

Basic Assessment and Water Use Licence Application for the proposed upgrade of the existing Bushkoppie Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) in the Gauteng Province

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

GDARD REF NO.: Gaut 002/19-20/E0028.

DATE: 25 October 2019

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been structured to provide all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a concise overview of the proposed project activities as well as the associated Environmental Authorisation Processes. Furthermore this BID also intend to provide I&APs with information relating to the manner in which I&APs can voice any issues concerning the proposed project. The compilation and distribution of this BID form part of the Public Participation Process for the project.

When you complete and return the registration form included with the BID, you will be included in the stakeholder database and receive further documents for review and comment. Your comment will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated. To raise your concerns, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, write a letter, call or e-mail the public participation office. All documents will be available on the internet at www.zitholele.co.za/environmental, under heading "Bushkoppie BAR and WULA"

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1. BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Johannesburg Water SOC Limited (JW) intends to refurbishment to be undertaken at the existing Bushkoppie Waste Water Treatment Works, Gauteng Province. The project will entail the following:

- Construction of two new 35m diameter Primary Sedimentation Tanks (PSTs): ~1995m²;
- Construction of a– New Blower Building for Module 2 Head of Works (HoW): ~63m²;
- Trash screen and bunded area: ~212m²
- Construction of grit drying beds (GDB): ~6106m²;
- The relocation of the lime silo to a new position: 75m²;
- Construction of a new Primary Sludge Pump Station: ~64m²
- Construction of new terrace including retaining walls for new PSTs: ~210m long with a maximum height of 4.5m;
- Construction of new wash water pump station (WWPS): ~195m²;
- Installation of a wash water storage tank: 75m² (240m³); and
- Associated ancillary works.

The proposed development will trigger the requirement of a Basic Assessment process to be undertaken in terms of Listing Notice 1 (GN. R983) and Listing Notice 3 (GN. R985), as amended, of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. A Water Use License (WULA) in terms of section Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (36 of 1998), as amended will also be required.



Figure 1: Location of the Bushkoppie WwTW

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The project site is located within the existing Bushkoppie Wastewater Treatment Works which is situated on the Farm Misgund 322 IQ in the southern areas of Johannesburg, Gauteng Province. The site can be accessed via Stockwell Ave which is located on the western boundary of the study area. The site is approximately 1 hectare in extent.

3. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The Bushkoppie Wastewater Treatment Works is situated on the Farm Misgund 322-IQ within the jurisdiction of City of Johannesburg Municipality, Gauteng Province. Bushkoppie WwTW receives wastewater from the southern areas of Johannesburg via the South Eastern Outfall sewer and from the south western areas of Johannesburg, Soweto and parts of Roodepoort through the Bushkoppie Phase 1 and 2 outfall sewers. Due to the large volume of grit and solids in the incoming wastewater, there is a strain on the preliminary treatment resulting in many process units not performing as required. The proposed upgrade is required to improve process performance, effluent quality from the plant and assist with ongoing operations.

4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Environmental Authorisation

The proposed development require environmental authorisation from the Competent Authority, i.e. the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), in terms of the National Environmental Manament Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA): Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations 2014, as amended. The proposed project will trigger a listed activity in terms of Listing Notice 1 (GN R983) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R985) of EIA regulations 2014 as amended (refer to Table 1).

Activities triggered in Listing Notice 1 and 3 indicates that an application for environmental authorisation must be undertaken via a Basic Assessment Process.

Table 1: Listed activities that may be applicable to the project

Listed Activities as per EIA regulations 2014, GN R983 (Listing Notice 1), as amended	Applicability to proposed project
Listing Notice 1, Activity 34: The expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amendment or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions, effluent or pollution. <i>Exclusions are not applicable.</i>	The expansion and costruction of Bushkoppie WwTW.
Listed Activities as per EIA regulations 2014, GN R985 (Listing Notice 3), as amended	Applicability to proposed project
Listing Notice 3, Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The proposed site is located within the Gauteng C-Plan.

