



CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR A PROPOSED SEWER IN GROOT DRAKENSTEIN, WESTERN CAPE

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information about the proposed project and to introduce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform I&APs on how to fully participate in the EIA.

DEA&DP REF: 16/3/1/1/B4/45/1044/12

Project Background / Overview

The Cape Winelands District Municipality (CWDM) is proposing to construct a new sewer to transport sewerage from the existing housing community on Erf 1006/1 (Meerlust) and various neighbouring farms northwards to the Pearl Valley Wastewater Treatment Works. An approximately 5.79km long gravity sewer will be constructed.

The proposed route of the sewer begins on the southern portion of the Meerlust site (Erf 1006/1), located just north of the junction of the R45 to Franschhoek and R310 to Stellenbosch (see attached map). The route then continues in a north easterly direction passing through the following properties: Elkana (Erf 982), Bien Donne (Erf 904), Langerust (Erf 946/5), Niewe Sion (Erf 1223), Watervliet 2 (Erf 1224/2), Watervliet 3 (Erf 1224/3), Berg River Farms (Erf 913).

The sewer will then pass across the Berg River to a pump station located adjacent to the Berg River on Erf 913. From there, wastewater will be pumped through a rising main of approximately 600 m into an existing manhole on Erf 826/11 where it will join an existing sewer that will transport the wastewater via gravity to the Pearl Valley Wastewater Treatment Works.

The sewer pipeline will therefore comprise the following:

1 640 m of 200 mm diameter Class 34 (Heavy Duty) uPVC gravity sewer main;
1 700 m of 250 mm diameter Class 34 (Heavy Duty) uPVC gravity sewer main;
1 850 m of 300 mm diameter Class 34 (Heavy Duty) uPVC gravity sewer main;
600 m of 110 mm diameter Class 12 rising main (Design flow = 12l/s); and

One sewage pump station with two submersible pumps (duty, stand-by) capable of delivering 12l/s each. The footprint of the pump station will be approximately 36 m².

The sewer will have a peak throughput of 6 litres per second.

The trench associated with the sewer will be a maximum of 0.9 m wide by 3.6 m deep. A 5 m wide servitude will be required for the sewer.

The CWDM have appointed Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the project.

Subsequently, GIBB has appointed specialists to undertake the following specialist studies;

- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Aquatic Ecology Assessment
- Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment

The Basic Assessment Report will include the findings from these respective studies and will be available for comment.

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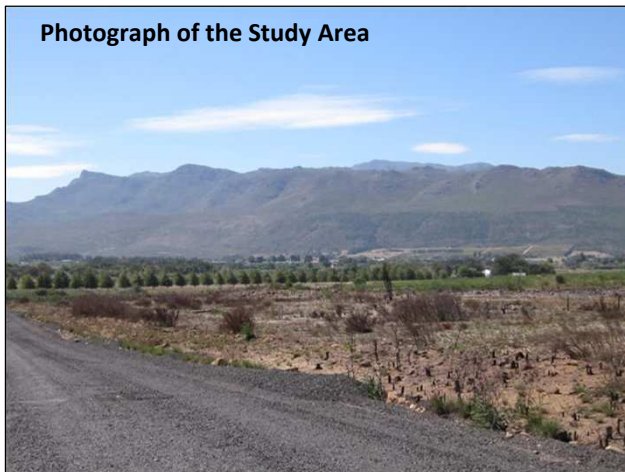
FOR A PROPOSED SEWER IN GROOT DRAKENSTEIN, WESTERN CAPE

Why is a Sewer Needed?

The sewerage generated by the existing Meerlust community is currently stored in a septic tank and collected at least twice weekly by truck. This is an expensive process. There is also the potential risk of overflowing and pollution should a collection be missed for whatever reason. One of the functions of the CWDM, alongside its local municipalities, is to provide basic service delivery and infrastructure development. It is recognised by the CWDM that the management of sewerage from the Meerlust site is unsatisfactory and in need of improvement.



Photograph of the Study Area



Why is an EIA Required?

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended) and associated EIA Regulations published in Government Notices (GN) 543, 544, 545 and 546 in June 2010, an environmental authorisation must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority prior to the commencement of certain activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. These activities are commonly referred to as 'listed activities'.

