

COMMENTS & RESPONSES TABLE

NAME & DATE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
COMMENTS RECEIVED ON NOTIFICATION		
Pre-App Meeting Minutes 19.09.2023	Pre-Application Meeting Minutes Project: Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Location: Virtual Meeting – Whatsapp Conference Call Date: 9:45 on the 19th of September 2023 Attendees: EnviroPro – Dustin Bell (DB) EnviroPro – Oliver Chater (OC) EDTEA – Melissa Packree (MP) EDTEA – Sinethemba Mbambo (SM) An initial virtual Pre-Application Meeting was held to discuss the Environmental Authorization (EA) requirements for the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project (Part 1: virtual meeting). The following is a summary of points raised at the pre-application meeting. The following documents were submitted before the meeting: locality map, draft application form, pre-app meeting agenda, and DFFE Screening Report. PART 1: VIRTUAL MEETING Project description The Ugu District Municipality proposes to upgrade the secondary bulk pipeline and storage to align with the increased demand at the Umdoni command reservoir, which supplies the settlements of Sezela, Pennington, Umdoni Village, Kelso, Malangeni, Bazley, Ifafa, and Hilltop, located on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The bulk water pipeline falls within Wards 7,8,9, and 10 the Umdoni Local Municipality, within the UGU District Municipality.	

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	The proposed development will comprise of the replacement of existing pipelines as well as the construction of new pipelines. The replacement of existing pipelines will take place from the Sezela Cricket Grounds on Sezela Drive, extending South along the coastline to the town of Elysium. The newly constructed pipelines will be implemented between the towns of Ifafa Glebe and Pennington, and will run through Malangeni and parallel to the N2 highway. The proposed Umdoni Pipeline will receive additional water from the Umgeni Water bulk water pipeline at a point along the N2 highway, roughly 3km North West of Pennington. The Umgeni Water pipeline will supply 6.2 mega litres of water, which will be distributed accordingly to areas in need. DB – Continued to seek advice relating to the suitable approach required for the public participation process Public Participation Process: • Placement of noticeboards (in isiZulu and English) on the site. • Notification of the all local Ward Councillors. • Notification of all the traditional authorities. • Notification of all key stakeholders, including government departments, and authorities. • Publication of an advertisement in a locally distributed newspaper. DB – Enquired whether hand notification will be necessary for all the properties involved, projected to be over 200 properties. MP – Proposed the idea of using municipal database for landowner details to deliver email notifications. DB – Said that it is a possibility, but that often when using Windeeds database there is a lack of details. MP – Suggests starting with advert in the local paper as proof if no contact details can be found.	

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	DB – Asks if the placement of a signboard every 100m will be a sufficient form of notification. MP – Responds by saying no, as people often overlook signboards that are placed. Rather that hand notification will be the best and only way to notify all adjacent landowners. DB – Noted. Continues to address the listed triggers applied for. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">NEMA Listed Activities</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021</td><td>12</td><td><i>The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more within 32 metres of a watercourse...</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021</td><td>19</td><td><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse...</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021</td><td>19A</td><td><i>The excavation and infilling of more than 5 cubic meters of material from within 100 metres of the high-water mark of the sea...</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Listing Notice 3 of 2014 EIA Regs as</td><td>12</td><td><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in</i></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	NEMA Listed Activities			Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021	12	<i>The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more within 32 metres of a watercourse...</i>	Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021	19	<i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse...</i>	Listing Notice 1 of 2014 EIA Regs as amended 2021	19A	<i>The excavation and infilling of more than 5 cubic meters of material from within 100 metres of the high-water mark of the sea...</i>	Listing Notice 3 of 2014 EIA Regs as	12	<i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in</i>	
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	amended 2021 <i>accordance with a maintenance management plan...</i> MP – Aks why LN3, Act 14 is not included. DB – States that it will be added to the list of triggers. Continues to address the specialist studies that will be conducted. Specialist Studies • Vegetation Assessment • Freshwater Ecology Assessment • Estuarine Assessment • Heritage Impact Assessment (Desktop) • Palaeontology Impact Assessment DB - States that no agricultural study will be conducted as the pathway of the pipeline does not pass through or affect any major agricultural practices in the area, and that no socio-economic impact study will be required as there is a positive impact from the development. MP – Inquires about a geotechnical study DB – States that the client (Ensync Engineers) will be responsible for obtaining a specialist geotechnical study. MP – Inquires about the length and diameter of the proposed pipeline. DB – States that the replacement of the old lines will be the same as the existing pipelines, and that the original pipelines will be decommissioned. MP - Requests for method statements upon their availability. DB – Noted.	

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	MP – Asks if there are any alternative routes to the section of the pipeline that crosses the different estuaries. DB – States that there are not for that section, and that there are only alternatives for the inland sections, which will be outlined in the report. MP – Asks whether there will be a layout in relation to the triggers provided at any point. DB – States that the master layout will address this in the report. MP – Asks if SANRAL will be included and notified in the process. DB – Yes, and that the clients have also been informed of the importance of having them in the process. MP – States that a letter from SANRAL will be needed if new infrastructure is required for the pipeline to cross the N2 road. DB - Noted. PART 2: SITE MEETING The second pre-application meeting took place on site on the 1st November 2023 between EnviroPro and EDTEA. The following is a summary of points raised at the pre-application meeting Attendees: EnviroPro – Dustin Bell (DB) EnviroPro – Oliver Chater (OC) EDTEA – Sinethemba Mbambo (SM) DB – Thanked Sinethemba for joining on site to discuss the project, and proceeded to hand over to Oliver to provide an outline of the proposed project.	

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	OC – Provided a basic project description of the proposed developments, which included a discussion around the project applicant, engineers responsible for the design, the need for the project, locality and the proposed pathway of the pipeline. SM – Acknowledged the brief outline of the project. Proceeded to inquire about the specialists that have been appointed. DB - Stated that the specialists have already been appointed which includes • Vegetation Assessment • Freshwater Ecology Assessment • Estuarine Assessment • Heritage Impact Assessment (Desktop) • Palaeontology Impact Assessment OC – Further stated that Paleontological and Heritage Impact Assessment have already been completed, with only the water resources and vegetation assessments outstanding. SB – Acknowledged the specialists appointed so far. Inquired about whether a Geotechnical Assessment would be done. DB – Stated that the engineers are in the process of appointing geotechnical specialists. SB – Acknowledged point. Proceeded to inquire about the project timeline in relation to submissions to EDTEA. DB – Stated that the after the meeting, EnviroPro would submit the pre-application meeting minutes to the department to sign off. Thereafter stated that EnviroPro is awaiting the preliminary designs of the pipeline from the engineers, at which point the application form would be submitted to EDTEA in either December or January. SB – Acknowledged discussed timeline.	

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	DB – Proceeded to inquire about the nature and further requirements of the public participation process, stating that the notification process is underway with all the ward councilors already being notified and signboards being placed at eleven different locations along the pipeline route. Continues to state that for adjacent landowners that could not be electronically notified, hand notification has been underway, but with concerns surrounding hand notifying the adjacent land owners around Ifafa Glebe and Sezela. Stated that this was due to the fact that there are no landowner details for the properties in this area, and that informal setting of the region makes it difficult to determine which buildings belong to which farm portion properties. SB – States that the notification of ward councillors and placement of signboards in the area should be sufficient, but that they will still need to confirm. Continues to confirm that EnviroPro is aware of which EDTEA offices to submit the application form and draft basic assessment report too. DB – Confirms EnviroPro are aware. *Meeting concluded* NB: Please ensure that a detailed layout depicting all infrastructure in relation to the triggered activities is provided as well as new and existing lines. All specialist studies as per the Virtual meeting must be provided in the DBAR. Proof of Notification of landowners must be provided in the BAR.	
B. Akkiah Eskom 11.10.23	Please see comments below, as per your request received by Eskom on 3rd October 2023. We confirm that an investigation has been carried out with regard to the supply of electricity, as well as any encroachment into Eskom's Servitudes, in respect to the application as set out above referring to KMZ file supplied by Enviropro. Please note that the proposed upgrade of the water pipeline and storage will either be crossing or running parallel to Eskom infrastructure at	Noted, the applicant has been made aware of these comments.