Water Use Licence

In terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA) (36 of 1998), as amended the abovementioned development may potentially require water use license for the following activities:

- Section 21(c) "impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse";
- Section 21 (i) "altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse".

5. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment (BA) aims to provide an objective view of the potential environmental and social impacts that could arise during the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning phase of a proposed project. A critical element of the BA Process is the Public Participation Process that gives Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) an opportunity

to provide comments on a proposed development. The outcome of the BA Process is concisely presented and documented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in order to provide the Competent Authority with all the information in order to make an informed decision.

The BAR content aligns with the requirements of Appendix 1 of the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended) (GN R.982) and timeframes are strictly adhered to through careful management of process. **Figure 2** provides a process flow diagram indicating the key tasks to be carried out for the BA Process and Public Participation Process (PPP).

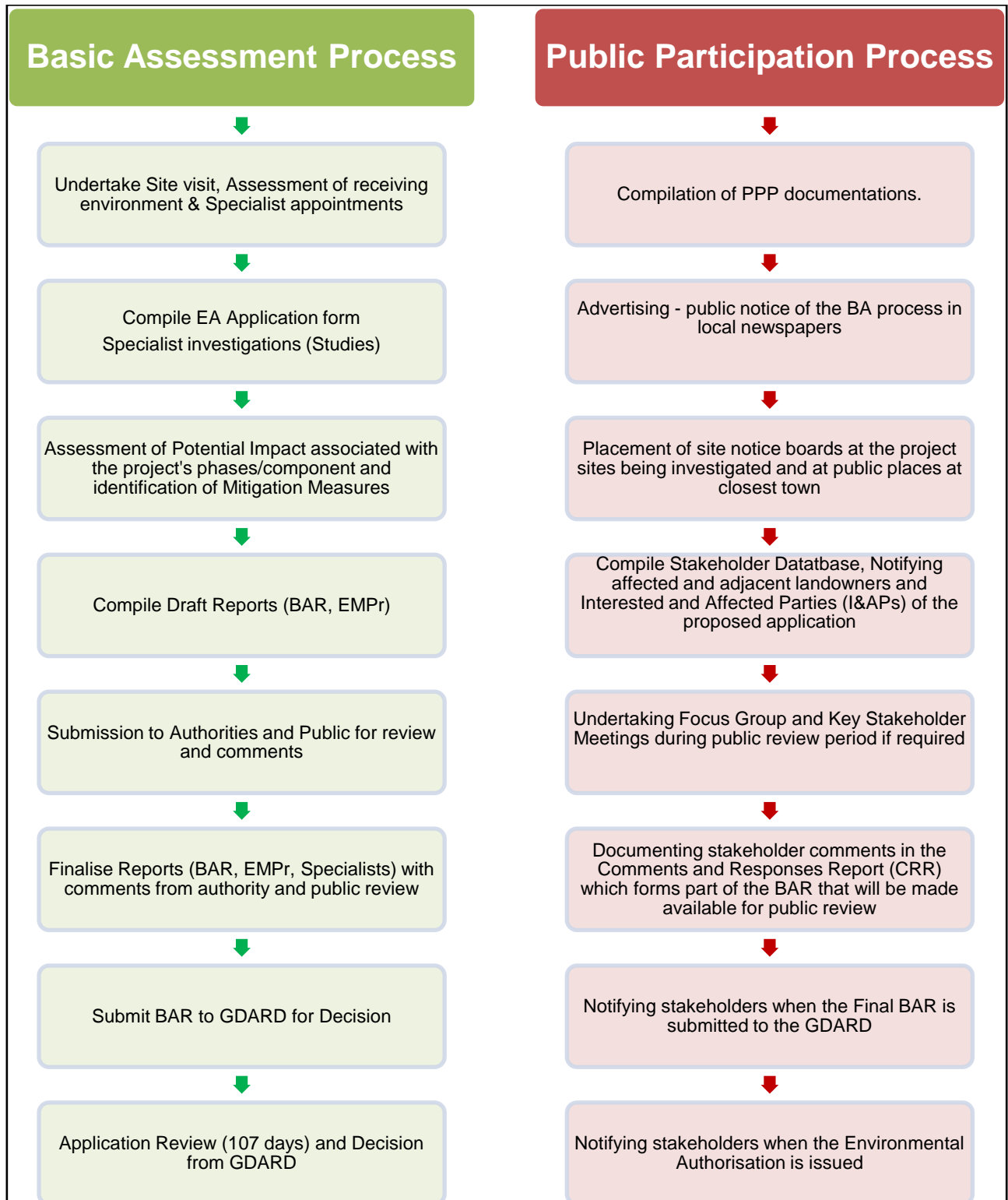


Figure 2: Process Flow Diagram for the steps required in a Basic Assessment and Public Participation Process

A decision on the application for environmental authorisation through a BA process is usually reached within 107 days of receipt of the BAR by the Competent Authority.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

As an important element in undertaking the BA for the proposed project, Zitholele Consulting will conduct the public participation process as set out in the NEMA EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended). Applicable guidelines and best practice procedures will furthermore be taken into consideration. The public participation process will enable stakeholders to contribute to the process through information sharing and to review the findings of the independent studies that are to be undertaken. The steps of the public participation component are outlined in **Figure 2**.

As part of the PPP, a 30-day public review and comment period, which provide the opportunity to review and comment on the draft BAR, will **commence on 25 October 2019** and **conclude on 25 November 2019**.

7. AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION

The draft BAR and related information for the development of a cellulose recovery plant and related infrastructure in Wadeville will be available for public review at the following public venues from 25 October 2019:

Public Venue	Address
Bushkoppie WwTW reception	Stockwell Avenue, Soweto

Information pertaining to the BAR and WML application can be viewed on Zitholele Consulting's website: www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/, under heading "Bushkoppie BAR & WULA" and at the public venues listed above.

