have waste management requirements that all Contractors must adhere to. These will be monitored for compliance.
6.5	A dumping site needs to be created so that waste materials and products can be isolated to one area.	23.06.2014 via post	Vuyelwa Tobi (Resident)	
<b>7. Soil Erosion</b>				
7.1	Stakeholder stated that soil erosion may be a potential problem.	09.06.2014 via fax	Sivuyise Mange (Resident)	Soil erosion is indeed a big issue in this catchment. The Department of Environmental Affairs has therefore initiated a Catchment Rehabilitation and Management Programme aimed at addressing this and related issues. This project includes the
7.2	Catchment rehab is "outside the scope of the EIA" – however, soil erosion is a huge issue in this	11.06.2014 via email	Nick King (NGO)	

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	catchment and this is absolutely critical to dam life, so the two cannot be disconnected – how will this be addressed?			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 we have 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.
<b>8. Relocation and Compensation</b>				
8.1	What will happen to structures (houses) near or within the project footprint?	28.05.2014 AFM	Tshililo Vele (Joe Gqabi District Municipality)	A Relocation Action Plan (RAP) will be compiled as part of the EIA that will provide an inventory of structures and resources (such as cultivated fields) that will potentially be directly affected by the project. There will also be Focus Group Meetings with the traditional authorities, ward councillors and affected communities to discuss the possible impacts on people. The policy is that no individuals who will be affected by the project should be worse off after the project than they are now.
8.2	Are there any set measurements regarding the area that would become inundated so that people who may need to be relocated can prepare themselves to be moved.	14.05.2014 Siqhungqwini JSS PM	Community member	A team was sent out on 23 June 2013 to 11 July 2014, including the local facilitators to identify potentially impacted houses and fields as part of the EIA, however, this study will only identify how this may be impacted and a Relocation Action Plan be compiled.
8.3	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 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mrs Tsama (Department of Environmental Affairs)	No negotiations, however, with the occupier or the Chiefs will be done during the EIA. This would be undertaken just before the project is implemented and only then will the individuals affected be communicated with. The policy of Government is
8.4	The land at the site of the Lalini Dam is used as a grazing area. What compensation will be given to the	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Community member	

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	people as they will lose this grazing land?			that the people that are affected should not be worse off than they are before the project commences.
8.5	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 via fax	Justice Sigenu (Resident)	
8.6	<p>The following questions need to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What economic opportunities will be unlocked by the dam during implementation, and how local people will be positioned to take advantage of the opportunities?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>How will the project affect households and communities?</li> </ul>	09.05.2014 Email	Zandisile Kanise	This issue will be considered in the Impact Assessment phase.
8.7	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> . He asked how this aspect was being dealt with in the EIA.	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	If such plants qualified as a resource that is currently being used, and they are lost, this will be captured in the RAP.
8.8	Stakeholder asked how the homes that have graves will be moved. Culturally, a cow needs to be slaughtered to apologise to the ancestors if a grave is to be removed.	14.06.2014 via email	Siphesihle Magazi (Resident)	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

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				<p>other cultural and heritage resources are 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 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.</p>
<b>9. Borrow areas and Quarries</b>				
9.1.	There are no permitted quarries or mining areas within OR Tambo Municipality. What will be done about this?	15.05.2014 Tsolo Town Hall PM	Mrs Silo (Department of Environmental	All the quarry areas identified will be within the dam basin. They will be new quarries and borrow areas and an Environmental Management Programme is being compiled



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			Affairs)	which will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources for approval. If there are insufficient materials available within the dam basins then they will be bought from the local suppliers.
9.2.	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 AFM	Sindi Dlomo (Department of Environmental Affairs)	There will always be some level of uncertainty as the geotechnical studies only predict what materials will be found underground on site. These predictions will only be verified once excavations start for construction. If the quarry material identified in the dam basin is not suitable, the size of the quarry may increase or other sources near the dam site would have to be considered. At this stage, it is foreseen that the only material that will be brought to site for concrete production is cement.
<b>10. Agriculture, irrigation and drinking water</b>				
10.1	Fencing for the agricultural fields was requested.	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mrs Jamjam (Resident)	This is not part of the Department of Water Affairs infrastructure project, but may form part of the Catchment Management Programme for future projects.
10.2	What areas will be irrigated?	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mrs Kasa (Resident)	This has not yet been determined. The studies will still be undertaken to determine what the best crops will be for irrigation and the areas will be determined from there.
10.3	Request for additional equipment such as tractors to help the people plant crops.	16.05.2014 Lalini JSS PM	Mr Ndyoki (Resident)	The development of agriculture is not a part of the project that this EIA is applying for authorisation of.
10.4	It was asked whether aquaculture could be developed as part of the project.	20.05.2014 Agriculture workshop	Puleng (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)	The possibility of aquaculture will be assessed in the Impact Assessment Phase.
10.5	Concern was expressed about the impact of the Department of Water Affairs' plan to reduce/remove the subsidy on water for agriculture as proposed in	20.05.2014 agriculture workshop	Puleng (Department of Agriculture,	This concern is not a part of the Mzimvubu Water Project EIA but will be passed on to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	the Pricing Strategy.		Forestry and Fisheries)	
10.6	Another EIA may be required to establish commercial agriculture in the area (e.g. to apply for vegetation clearance).	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	Noted.
10.7	Are there any plantations in the area?	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	Most of the land has been cultivated or previously cultivated, or is used for grazing.
10.8	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 via fax	Yanga Mthathi (Resident)  Tinyiko Mtati (Resident)	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.
10.9	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 (Resident)	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.
10.10	A request was made to supply purified water to the rural areas.	09.06.2014 via fax	Ntombifuthi Nonkenka (Resident)  Nokubonga Saunders (Resident)  Bolekwa Ntshongwana (Resident)	