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	several places. The affected Eskom infrastructure are: Nkonka/Oribi 388- kV Overhead Line; Sezela NB 40, Sezela NB42, Kingsgate NB7, Kingsgate NB9, Kingsgate NB10 & Penington NB136 all 11kV Overhead Lines. Penington NB134, Penington NB135, Kingsgate NB9 & Kingsgate NB10 all 11kV Underground Cables. Please see attached drawings numbered ER_INV_536_2023_1, ER_INV_536_2023_2 & ER_INV_536_2023_3 showing Eskom infrastructure in relation to the proposed line route. It is very important to note that Eskom's LV data is not reflected on the drawing supplied. It is advisable you contact Eskom immediately, should you physically detect any conductors and/or underground cables on the ground and not reflected on the drawing. Eskom's call centre number is 08600 37566. Please note that NO CONSTRUCTION close to any of Eskom's infrastructure is permitted without a site inspection & written permission resulting from consultation with Eskom's Senior Supervisor, Mr Siphwe Shoji on 035 787 8792 / 076 793 0202 & email ShojiSS@eskom.co.za Eskom has no objections to the proposed upgrade as long as the conditions listed below are adhered to at all times. Eskom advises you that in the event of your client wanting to move any Eskom Infrastructure, it will be at the applicant's / developer's cost. Please direct all correspondence to the Lands & Rights Manager Mr SS Nsele on email KZNOU-L&R@eskom.co.za As per Eskom regulations for 11-kV Underground Cable please note:- Building Restrictions for 11-kV Underground Cable Eskom has maintained through the years that 'no excavations maybe effected within 1.5 metres from any of its underground electric cables'. Therefore, keeping servitude areas for underground cables at a minimum 3.00 metres wide is preferable. Where multiple cables are laid next to each other, 300mm spacing apart from each other is preferable. • Eskom shall retain unobstructed access at all times. • Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances or on the	

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	depth levels at which Eskom underground cables are laid, usually 1-1.2m. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's requirements. • Eskom's rights and duties in the Wayleave/Servitude area shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with. • The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993) (Annexure F) . As per Eskom regulations for 11kV Overhead Power Line please note:- Building Restrictions for 11kV Overhead Power line No building or structures may be erected or installed above or below the surface of the ground, neither may any material which might endanger the safety of this power line be place within 12(Twelve) meters from the center line of this power line, on either side (overall servitude width 24 meters), without prior written confirmation from Eskom. As per Eskom regulations for 88kV Overhead Power Line please note:- Building Restrictions for 88kV Overhead Power line No building or structures may be erected or installed above or below the surface of the ground, neither may any material which might endanger the safety of this power line be place within 16(Sixteen) meters from the center line of this power line, on either side (overall servitude width 32 meters), without prior written confirmation from Eskom. As per Eskom regulations for 132kV Overhead Power Line please note:- Building Restrictions for 132kV Overhead Power line	

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	No building or structures may be erected or installed above or below the surface of the ground, neither may any material which might endanger the safety of this power line be place within 18(Eighteen) meters from the center line of this power line, on either side (overall servitude width 36 meters), without prior written confirmation from Eskom. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the stipulated area by the applicant, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assigns. The applicant indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the applicant's equipment. The applicant's attention is drawn to the Electricity Act, 1987, (Act 41 of 1987, as amended in 1994), Section 27(3), which stipulates that the applicant can be fined and/or imprisoned as a result of damage to Eskom's apparatus. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the applicant must give at least seven working days prior notice of the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993). Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times. A developer taking a new supply from Eskom, an increase of supply or line deviation is required to make an application to Eskom via the Eskom toll free number 0860037566. This application will be processed in terms of Eskom's standard customer connection tariffs, conditions and policies at the	

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	developers cost. There is an attached indemnity form that you are required to complete and return to Land Development as part of your acknowledgement. The Data, Information and Drawings is made available to you by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited on an "AS IS" basis, without warranty of any kind, including without limitation, the warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. Availability of this data, information and drawings does not constitute scientific publication. The Data, information and drawings may contain errors, be incomplete or out-dated). Eskom Holdings SOC Limited and its employees make no representation or warranty, express or implied, including without limitation any warranty of fitness for a particular purpose or warranties as to the quality, accuracy, completeness or currency of the data, information and drawings. This approval is valid for 12 months only, after which the applicant must reapply if the work undertaken has not been completed. Any changes / deviations to the original application must be immediately communicated to this office together with a new application. All costs for damage/s to Eskom infrastructure during construction or any work carried out by the applicant shall be borne by the applicant.	
I . Lax I&AP Registration Form	I and others co-own a property in Elysium. We may be affected by the nature of this proposed development and wish to be kept abreast of developments so as to be able to comment thereon and protect our interests if required. At this stage despite requesting further information and detail, we have been informed that this level of information will be available in due course. There is thus at present insufficient information or detail provided to place us in a position to comment whether positively or negatively. We thus reserve our rights until the full and proper information required to allow us to consider the application/s properly is made available. At this time we are unable to comment effectively on this proposed development or applicaton/s until full and proper information has been provided.	Noted, as a registered I&AP all information will be circulated to you once available.

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P. Harvey I&AP Registration Form	The project appears to run right through the town of Bazley. The BRA represents the Bazley Community so therefore has a material interest in this proposed project. As yet we have received no information which would cause us to be either supportive or concerned. There are bound to be a number of Bazley homeowners and residents who would have an interest in this project. We can assist with notifying them if we are provided with appropriate information.	Noted, as a registered I&AP all information will be circulated to you once available.
L. Bester I&AP Registration Form	Main area of interest : The effect on the environment. Waiting for full details of the project to enable me to comment. All residents should receive full details (only few have received these forms).	Noted, as a registered I&AP all information will be circulated to you once available.
J. Van Hilten I&AP Registration Form	Good Day Yesterday someone dropped off a leaflet re the above – said I was being given this as I was an ‘adjoining landowner’. It is impossible for me to comment on this as the picture doesn’t give any details nor does the accompanying text. Both are so small as to be basically useless so please provide me with either a link to the actuals or send me the full details.	Please see the attached digital copies of the documents you were handed on Wednesday, 25th October, which include the project signboard and registration form. In addition, below is a brief project description of the proposed development: “The Ugu District Municipality proposes to upgrade the secondary bulk pipeline and storage to align with the increased demand at the Umdoni command reservoir, which supplies the settlements of Sezela, Pennington, Umdoni Village, Kelso, Malangeni, Bazley, Ifafa, and Hilltop, located on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The bulk water pipeline falls within Wards 7,8,9, and 10 the Umdoni Local Municipality, within the UGU District Municipality. The proposed development will comprise of the replacement of existing pipelines as well as the construction of new pipelines. The replacement of existing pipelines will take place from the Sezela Cricket Grounds on Sezela Drive, extending South along the coastline to the town of Elysium. The newly constructed pipelines will be implemented between the towns of Ifafa Glebe and Pennington, and will run through Malangeni and parallel to the N2 highway. The proposed Umdoni Pipeline will receive additional water from the Umgeni Water bulk water pipeline at a point along the N2 highway, roughly 3km North West of Pennington. The Umgeni Water pipeline will supply 6.2 mega litres of water, which will be distributed accordingly to areas in need.

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		The proposed development will require Environmental Authorisation through the Basic Assessment Process for the excavation and infilling of more than 10m3 of material from within a watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19), the excavation and infilling of more than 5m3 of material from within 100m inland of the highwater mark (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A), the development of more than 100m2 of infrastructure within 32m of a watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 12), and for the clearance of more than 300m2 of indigenous vegetation from within an endangered ecosystem (Listing Notice 3, Activity 12)." Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries. Have a great weekend.
M. Mortlock I&AP Registration Form	Dear Sir, Thank you for the notice attached to our gate, 17 Edward Crescent, PENNINGTON. Is it possible for you to please email the NoOce in an electronic form, in a high resolution? The notice's print is too small to read and the map is also not clear. Hi Oliver Many thanks! We will not be registering as "Interested and Affected Persons". Just happy that something is been done about our water supply.	Of course, not a problem. Please see attached the electronic copies of the registration form and project signboard. Noted, thank you.
J. Ferreira I&AP Registration Form	Will repairs to drive way be done after work of the project. Sundays Church Service This a church and office during weekdays and always need access to property. This property has residences and function 7 days per week.	Noted, as a registered I&AP all information will be circulated to you once available. However, in terms of access, this would need to be discussed with the contractor as to any access constraints. However, as a standard methodology, all access should be maintained during construction.
P. Harvey I&AP 25-10-2023	Good Afternoon, The below and your attachments refer. I am the Vice chairman of the Bazley Residents Association (BRA). I have also copied in our Chairperson (Angela Mace) and our municipal liaison officer (Rory Jardim).	Good Moring Paul I hope you are well. Noted thank you, you have been registered as an I&AP. In response to your question about registering as an I&AP, yes it would be best for individuals to fill out the registration form and send it to me, including Angela and Rory if they would like.