8. DECISION-MAKING (ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION)

Based on the information provided in the final BAR, the Competent Authority will make a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation. The granting of environmental authorisation will allow the Applicant to proceed with implementing the proposed project activities. Once the Competent Authority has reached a decision, with regards to granting the environmental authorisation, all registered I&APs will be notified thereof within 14 days of the date of the decision. An appeal may be lodged against the decision made in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and National Appeal Regulations, 2014. I&APs will be notified of the decision made by the Competent Authority by means of the following:

- Via electronic mail;
- Facsimile (to I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail); and
- Registered mail (to those I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail nor facsimile facilities).

The Basic Assessment Process will be concluded by the notification of I&APs of the decision made by the Competent Authority.

Only once the EA has been granted by the GDARD will the WULA application be submitted to the DWS for consideration and decision.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ENCOURAGED

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to participate by registering as an I&AP and commenting on the application documentation in the following ways:

1. Download BID at the link: www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/, under heading "Bushkoppie BAR and WULA", or obtain copy at the public venues mentioned in this BID.
2. Register in writing by completing and returning the registration form attached to the BID to the PPP desk at the contact details specified below.
3. Register via SMS by texting, followed by your name, contact numbers and email address to 45776 (bundled and free SMSes not applicable).
4. Request BID or more info from PPP desk at contact details specified below.
5. Review and comment on documents made available on the Zitholele Consulting website: www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/, under heading "Bushkoppie BAR and WULA".

I&APs may contact the PPP desk at the following detail below:
Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Mrs Tebogo Mapinga / Ms Jessica Morwasehla
Tel: (011) 207 2060, Fax: 086 674 6121, Email: bushkoppie@zitholele.co.za
P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685

10. MAP OF PROJECT LOCATION

A locality Map of the proposed project can be found in **Figure 3** below.

11. BID COMMENT SHEET

A comment sheet associated with this project and Basic Assessment process is included at the end of this BID. Please complete and return to the PPP desk by hand delivery to the offices of Zitholele Consulting, scan and email to the email address provided, fax to fax number provided or by submitting your comments telephonically to the PPP desk via the landline number specified in the left column on page 1 of this BID.