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
			<p>Nikimbako Ntshongwana (Resident)</p> <p>Buyisile Godfrey Hlaletseni (Residents)</p>	
<b>11. Hydropower</b>				
11.1.	<p>Where will the power plant at Lalini be?</p> <p>There are various options in terms of connection points from the new power line to the existing grid. If a new sub-station is required, this will need to be discussed with Eskom.</p>	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	It will be at the end of the tunnel. Three possible tunnel lengths are being investigated and the final position of the tunnel has not yet been chosen.
11.2.	An enquiry about the hydropower component at Ntabelanga Dam was made.	28.05.2014 AFM	Magazi Mhlanga (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform)	In addition to the main hydropower plant at Lalini Dam, a small hydropower plant will be built to harness the hydropower potential at the Ntabelanga Dam.
11.3.	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 Department of Water Affairs operate the power plant; if so, it will need a generating licence.	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
11.4.	If Eskom is invited to be the operator of the hydropower plants, the Department of Energy should	28.05.2014 AFM	Joan Arrikum (DPE)	Noted.

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
	be involved.			
11.5.	An enquiry was made about the capacity of the power lines. The activity applied for is a transmission line, but it may be sufficient to apply for a distribution line (lower voltage).	28.05.2014 AFM	Sindi Dlomo (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Further consultation with Eskom will be undertaken to confirm the requirements to link the Mzimvubu Water Project to Eskom's grid.
11.6.	The minimum servitude for one 132 kV power line is 36 metres. He recommended that the team talk to Eskom about connecting to the grid.	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	
12. Other				
12.1	It was asked if the impacts on tourism have been considered, especially at the Tsitsa Falls, and what the impact of the dams will be on the flow regime.	28.05.2014 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	The issue of tourism will be investigated in the EIA phase, from a social and ecological perspective.  The Reserve determination has been finalised and will be taken into account in the design of the scheme.
12.2	Will there be stilling chambers?	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Lucas (Department of Water Affairs)	Provision has been made for a stilling basin (at Ntabelanga Dam). Details of a stilling basin will be confirmed in the detailed design.
12.3	An enquiry was made about the catchment rehabilitation and management plan.	28.05.2014 AFM	Andrew Hope (Department of Water Affairs)	This is a separate project, which will be beneficial to the Mzimvubu Water Project (for the yield and life of the dams in particular) but is not included in this EIA.
12.4	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 AFM	John Geeringh (Eskom)	The estuarine Reserve has been done for the Mzimvubu River, and it will be taken into account in the EIA.
12.5	An enquiry was made about the dynamics of land ownership in the area and asked if there was any land owned privately.	28.05.2014 AFM	Magazi Mhlanga (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform)	All land in the project area belongs to the State and the Traditional Authorities are the custodians of this land. DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS will only acquire land once the project has been authorised and is ready for implementation.
12.6	A SEA should be done for the whole catchment, not EIA's for individual projects.	12.06.2014 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	The following have been taken into account in the Scoping Phase:

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2011</li> <li>• National Development Plan (NDP);</li> <li>• National Spatial Development Plan (NSDP);</li> <li>• Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP);</li> <li>• Eastern Cape Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) (2<sup>nd</sup> edition as in GN 82 on 24 March 2014), and</li> <li>• Integrated Development Plans (IDP) for all municipalities which should include Strategic Environmental Frameworks).</li> </ul> <p>The <b>alternative dam site assessment</b> process undertaken in the Feasibility Study is summarised in Chapter 5.2 of the Scoping Report. A <b>Reserve determination</b> 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>What is not yet available is a sufficiently detailed Reserve for a point downstream of the proposed Lalini Dam. This will be undertaken as part of the EIA process.</p>
12.7	Mention is made that the Department of Water Affairs 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 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	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 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

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				Commission who provide the necessary oversight.
12.8	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 via email	Dr Nicholas King (NGO)	Please refer to Chapter 8: Key Issues, section 8.2.1: Climate change projections and risks in the Final Scoping Report.
12.9	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 via email	Dean Muruven (World Wildlife Fund)	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. The findings of the Reserve study will be revisited during the EIA to confirm the availability of water for human needs.
12.10	Will the project consider any offset programmes?	23.06.2014 via email	Dean Muruven (World Wildlife Fund)	<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"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Rehabilitation/restoration: measures taken to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems or restore cleared ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely</li> </ul>

	Issue/Comment/Question	Date received	Origin	Response
				<p>avoided and/ or minimised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
12.11	Although the Catchment Rehabilitation is a separate project but in respect of any suggestions on Biodiversity offset it presents an opportunity.	01.07.2014 via email	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Noted.
12.12	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 via email	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	This will be addressed in the Impact Assessment Phase.
12.13	Heritage Assessment: I refer you to The Distribution of Early Iron Age Settlements in Eastern Cape ... by J. Feely, <i>et al.</i>	01.07.2014 via email	Sizakele Gabula (Department of Environmental Affairs)	Noted with thanks.