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	We are a representative body for the town of Bazley and therefore would like to register as an IAP for this proposed project. I have completed and attached your registration form. It's possible that individuals in our town would like to register as IAPs in their personal capacity. Would it be possible for you to provide us with a more "user-friendly" explanation of the proposed project, process and timeline which we can disseminate to homeowners/residents? Also, is there a link where they could register, or must we forward your registration form to them? We look forward to hearing from you.	The project is currently in the planning and information phase. The timeline for the project is unknown, as it depends on when our application to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) gets accepted. Once the draft impact assessment report gets released, all registered I&AP parties will have a comment period to express their concerns. The text below is a brief description of the proposed project, which you can disseminate to interested residents along with the signboard in the meantime. (see attached). “The Ugu District Municipality proposes to upgrade the secondary bulk pipeline and storage to align with the increased demand at the Umdoni command reservoir, which supplies the settlements of Sezela, Pennington, Umdoni Village, Kelso, Malangeni, Bazley, Ifafa, and Hilltop, located on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The bulk water pipeline falls within Wards 7,8,9, and 10 the Umdoni Local Municipality, within the UGU District Municipality. The proposed development will comprise of the replacement of existing pipelines as well as the construction of new pipelines. The replacement of existing pipelines will take place from the Sezela Cricket Grounds on Sezela Drive, extending South along the coastline to the town of Elysium. The newly constructed pipelines will be implemented between the towns of Ifafa Glebe and Pennington, and will run through Malangeni and parallel to the N2 highway. The proposed Umdoni Pipeline will receive additional water from the Umgeni Water bulk water pipeline at a point along the N2 highway, roughly 3km North West of Pennington. The Umgeni Water pipeline will supply 6.2 mega litres of water, which will be distributed accordingly to areas in need. The proposed development will require Environmental Authorisation through the Basic Assessment Process for the excavation and infilling of more than 10m³ of material from within a watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19), the excavation and infilling of more than 5m³ of material from within 100m inland of the highwater mark (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A), the development of more than 100m² of infrastructure within 32m of a

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		watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 12), and for the clearance of more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation from within an endangered ecosystem (Listing Notice 3, Activity 12)." I hope this email answers all your questions Please feel free to contact me should you have any further queries
N. Sookaloo OpenServe 27-10-23	Your notification dated 10 October 2023 refers. In reference to the Electronic Communications Act no. 36 of 2005. This company's existing underground and or overhead infrastructure which will be affected by the above-mentioned proposal has been indicated on the above-mentioned proposal. Alterations to existing infrastructure may be necessary. An estimate of the cost involved will be furnished upon receipt of a written request. For the cost of possible alterations to this company's infrastructure please contact Ms Yandi Nsele (YandiN@openserve.co.za) once you have identified the infrastructure to be relocated. Please dig pilot holes to determine whether any underground infrastructure requires relocation. If aerial plant needs to be relocated, please identify the aerial infrastructure that requires relocation. Openserve PTY Ltd infrastructure is normally buried at a depth of 0.6m and although the position thereof is shown as accurately as possible, these positions should be regarded as approximate only. It would be appreciated if you could timeously advise Ms Philile Sikobi on Tel No: 081 347 9532, of this company when you intend commencing the above-mentioned work as there are important OPTIC FIBRE and COPPER cables in the vicinity of your proposal. Should you require the infrastructure to be relocated, it will be undertaken at your request and cost. Openserve PTY LTD cannot accept responsibility for any reinstatement costs and our infrastructure should be accessible at all time. Approval of the proposed is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes and deviations from the original planning during construction must be immediately communicated to this office.	Noted, the applicant has been made aware of these comments.

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D. Thambu-Moodly EKZN Wildlife 07-11-23	The Background Information Document, received 10 October 2023, has been reviewed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo). Ezemvelo, as the conservation authority in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), is mandated to comment on development and land-use changes applications that may adversely impact on the province's biodiversity. It is with this provincial mandate that the following comments are made. It is strongly recommended that: 1. The Ezemvelo Critical Biodiversity Area and Ecological Support Area Maps, Ezemvelo's Species Database and Ezemvelo's SEA Database be queried, to inform the route selection. The following e-mail may be used to request such information: data@kznwildlife.com; and 2. The Basic Assessment must include the following: a. A list of the potential impacts of the proposed activity on biodiversity. Where potential biodiversity impacts have been identified; the role, level and timing of specialist input is to be described. A list of the specialists proposed to provide input is to be provided (where possible the names of the specialists should be provided); Or a. The appropriate Specialist Biodiversity Assessments, as per the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Handbook for KwaZulu-Natal (attached); b. Indicate whether the application falls within a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Management Framework (EMF), any other fine scale biodiversity plan, a Special Case Area Plan (SCAP), World Heritage Site (WHS) buffer, a 10km radius of a Protected Area (PA) or within the viewshed of the WHS or PA; and c. All sensitive features (including inter alia wetlands, drainage lines, habitats for threatened species and other areas of conservation	The Basic Assessment Report includes a list of the potential impacts of the proposed activity on biodiversity. A list of the specialists that have provided input has been included, as well as their and the role, level and timing of their input. The appropriate Specialist Biodiversity Assessments have been included in the BAR. All sensitive features (including watercourses, drainage lines, riparian habitats, habitats/ecosystem types and other areas of conservation significance) have been superimposed onto the proposed route alignment which must be overlaid onto Google Earth images.

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	significance) be superimposed onto the proposed route alignment (including the proposed alternatives), which must be overlaid onto an ortho-photograph or Google Earth image and/or a 1:50 000 map sheet. Please be informed that this correspondence does not constitute EKZNW's final comment. Final comment will be submitted upon receipt and review of the information requested above. Should you wish to discuss any of the points raised above or should any further biodiversity issues arise please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Yours sincerely,	
Adrienne Edgson Environmental Advisor Pennington Conservancy 08-11-2023	Good day – a very small (print) pamphlet was dropped off at the Nkomba Bird Sanctuary last week. Whilst this virtually unreadable pamphlet is dated 11/10/2023 – it as only received by the Pennington Conservancy 25th October 2023. From what can be made out from the information supplied, the possible impacts of the proposed project are most concerning. We are unable to work out what the proposed route is to be for these pipelines from the map provided and are therefore no able to assess how said pipelines will impact on the sensitive coastal environment in Pennington or indeed along any of the Umdoni coastal strip. Please provide us with a more readable map and a more comprehensive explanation regarding this project. Also please note that it is likely we will be requesting a meeting with yourselves to further discuss the project.	Good Day Adrienne Your comments have been noted. Please see attached the electronic copies of the project signboard and registration form. Brief Project Description: “The Ugu District Municipality proposes to upgrade the secondary bulk pipeline and storage to align with the increased demand at the Umdoni command reservoir, which supplies the settlements of Sezela, Pennington, Umdoni Village, Kelso, Malangeni, Bazley, Ifafa, and Hilltop, located on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The bulk water pipeline falls within Wards 7,8,9, and 10 the Umdoni Local Municipality, within the UGU District Municipality. The proposed development will comprise of the replacement of existing pipelines as well as the construction of new pipelines. The replacement of existing pipelines will take place from the Sezela Cricket Grounds on Sezela Drive, extending South along the coastline to the town of Elysium. The newly constructed pipelines will be implemented between the towns of Ifafa Glebe and Pennington, and will run through Malangeni and parallel to the N2 highway. The proposed Umdoni Pipeline will receive additional water from the Umgeni Water bulk water pipeline at a point along the N2 highway, roughly 3km North West of Pennington. The Umgeni Water pipeline will supply 6.2 mega litres of water, which will be distributed accordingly to areas in need.