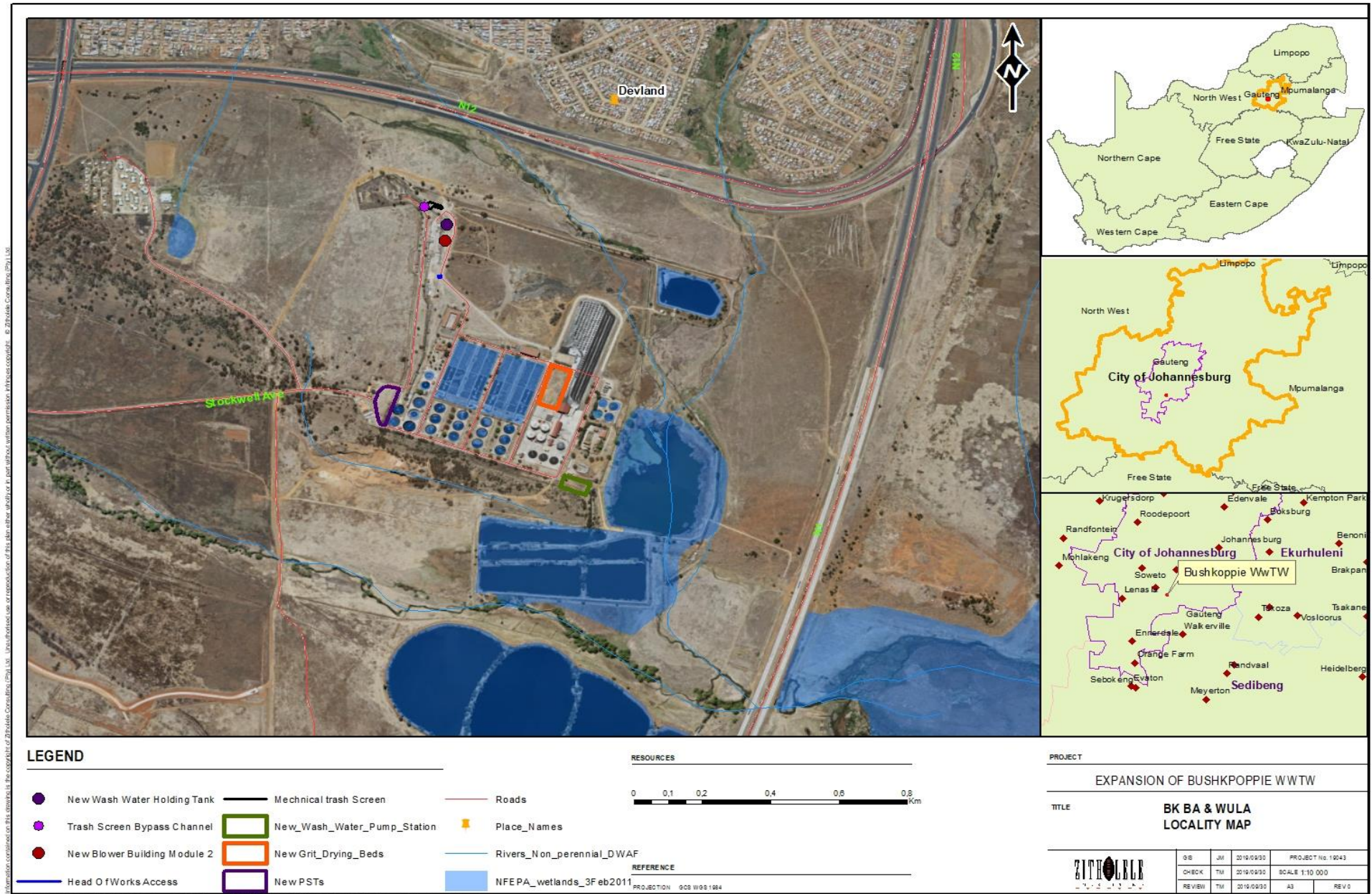


Figure 3: Locality Map of the Proposed Project