The proposed sewer involves a number of listed activities. These are summarised below with a description of why these activities are triggered in terms of the proposed development:

GN 544: Activity No 11 - The construction of (iii) Bridges; (xi) Infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of such a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.

GN 544: Activity No 18 - The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse.

GN 546: Activity No 12 - The clearance of an area of 300 square metres of more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.....(b) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.

GN 546: Activity No 16 - The construction of (iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 square metres in size or (iv) infrastructure covering 10 square metres or more, where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, (d) In the Western Cape in: (hh) Areas within.....5 kilometres from the core area of a biosphere reserve.

The EIA Regulations identify two separate types of EIA processes, depending on the nature of the listed activity. A Basic Assessment process is required for those activities that are likely to have a low detrimental impact on the environment. A full Scoping and EIA process is required for those activities that are likely to have a greater impact on the environment. The activities listed above which are triggered by the proposed development require a **Basic Assessment** process to be followed.

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EIA Process (Basic Assessment)

The Basic Assessment will follow the process set out in the diagram below

The relevant environmental authority responsible for the environmental authorisation for the project is the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

Application for Exemption

An Application for Exemption was submitted to DEA&DP applying for exemption from the legislative requirements in **Regulations 10(2)(d)** and **56 (b)(iii)** of NEMA.

10(2)(d):

It is a legislative requirement for the applicant to publish a notice informing all I&APs of the authority's final decision on the application for environmental authorization (EA) in the same newspapers in which adverts were placed as part of the public participation process.

As all registered I&APs will be duly notified in writing of the EA once issued by DEA&DP and that a notice through an advertisement in the newspapers will not be needed.

56(b)(iii):

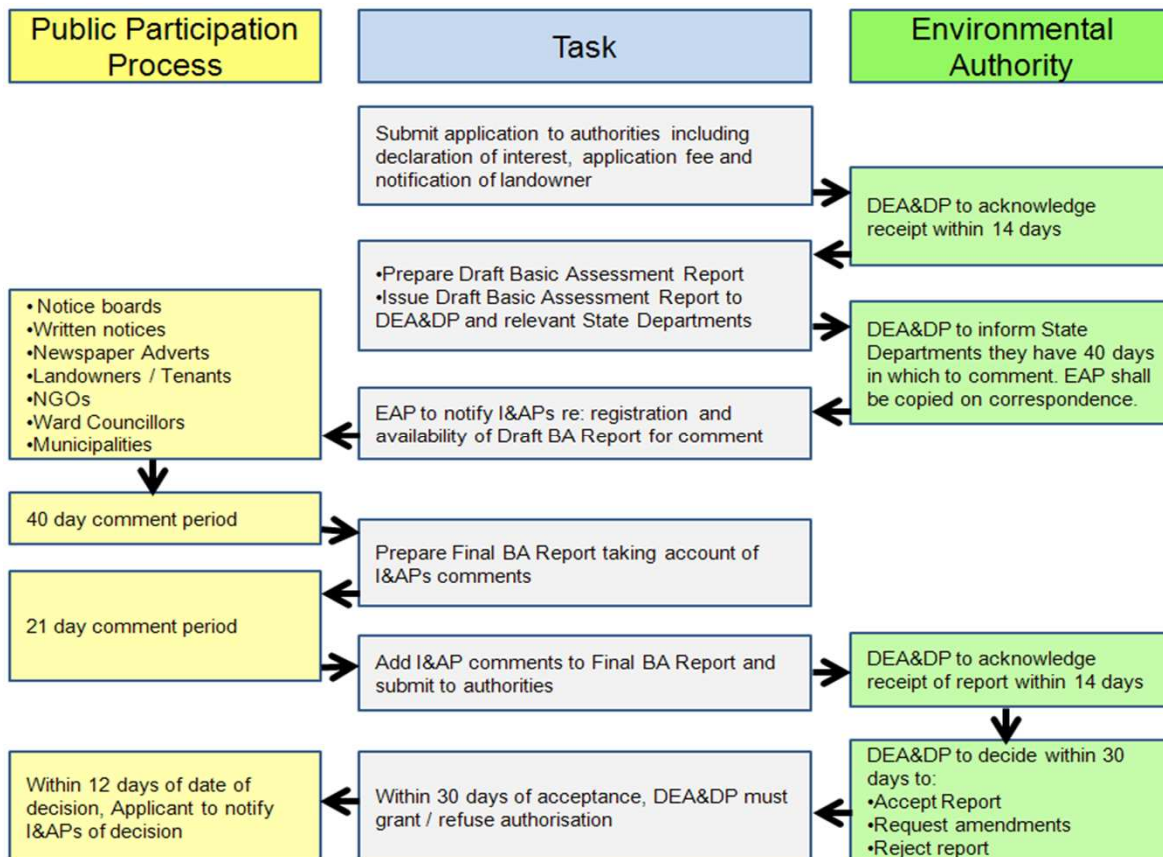
This legislative requirement stipulates that all owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the proposed activity is to be undertaken must be notified of the activity.