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		The proposed development will require Environmental Authorisation through the Basic Assessment Process for the excavation and infilling of more than 10m3 of material from within a watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19), the excavation and infilling of more than 5m3 of material from within 100m inland of the highwater mark (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A), the development of more than 100m2 of infrastructure within 32m of a watercourse (Listing Notice 1, Activity 12), and for the clearance of more than 300m2 of indigenous vegetation from within an endangered ecosystem (Listing Notice 3, Activity 12)." If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to ask
P. Harvey I&AP 25-11-2023	Dear Oliver, Our correspondence below refers. On 21 November, members of our conservancy team discovered a significant area of indigenous bush (possibly including a section of admiralty reserve) had been cleared in the Ndesingane area of our Conservancy. I have attached photos. The approximate location is here: https://maps.app.goo.gl/tp4KjWHHtTnC29jt6. This area is right in the middle of the Bazley Conservancy. The clearing seems to be along the water pipeline earmarked for upgrade in your documentation. We have been informed that the area was cleared by your client, Ugu District Municipality. We have also been informed that the clearing was done by two of their contractors, and the area was predominantly cleared with a bulldozer. You will see from the photos that the clearing is extensive and goes right to the water edge of the Ndesingane river. lease confirm: Whether your client was responsible for clearing this area.	Good Morning Paul Your inquiry has been received and noted. We are unaware of the reason for this clearing, and are currently investigating further into the cause. We will confirm your queries as soon as we know more. Your patience and understanding on this matter is greatly appreciated Follow-up Communication: <i>Dear Oliver,</i> <i>I am following up on our correspondence below. Please advise at your earliest convenience.</i> <i>Good Afternoon Paul</i> <i>We are currently still in the process of investigating this issue and will inform you as soon as we know more.</i> ----- <i>Dear Oliver,</i>

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	2. If so, whether or not this clearing was done pursuant to the proposed bulk water augmentation. 3. If not, what was the purpose of this extensive clearing and were all the necessary authorisations in place? In addition to the above, any further explanation of this action that you can provide would be appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.	<i>It is now nearly two weeks since we originally enquired about the below issue. My community is now pressing for some answers to what are some simple questions, which should be easily answerable. Please bear in mind that we are a conservancy and therefore greatly concerned when someone (apparently your client) does significant damage to the indigenous bush, and answers are not forthcoming.</i> <i>Please respond with answers as a matter of urgency.</i> ----- <i>Good Afternoon Paul</i> <i>We understand your frustration on this matter, as well as the severity of the incident as a whole.</i> <i>Upon receiving your initial query, we immediately raised this matter with Ensync Engineers, who are the project managers for the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Project. Ensync Engineers stated that they had no knowledge of the vegetation clearance being related to the Umdoni South Bulk Water Project, and have since inquired with Ugu District Municipality for more information. To date, no information on the matter is forthcoming.</i> <i>Furthermore, no application for a Basic Assessment for Environmental Authorisation (EA) has been submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) as of yet.</i> <i>We will notify you of any updates that we receive on this matter</i> <i>If have you ay further queries please do not hesitate to ask</i>
COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT		
P. Harvey I&AP	Good Morning,	Good day Paul,

NAME & DATE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
21.05.2024	Your email below refers. Please could you provide us with the KMZ or Shape files of the pipeline route, at your earliest convenience. Dear Kristen, Thanks for the pipeline KMZ file. Please could you also supply us with: 1. The actual working corridor KMZ file i.e. we're looking for the actual area being cleared, as opposed to the pipeline only; and 2. The sensitivity classification KMZ file derived by the Terrestrial Ecologist Specialist.	Please see attached KMZ file for the pipeline route. Let us know if you have any further queries. Hi Paul, No problem. See attached. Have a great day further.
P. Harvey I&AP 22.05.2024	Dear Kristen, Thanks for supplying the KMZ files. We have a bit of a technical glitch: some of our residents have indicated they can't open the link to the DBAR, that you provided in your initial email. Our IT guy suggested: "Because it is linked to someone's personal sharepoint account, perhaps there are limitations to traffic received on the link that they cannot control. E.g. a free Sharepoint account might only allow certain amount of bandwidth. I can resend once we have a new link, but at this moment, I cannot open it as well. My suggestion would be to contact the provider of this link and explain what has happened and ask if they can make the link publicly accessible once again or provide a new link." Would you be able to provide a new link as he suggests?	Good day Paul, I hope you are doing well. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Kindly note that there is also a WeTransfer link which was included in the notification, that also contains the DBAR. Let me know if you have any other issues accessing the information. Thanks so much.
P. Harvey I&AP	Dear Kristen/Caitlin,	Hi Paul,

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27.05.2024	There is some confusion as to where the existing pipeline goes (and originates) in Bazley. Do you have the KMZ file for the existing pipeline/s in Bazley? Also, as we understand it, our current water supply comes essentially from Mtwalume, crossing the Ifafa river via bridge and then feeding into Bazley, before continuing onwards to Sezela (along the railway line). Obviously the proposed pipeline would result in the exact opposite, with the supply coming from the north and crossing the Ndesingane river, going through the middle of Bazley and then across the Ifafa river going south. We are struggling to understand how these 2 pipelines (currently from the south, and the proposed one from the north) would work as it relates to Bazley. Would Bazley have two sources of water? This is causing a lot of confusion and we'd be grateful if you would clarify this. Thanks. Look forward to hearing from you.	I am happy to help. Unfortunately, I do not have a KMZ file for just the existing pipelines. However, I can do my best to try and clear up any confusion in this regard. You are correct in saying that Bazley's current water supply comes essentially from the Mtwalume Water Treatment Works. The pipelines through the Bazley area are just being replaced and refurbished and so, the water supply or direction of flow will not change. Where confusion may have come in is the numbering of the watercourse crossings on the maps perhaps – they were labelled from North to South for ease, but does not relay the direction of flow in water through the pipelines. The same goes for the information in the tables regarding pipeline lengths and diameters. Please see below a screenshot of a snippet from the Ensync Engineers Preliminary Design Report (Bulk). You can also find this report in Appendix B (App B – Specialists Reports) that was sent along in the folders with the Draft Basic Assessment Report. You may be able to read further about the pipeline design and route, as not all information in that report was included in the BAR. The following decisions were made as a solution for the supply and demand balance of the project: • Malangeni has been divided into 3 zones, where zone 1 is the Mhlangamkhulu area and this area will continue to receive supply from Umzinto WTW. • Elysium, Bazley and Ifafa are currently being served from Mthwalume WTW and they will continue to receive supply from that Water Treatment Works. The Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project will replace the pipeline, refurbish the reservoirs and all associated infrastructure in these areas and keep the flow the same. I hope this helps. Let me know if there's anything else.
P. Harvey I&AP 27.05.2024	Good Morning, Our correspondence below refers.	Good Afternoon Paul, Thank you for your email.

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	Thank you for providing us with the Draft Basic Assessment Report for our review. Please advise when and where there will be a public meeting/s on this matter. Given the extensive nature of the documentation, the potentially contentious issues raised, and our limited expertise and time to fully understand the implications, we kindly request an extension beyond the 30-day review period provided. As concerned residents of Bazley, we believe it is crucial to thoroughly review and understand all aspects of the report to provide informed feedback. Our intention is to ensure that our town's best interests are considered and that we can engage constructively in this important process. An appropriate extension of time will allow us sufficient time to: Carefully review the detailed documentation; Conduct necessary research to comprehend the environmental implications; Consult with experts if needed to clarify complex issues; and organise community discussions to gather a collective response. We hope you understand our position and the importance of a comprehensive review for such a significant assessment. Your consideration of this request will greatly aid us in fulfilling our civic duty to contribute meaningfully to the environmental decision-making process. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. We look forward to your favourable response.	As you may be aware, once an application has been submitted, the applicant has a limited period of 90 days to submit the final report to EDTEA. If no submission is made within this period, the application will lapse and need to restart. Given the time remaining and the work required following the end of the comment period, we are happy to extend the comment period by an additional 7 days. Please note that the original 30-day period has already been slightly extended due to several public holidays. With this 7-day extension, the new deadline will be June 30, 2024 (or the start of business on July 1, 2024). We hope this extension provides you with additional time to review the documents thoroughly. A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project, but we are happy to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the application details.
N. Mngoma I&AP 28.05.2024	Good morning	Good afternoon Njabulo, Thank you for your email.

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	Thank you for information up date. I request a Policy framework, you are going to be use if there is a need to relocate people to another place. Including Houses, Graves and other building investment existing.	Please note as the EAP we are not aware of any policy frameworks for such removals/relocations as the project does not intend to relocate people to another place or remove houses and graves or any other buildings. We however will enquiry with the project team on your query. Good afternoon Njabulo, In addition to my last email, please see the below info from the project engineer. <i>Umdoni project routes are purposely surveyed and designed so as not to relocate people to another place, including Houses, graves and other building investment existing.</i> <i>Planning for pipelines routes is intentionally done to avoid houses, graves, buildings and thereafter there is some flexibility should unauthorised impediments develop thereafter.</i> Thank you
P. Harvey I&AP 30.05.2024	Dear Kristen, Thank you for your email. Your response has helped address some of our fundamental misunderstandings. Previously, we were informed (starting last year) that the project involved a new pipeline coming from the north, with water flowing south through Bazley (including a 2nd pipeline adjoining the railway line). This was clearly incorrect. However, there is still considerable uncertainty about what the project specifically entails for Bazley. Therefore, we have a few additional immediate questions we would appreciate if you could answer:	Hello Paul, Thank you for your email. Please note that Kristen has left Enviropro, so you can direct emails to me or to info@enviropro.co.za. I have noted your questions and, due to their technical nature, have requested input from the project engineer. I will get back to you next week once I have their feedback. Thank you Kind regards Hello Paul,

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	1. The primary project aims to bring water from the north to supply areas with poor (e.g. Malangen) or no (GDP) water supply. This appears to be unrelated to the replacement/refurbishment project planned for Bazley/Ifafa/Elysium. Please confirm if this is accurate. If not, please explain the relationship between what seems to be two distinct and very different projects. 2. We are unclear about what “replacement/refurbishment” entails regarding the pipeline through Bazley: Will you follow the existing pipeline, removing the old pipe and replacing it with new piping? OR Will you broadly follow the existing pipeline but lay a new pipeline without removing the old one? 3. If the former is true, and you are removing old pipeline, why has the pipeline on Marine Drive and the top third of Ridge Road been excluded from the project? 4. If the latter is true, and you are simply laying new pipeline, then presumably you don’t need to necessarily follow the route of the existing pipeline (hence the exclusion of Marine and a part of Ridge Rd)? 5. Regarding construction, we have seen mention of “pipe boring” for crossing under roads. Does this prevent damage to the road surface and will this method be used for all existing roads and driveways that the pipeline crosses in Bazley? 6. While we understand that you do not have the KMZ file for the existing pipeline, do you have a map (digital or hard copy) of the existing pipeline in Bazley? If so, we would be grateful if you could provide us with a copy. 7. What are the time frames for these projects, and do they all begin concurrently or at different stages and times?	As per my email below I have obtained the responses from project engineer, please refer to the table below. <table><tr><th>No.</th><th>Comment</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>The project scope is Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation which involves upgrades and new secondary bulk water infrastructure in the region, from existing and new bulk water sources, as and where practically required, and there are no distinctions made.</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Will exactly per servitudes as possible, follow existing pipeline routes, laying a new pipeline, without removing the old ailing one and then re-interconnections.</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Former is not true.</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Existing ailing pipeline would remain and there would be re-interconnections as and where appropriate.</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>This method will be used for roads that carry high traffic volumes, National/ Provincial roads (not all) Driveways and municipal road - normal trench.</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Attached KMZ</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>The project will be phased and implemented over the period of 3 years</td></tr></table>	No.	Comment	1.	The project scope is Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation which involves upgrades and new secondary bulk water infrastructure in the region, from existing and new bulk water sources, as and where practically required, and there are no distinctions made.	2.	Will exactly per servitudes as possible, follow existing pipeline routes, laying a new pipeline, without removing the old ailing one and then re-interconnections.	3.	Former is not true.	4.	Existing ailing pipeline would remain and there would be re-interconnections as and where appropriate.	5.	This method will be used for roads that carry high traffic volumes, National/ Provincial roads (not all) Driveways and municipal road - normal trench.	6.	Attached KMZ	7.	The project will be phased and implemented over the period of 3 years
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P. Arujunan I&AP 04.06.2024	Good morning and hope all is well,in my view I have no issues as long as this project can help in securing the bulk water needed in the umdoni area.all the best in the mere future.thanks	Noted, thank you.																
S.Ngubo DWS 05.06.2024	RE: DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UMDONI SOUTH WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT RESULTING IN THE CONSTRUCTION																	

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	<u>OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS THAT HAVE A FOOTPRINT OF MORE THAN 10m2 WITHIN THE EFZ REQUIRING THE EXCAVATION AND INFILL OF MATERIAL FROM A WATERCOURSE IN EXCESS OF 10M3 AND 5M3 FROM WITHIN 100M OF THE SEA'S HIGH-WATER MARK AS WELL AS THE CLEARANCE OF MORE THAN 300m2 FROM AN ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEM (EIA REF: DC21/0003/2024)</u> Reference is made to the above-mentioned document received by this Office on 21 May 2024. This Department has the following comments with regards to the proposed development: 1. It is noted that the Applicant is proposing to construct the Umdoni South Water Augmentation Project, within the Umdoni Local Municipality. It is also noted that the proposed activity has a footprint of more than 10m2 and lies within the EFZ requiring the excavation and infill of material from a watercourse in excess of 10m3 and 5m3 from within 100m of the sea's high-water mark as well as the clearance of more than 300m2 from an endangered ecosystem. 2. Page 3 of the document titled "The Construction of the Umdoni South Water Augmentation Project Resulting in the Construction of Infrastructure and Associated Watercourse Crossings That Have a Footprint of More Than 10m2 Within the EFZ Requiring the Excavation and Infill of Material From a Watercourse in Excess of 10m3 and 5m3 From Within 100m of the Sea's High-Water Mark as Well as The Clearance of More Than 300m2 From an Endangered Ecosystem", May 2024 hereafter referred to as 'The Report' states that there are 36 watercrossing along the pipeline route. Please note that watercourse crossing structures such as bridges and causeways constitutes Section 21 (c) and/or Section 21 (i) water uses, i.e."impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse" and "altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse"	Noted, an application in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) has been lodged with DWS with reference number WU35351.

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	respectively and must be authorised under the provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA). 3. The document titled “Water Resources Assessment, Freshwater and Estuarine Ecological & Impact Assessment for the Proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Umdoni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province”, dated February 2024 states that the NFEPA data identified several non- priority wetlands and one priority wetland within a 500m radius of the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project area. However, it states that, after consulting the desktop data and visiting the site it was noted by the consultant that there was no wetland within project site. Kindly clarify this point. Please note that any activity within a 500m radius from the boundary of a wetland or 100m from the watercourse requires the necessary authorization in terms of Sections 21(c) and (i) of the NWA and must be authorised as such. 4. The Applicant must note that taking water from the water resource is a water use in terms of Section 21 (a) of the NWA and must be authorised as such. 5. The Department would like to indicate that it is the responsibility of the Applicant to identify all water uses applicable to the activity in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) and to ensure that all applicable water uses are authorised as such. The Applicant must consult with this Department if clarity is required regarding water uses and water use authorisations. These water uses are listed in Table 1: <table><caption>Table 1: Water Uses as per Section 21 of the NWA</caption><tr><td>S21(a)</td><td>taking water from a water resource;</td></tr><tr><td>S21(b)</td><td>storing water;</td></tr><tr><td>S21(c)</td><td>impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;</td></tr><tr><td>S21(d)</td><td>engaging in a stream flow reduction activity (currently only commercial afforestation);</td></tr></table>	S21(a)	taking water from a water resource;	S21(b)	storing water;	S21(c)	impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;	S21(d)	engaging in a stream flow reduction activity (currently only commercial afforestation);	Please note that the desktop information for the region did not align with the verified ground-truth data. Consequently, the specialist's findings from the site visit confirmed that wetlands were absent from the study area. It is noted that no abstraction activities are included in the application; all water is being sourced from already licensed sources. Noted, an application in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) has been lodged with DWS with reference number WU35351.
S21(a)	taking water from a water resource;									
S21(b)	storing water;									
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S21(d)	engaging in a stream flow reduction activity (currently only commercial afforestation);									