As the proposed activity will not affect adjacent landowners, the EAP has requested to deviate from this requirement.

These actions requires an Application for Exemption to be submitted to DEA&DP.

It is also a requirement that all the I&APs should be notified of any exemptions and afforded an opportunity to submit their comments in this regard. The Exemption Application will form part of the EIA process and I&APs will therefore have opportunity to submit comments.

EIA Process (Basic Assessment) to be Followed



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The Berg River

Additional Authorisations

Due to the proposed sewer crossing the Berg River, authorisation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) is also required. The authority responsible for issuing such authorisation is the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Aurecon, the project's engineers, are responsible for obtaining the authorisation from the DWA.

Public Participation Process and How to Get Involved

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the project. The inputs received from I&APs forms an integral part of the EIA process and will also assist the DEA&DP with their decision making.

To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

- 1) The EIA process, registration of I&APs and availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report is advertised (local newspapers, site notices, notification letters). I&APs are given 40 days to register and comment on the report.
- 2) I&APs are registered on the project's database (on-going)
- 3) All comments, issues and concerns raised by the I&APs are recorded and addressed
- 4) The registered I&APs are notified of the availability of the Final Basic Assessment Report for comment. I&APs are given 21 days to submit their comments.

Your Opportunity to Get Involved

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we encourage you to become involved in the process.

An invitation to register as an I&AP and to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report will be advertised in the local newspapers and on notices at the site. Notification letters will also be sent to key stakeholders.

In response to the invitation, you may register as an I&AP and submit your comments on the Draft Basic Assessment Report by emailing, faxing or posting the attached Registration and Comment Form to Arcus GIBB. All registrations and comments must be received within the 40 day time period stipulated in the invitation.

Please note that by completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project (note that in order to register you must submit your name and contact details). As a registered I&AP your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be captured and addressed accordingly through the EIA process.

Should you have any further queries or require further project information, please contact Arcus GIBB.

Arcus GIBB's contact details for this project are as follows:

Contact: Environmental - Public Participation Office

Email: grootdrak-sewer@gibb.co.za

Fax: 021 424 5571

Post: PO Box 3965, Cape Town, 8000

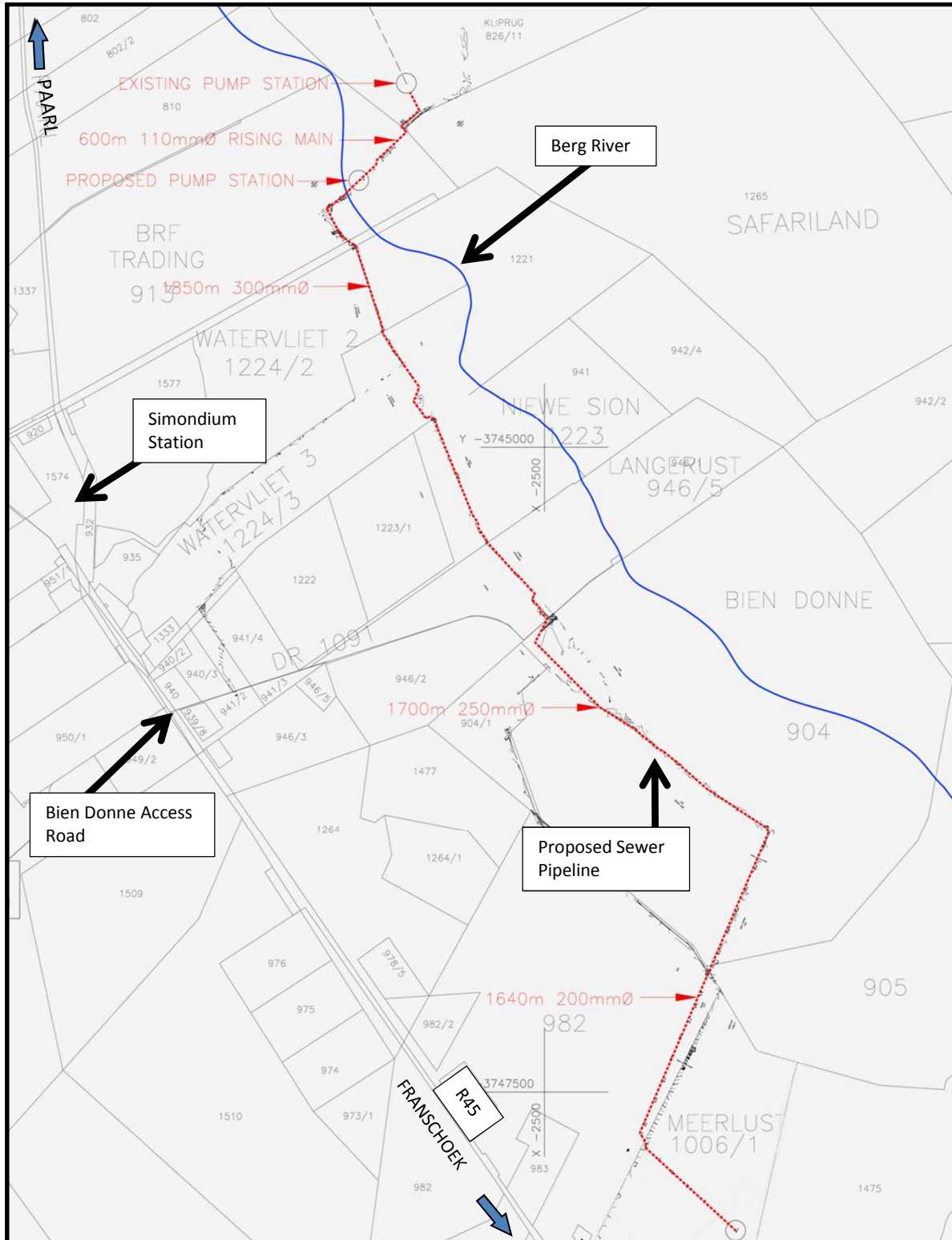
Phone: 021 469 9180

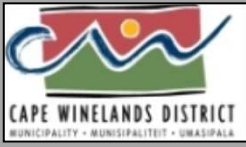
The public participation office will be available from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

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FOR A PROPOSED SEWER IN GROOT DRAKENSTEIN, WESTERN CAPE

Site Map and Proposed Sewer Pipeline Route





Interested & Affected Party Registration and Comment Form – Proposed New Sewer from Meerlust to Pearl Valley WasteWater Treatment Works, Groot Drakenstein

Please complete your personal details below to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party for the above project.

Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Prof etc)			
Name			
Organisation / Resident			
Telephone Number		Fax Number	
Physical Address			
Postal Address			
Email Address			

Please state your interest (i.e. direct business / financial / personal / other interest) with respect to the approval or refusal of the application for the above project.

Please state any concerns, suggestions and/or potential impacts that should be investigated during the EIA. Please attach comments on a separate page should the space provided on this form not be enough.

Please return the completed form by email / fax / post to:
Arcus GIBB / FAO: Environmental - Public Participation Office
Email: grootdrak-sewer@gibb.co.za / **Fax:** 021 424 5571 / **Post:** PO Box 3965, Cape Town, 8000
Any additional queries can be directed to Arcus GIBB on 021 469 9180.
Public Participation Office is open from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.