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	S21(e) engaging in a controlled activity – activities which impact detrimentally on a water resource (activities identified in s37(1) or declared as such under s38(1)) namely: ➤ irrigation of any land with waste or water containing waste which is generated through an industrial activity or a waterwork; ➤ an activity aimed at the modification of atmospheric precipitation; ➤ a power generation activity which alters the flow regime of a water resource; or ➤ intentional recharge of an aquifer with any waste or water containing waste S21(f) discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit; S21(g) disposing of waste or water containing waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource; S21(h) disposing in any manner of water which contains waste from, or has been heated in, any industrial or power generation process; S21(i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse; S21(j) removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people; and S21(k) using water for recreational purposes 6. Please note that no person may use water unless permitted under the NWA. Should you engage in any water use without the necessary water use authorisation it will be regarded as an unlawful water use and are guilty of an offence and liable for a fine or imprisonment as stipulated in Section 151 of the NWA.	Noted

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	7. The Applicant is recommended to contact Ms Zama Hadebe of the Water Use Authorisation Unit on 031 336 2767/2700 and/or hadebez@dws.gov.za for further information on administration and technical advice regarding the application for water use(s). 8. All waste material generated must be disposed of at a permitted landfill site that is authorised to accept such waste. Safe disposal certificates must be kept on record. Contaminated soil or other hazardous material must be disposed of at a permitted hazardous landfill site that is authorised to accept the said material. Safe disposal certificates must be kept on record. 9. The use of mobile, chemical toilet facilities during this proposed activity must not cause any pollution to any water resources as well as pose a health hazard. In addition: • The chemical toilet must be situated out of the 1:100-year floodline of any watercourse; • A maintenance plan for the service of these toilets must be drawn up and strictly adhered to in order to prevent malfunctioning and neglect; and • The chemical toilet must be in a bunded area, away from public view and access. 10. The following is applicable should small volumes of wastewater be generated during the construction phase: • Water containing waste must not be discharged into the natural environment. • Measures to contain the water containing waste and safely dispose of it must be implemented. 11. Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) must be compiled and a copy of the SWMP must be submitted to the Local Municipality for approval and submitted to this Department for comment.	Noted, an application in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) has been lodged with DWS with reference number WU35351. Noted, all waste management aspects have been assessed in the BAR and have been carried through into the EMPr. Please refer to Section 3.6 of the EMPr, which addresses Housekeeping, Waste Storage, Handling, and Disposal. This section includes mitigation measures for the chemical toilet on site in accordance with the comments. Please note due to the nature of the proposal no wastewater will be generated during either construction or operation. Due to the nature of the proposal i.e. underground water pipelines, there will be no operational stormwater control required. However, stormwater control will be required during construction to manage all construction-related activities. This SWMP has been included in the BAR and will be provided to the Local Municipality.

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	12. Drainage must be controlled to ensure that runoff from the project area does not culminate in off-site pollution, flooding or result in any damage to properties downstream of any storm water discharge point (s). 13. Soil erosion onsite must be prevented at all times i.e., pre-, during- and post-construction activities. Erosion control measures must be implemented in areas sensitive to erosion such as near water supply points, edges of slopes, etc. These measures could include the use of sandbags, retention, or replacement of vegetation. 14. It is important that any significant spillage of chemicals, fuels, etc. during the construction phase and/or operational phase is reported to this Office and other relevant authorities. In the event of a spill, the following steps can be taken: • Stop the source of the spill; • Contain the spill; • All significant spills must be reported to this Department and other relevant authorities; • Remove the spilled product for treatment or authorised disposal; • Determine if there is any soil, groundwater or other environmental impact; • If necessary, remedial action must be taken in consultation with this Department and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; and • Incidents must be documented. 15. There must be no unacceptable impact on the quality of both surface and groundwater in the area. If pollution of any surface or groundwater occurs, it must be immediately reported to this Department and the appropriate mitigation measures must be employed. In addition, should the proposed activity impact on any groundwater and/or surface water users, then water of equal quality and quantity must be provided to the affected users.	Please refer to Section 3.5 of the EMPr, which addresses Soil, Stormwater Runoff and Erosion. Erosion control measures have been included in the BAR as well as the EMPr, specifically Section 3.5 of the EMPr, which addresses Soil, Stormwater Runoff and Erosion. Spill management has been included in the EMP under Section 3.10 which addresses Incidents, Spills and Emergency Response. All mitigation measures included in the EMPr will be monitored by an independent ECO. If any activity on site negatively impacts the quality of surface and groundwater in the area, the applicant will be advised of the reporting procedures in line with both the NWA and NEMA.

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	16. No form of secondary pollution should arise from the disposal of sewage and refuse. The contractor must be clearly briefed on the method of disposal of such waste and compliance must be ensured/monitored. Any pollution problems arising from the above project is to be addressed immediately by the Applicant. The Applicant is reminded that any infrastructure, including pipeline or manholes, within the property boundary must not contribute to or result in pollution to the water resources. 17. Please note the content of the following documents (and the respective annexures) and ensure compliance is met with each recommendation as well as the responsibilities and conditions entailed: i. Water Resources Assessment, Freshwater and Estuarine Ecological & Impact Assessment for the Proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Umdoni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province", dated February 2024 prepared by The Biodiversity Company. ii. Preliminary Report: Desktop Geotechnical Investigation for Proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Pipeline – KZN South Coast, dated 01 March 2024 prepared by Ensync Engineers. iii. Environmental Management Programme: The Construction of the Umdoni South Water Augmentation Project Resulting in the Construction of Infrastructure and Associated Watercourse Crossings That Have a Footprint of More Than 10m² Within The EFZ Requiring The Excavation and Infill of Material From a Watercourse in Excess of 10m³ and 5m³ From Within 100m of the Sea's High-water Mark as Well as the Clearance of More Than 300m² From an Endangered Ecosystem, dated May 2024, prepared by Enviro Consulting. Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the Applicant to identify all sources or potential sources of pollution from his undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the	Please refer to Section 3.6 of the EMPr, which addresses Housekeeping, Waste Storage, Handling, and Disposal. This section includes mitigation measures for both chemical toilet sewage and refuse. All mitigation measures included in the specialist report have been incorporated into the BAR and EMPr. An independent ECO will monitor all mitigation measures in the EMPr. Noted

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	environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the Applicant. Please do not hesitate to call this Office should you have any concerns or queries					
P. Harvery I&AP 07.06.2024	<u>Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation (USBWA) project Bazley Residents Association (BRA) queries and preliminary comments 7 June 2024</u> The below should be read in conjunction with our previous questions, and answers received from Enviropro/ENSsync on 4/6/2024. The BRA is a representative body for the town of Bazley and is registered as an IAP for this proposed project. Some of our initial correspondence is recorded in appendix C to the DBAR. At the outset we must make it clear that we are well aware of the dire need for the construction of a proper and efficient water supply for the Greater Malangen area and GDP communities. Our comments below relate solely to Bazley which appears to us to be a totally separate project with a much lower level of priority. We wonder why such disparate projects were combined in the first place. The BRA will be preparing and submitting a full submission to the EAP in due course. However, we have some questions and preliminary concerns we wish to raise: 1. Our correspondence starting 23/11/23 through to Feb 2024, and included in your appendix C refers. In multiple emails to you and other involved parties over this extended period, we sought to obtain explanations for the apparent unauthorised mass clearing of indigenous coastal bush by your client (Ugu) between Sezela and Ndesingane rivers (Sezela/Ndesingane clearing). We received no answers from you, the consulting engineers (ENSsync), Ugu	<table><tr><th>No.</th><th>Comment</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td> EnviroPro was appointed to conduct the environmental assessment for the proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project. After we began the work, a compliance issue arose, prompting us to halt our activities. Although we were aware of the outcomes of the process, we were not involved in the compliance procedures and therefore have no further insight into the agreements made between Ugu DM and EDTEA or how they reached their current conclusions. The referenced extract was included in the BAR to ensure complete transparency regarding our understanding of the matter. We have noted your concerns regarding the management of the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing and the impacts that have resulted. These activities did not take place in accordance with the prescribed legislation and did not have any overarching management document. However, all proposed works have been assessed in the BAR whereby the EMPr has been developed to ensure that all identified impacts are mitigated as thoroughly as possible. It is crucial to understand that the effectiveness of the EMPr depends on strict adherence to all its conditions. If approved, the EMPr will become a legally binding document that the applicant must comply with. Ensuring compliance with the EMPr will be the responsibility of the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA. However, the EA and EMPr will mandate that an independent ECO supervise the site. This ECO will be responsible for monitoring the site against all conditions of the EA and EMPr and reporting to the compliance and enforcement </td></tr></table>	No.	Comment	1.	EnviroPro was appointed to conduct the environmental assessment for the proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project. After we began the work, a compliance issue arose, prompting us to halt our activities. Although we were aware of the outcomes of the process, we were not involved in the compliance procedures and therefore have no further insight into the agreements made between Ugu DM and EDTEA or how they reached their current conclusions. The referenced extract was included in the BAR to ensure complete transparency regarding our understanding of the matter. We have noted your concerns regarding the management of the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing and the impacts that have resulted. These activities did not take place in accordance with the prescribed legislation and did not have any overarching management document. However, all proposed works have been assessed in the BAR whereby the EMPr has been developed to ensure that all identified impacts are mitigated as thoroughly as possible. It is crucial to understand that the effectiveness of the EMPr depends on strict adherence to all its conditions. If approved, the EMPr will become a legally binding document that the applicant must comply with. Ensuring compliance with the EMPr will be the responsibility of the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA. However, the EA and EMPr will mandate that an independent ECO supervise the site. This ECO will be responsible for monitoring the site against all conditions of the EA and EMPr and reporting to the compliance and enforcement
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	themselves or even the EDTEA. You however refer to the matter on pg11 of the DBAR: “the applicant commenced with the replacement of a 6km section of the pipeline near Bazley Beach, part of the bulk pipeline replacement route, prior to receiving formal approval from EDTEA.” None of the parties that should have been aware of this, and preventing it, were aware of it, or where it was even located. We spoke to Enviropro, EDTEA, Ugu’s Compliance Officer and ENSync – all claimed complete ignorance of the matter. With this in mind, our obvious overriding concern is whether the remainder of the project will be undertaken in a competent and properly managed manner, with the necessary safeguards and oversights in place. This was clearly not the case at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing as illustrated by the following: • The clearing done was measured between 12 - 20m wide which is up to double the 10m maximum footprint allowed, as indicated in the DBAR; • The route the unauthorised clearing followed did not align with the proposed corridor as indicated in this assessment, and in places was over 20m out from the proposed corridor (see images showing discrepancy between the proposed and actual unauthorised cleared route); • The work done was obviously unsupervised, and the contractor clearly displayed no concern about the destruction and damage being unnecessarily done to the environment; • The excavator worked to the river edge, in contravention of the guidelines indicated in the DBAR; • Notwithstanding the explicit requirements in the DBAR, none of the area has been rehabilitated (7 months and counting) and is now predominantly covered in the Castor-oil Ricinus		branch of EDTEA, which will also conduct regular site monitoring as part of their standard procedures.
		2.	Response from Engineer Pipelines would not run down the middle of roads but down the side of roads, where respective service departments have registered servitudes. Permission is acquired from respective departments to run essential services in such servitudes as and where appropriate, and both district and local municipal roads are only crossed as and where required.
		3.	Response from Engineer Road crossings are very common practice for all basic essential services and there are strict contractual protocols in place for public funded capex projects of this nature. Only contractors who are registered with the Construction Industry Development (CIDB) are permitted to tender for municipality Capex projects. During construction, residents are notified for any planned road closure and date and time agreed with the appropriate community structures. Normally, Road crossing/closure does not take more than a day. For and driveway homeowners are notified and crossings would not take more than a day and rehabilitation agreed with the homeowner. On completion, a satisfaction form is signed by homeowner as a confirmation that he/she is satisfied with rehabilitation done on the driveway. Rehabilitation of roads and driveways on capex projects such as Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project are undertaken through strict contractual codes and not by municipality itself.
		4.	Please note that different construction methodologies will be required along the pipeline due to site-specific factors such as roads, private properties, and large obstructions like rocks. The

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	communis plant – an Alien Invasive Plant (AIP). We can provide photos from the area. On pg105 of the DBAR it stipulates that the 2 objectives are:” For there to be no lasting negative impacts on the environment once construction is complete” and “To practice responsible construction, ‘best practice’. And further on “The contractor is responsible for and must ensure that the site has been rehabilitated in full before leaving the site.” None of these objectives were remotely achieved at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing. In light of the above, how are we supposed to trust Ugu to practice “best practice”, or that any of the parties involved will actually ensure/enforce Ugu’s compliance with the DBAR as they are required to do? To be clear, if what happened at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing happens in Bazley, our town and its natural environment will be irretrievably damaged, and we are therefore very concerned and apprehensive about this project 2. The pipeline, as provided in the KMZ file provided by Enviropro, goes directly through the middle of some sections of roads. Is this accurate to the degree that the pipeline will literally be laid under the road/s? If so, the road/s will presumably be dug up; how does this work logistically? 3. In your previous answers (4/6/24) you indicate “pipe boring” would only be used for national/provincial roads, and the rest will be dug up. This means several roads and multiple driveways in Bazley will be dug up. Please advise: - How will this work logistically? How will residents access areas/homes they - need to access daily? - How will the resultant damage be repaired? Past experience has proved Ugu cannot be trusted to repair what they damage. We	detailed methodologies will only be determined just before construction begins at these specific points. To accommodate these variations, a 10-meter working corridor has been included. However, this does not mean the entire corridor will be used along the entire length of the pipeline, especially in more densely populated areas such as Bazley. 5. Response from Engineer As has been indicated the ‘<i>unauthorised clearing / emergency replacement</i>’ and ‘<i>Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project servicing 40,000 consumers</i>’, are two separate projects both planned and financed and implemented through completely separate processes, and the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project team have considered all possible routes. The proper legal crossing of roads and rivers, and the appropriate use of existing structures and servitudes, such as Transnet Freight Rail-owned structures, Department of Transport structures, SANRAL, and any other are all the subject of legal servitude engagements and agreements with the appropriate departments, within the respective authorities. Such engagements are and have been initiated during the project planning phase and would be concluded before the implementation phase. 6. This point has been acknowledged and will be investigated further.

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	can provide photographic proof of vast damage to our roads, done by Ugu in repairing pipe breakages, and never repaired. We sit (years later) with large and dangerous holes in our roads. 4. A 10m wide working corridor through our town will destroy our tiny roads/verges. In some places there is considerably less than that available. Discussions with the Ugu Compliance Officer last year suggested that such a small pipe could be completed within a 3m wide working corridor. For laying such a small pipe (160mm), why is such a large working corridor required? 5. The section between Sezela and Ndesingane on the KMZ file shows a new route being cleared (different to the route already done in October/November last year). However, in the DBAR it indicates that this is not actually being done – presumably because it has already been done, albeit illegally. Please clarify. Furthermore, the KMZ file indicates the pipe will cross Ndesingane river via the railway bridge, yet it currently crosses at the weir. Please clarify. 6. Your KMZ file indicates the pipeline will travel down the gravel road from the reservoir to Ndesingane beach, on the south side of the road. In the process this will destroy significant amounts of a significant area of indigenous forest on the south side. This forest patch is known to support a number of faunal species of conservation concern. This would seem unnecessary, as the pipeline could be run down the north side of the gravel road where there is nothing but very sandy soil. Surely, putting the pipeline on the north side, where there is no forest, makes environmental, practical and economic sense? Please clarify. Furthermore, your KMZ file indicates a significant deviation from the existing pipeline, with the proposed pipeline going up reservoir road to the reservoir and down the Ndesingane gravel road. This is very different to the existing pipeline route which travels straight up	7. Please note that, as a standard construction practice, all existing services will be identified prior to any excavation to prevent disruptions. This requirement has been included in the EMPr. In response to your comment, we have contacted Metrofibre and provided them with the report for their input. 8. Please note that we became aware of the Bazley Conservancy through the public participation process, specifically through our communication with you. As a result, we have registered you as a representative of the Bazley Residents Association, which oversees the Bazley Conservancy as per your website. 9. The EMPr includes various mitigation measures that must be implemented to inform the community about any disruptive activities. It also requires the appointed contractor to identify alternative temporary access routes before construction begins, ensuring that access is maintained. 10. Response from Engineer All pipeline routes are strip-surveyed and final most practical routes are selected to minimize impacts on properties and other features. Ellysium section pipeline replacement would be no different. 11. Response from Engineer Pipeline excavations are very common practice for water services and there are strict contractual protocols in place for public funded capex projects of this nature. Excavations are carried out by machine or by hand, determined by access, the ground conditions and Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to safe-guard the environment. During Construction the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) monitors compliance of activities with an Environmental Management Plan and with regular environmental audits to ensure that the contractor is compliant. 12. Due to the nature of the proposal being a gravity-fed system, which transfers water from a single high point to lower elevations,

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	Ridge Rd directly to the Ndesingane river. Please explain the reasoning for this significant deviation.	there are very few alternative routes that would significantly differ from the proposed route while reducing environmental impact. During the pre-feasibility stage, other routes were considered; however, they required excessive clearance of aquatic environments and were therefore deemed infeasible and such were not assessed.
	7. Putting the pipeline predominantly along the east side verge of Ridge and Lagoon roads is likely to interfere with and/or damage existing infrastructure. In particular our Fibre is laid there. We noticed that OpenServe is identified as an IAP and has been consulted. However, our provider in Bazley is Metrofibre and we see no reference to them. Have you consulted with Metrofibre, and will they be present when construction is occurring in proximity to their Fibre line?	13. Yes both Enviropro and The Biodiversity Company conducted site visits. Please note both the Terrestrial and Aquatic reports were conducted in line with the relevant protocols: - Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity" gazetted 20 March 2020, published in Government Notice No. 320 - Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity" gazetted 20 March 2020, published in Government Notice No. 320
	8. Are you aware that Bazley, together with a portion of Illovo farmland, comprise the greater Bazley Conservancy, a conservancy registered with the KZN Conservancies Association? If yes, how was this accounted for in your planning?	
	9. A significant proportion of the income generated by Bazley comes from accommodation rented out to tourists and a large caravan park. What mitigations will be put in place to minimise the disruption to our tourist trade, especially as a number of our roads and driveways are going to be dug up?	14. As mentioned in a previous comment, due to the nature of the proposal being a gravity-fed system, there are very few alternative routes that would significantly differ from the proposed route while reducing environmental impact. However, it is noted that avoiding areas within the working corridor identified as having medium sensitivity, as per the Terrestrial Report, is favourable. Therefore, the BAR and EMPr have been updated to include a mitigation measure stating that areas within the working corridor identified as having medium sensitivity should be avoided as much as possible. These areas must be demarcated as no-go zones were applicable.
	10. The original pipeline in Bazley was laid around 1973, 51 years ago, when the town was vastly different as compared to today. There were no tarred roads, no electricity and a handful of houses compared to now. To follow the existing pipeline, given that part of it runs under main roads and it will cause significant destruction/disruption to current infrastructure/houses, seems to ignore this important fact. Surely the layout of the town as it exists today needs to be considered, and a route devised which minimises impact, and makes sense from both a practical and economic sense?	15. The Sezela/Ndesingane project did not take place in accordance with the prescribed legislation and lacked an overarching management document. However, all proposed works have now been assessed in the BAR, and the EMPr has been compiled accordingly. The sensitivity of the receiving environment is noted however his application has been evaluated with the understanding that all mitigation measures will be implemented as the EMPr would become a legally binding document.
	11. A large excavator was used in the unauthorised Sezela/Ndesingane clearing, which seemed completely unnecessary and caused the	

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	massive damage already mentioned in Point 1 above. Please confirm what machinery and trenching methods will be used in Bazley. Not only will heavy machinery damage the vegetation, moving it through town will damage our fragile roads. In many places our tar roads are very thin, which we know from continually repairing potholes (done by the community, not the municipality), so will not handle any heavy vehicles. Please advise. 12. Design alternatives seem to be dealt with in the DBAR with a half page of superficial analysis. There don't seem to be any route alternatives put forward or considered for Bazley. Please advise. 13. Have Enviropro and The Biodiversity Company been on-site and done physical analysis in Bazley, or has there just been a desktop analysis? 14. Per the DBAR "a Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist was commissioned. Based on the specialist's findings the proposed footprint area is of a 'High' sensitivity,". Also, per the DBAR "The water pipeline will result in a large amount of clearance of endangered indigenous vegetation when creating the construction corridor". Given this and the existence of Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Forest alongside "Modified" habitat (predominantly sugar cane), surely one would avoid the former and try to use the edges of the modified habitat where possible? 15. The biodiversity specialist findings state in 2.5.1 of the DBAR that 'The location, state and size of the ecosystem means that it is unlikely that any functional habitat or SCCs will be lost because of the impacts arising from the proposed activities.' However, in certain sections of the proposed route, most notably the Ndesingane – Bazley section, this is untrue, as functional coastal forest that is known to support SCCs will be damaged, and SCC habitat will be transformed and degraded. Please advise.	Therefore, the specialists' findings are based on the implementation of these mitigation measures, including full rehabilitation, as the pipeline will be placed underground. 16. As per the specialist report which conformed to the relevant legislated applicable protocol: Terrestrial – September 2023 / February 2024 Aquatic – September 2023 Heritage – November 2023 Palaeontological – Desktop report required Geotechnical – Desktop report required 17. Based on the engineering report discussed in the BAR, there are several distinct areas, each requiring varying levels of service based on existing water infrastructure availability. The two specific areas you mentioned—new infrastructure in Pennington/Malangen/Kelso/GDP and replacement infrastructure in Elysium/Ifafa/Bazley—are accurate. However, the overarching goal of the entire proposal is to establish long-term water provision infrastructure in the region, presenting a common need described as one. However, these areas have been further expanded on in the engineering reports as included in Appendix B. The purpose of this application is to authorize the identified listed activities as per EIA Regulations. Therefore, despite different facets within the application, they are all ultimately linked to specific listed activities that must be assessed as a cohesive whole. 18. Please note that the Ndesingane/Sezela clearing occurred outside of the EIA process, and compliance discussions were conducted between Ugu DM and EDTEA. We do not have additional information regarding the next steps or the agreements reached, except that the municipality is responsible for rehabilitating the cleared area. Therefore unfortunately we do not have any further insight into the timeline. 19. The Sezela/Ndesingane project did not comply with the prescribed legislation and lacked an overarching management

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	16. Per the DBAR “detailed site inspections were undertaken by all specialists involved”. Which specialists came to Bazley; when and which areas did they visit? 17. There are nine (per the DBAR) very different communities/areas covered under this project and report, yet very little effort is made to distinguish between them and their different needs – it mostly paints every area with the same brush. Furthermore, there seems to be, at least, two very different projects proposed. Bazley seems to be part of very much a secondary project, together with Elysium and Ifafa, which entails replacement/refurbishment of an existing pipeline. This “one-size-fits-all” approach causes confusion as to which parts of the DBAR are applicable to which areas, and perhaps a clearer demarcation and explanation of areas/projects would be better? 18. Per the DBAR “Any disturbed areas within the construction footprint must be rehabilitated within a month of occurrence”. It is 7+ months since the Ndesingane/Sezela clearing and no rehabilitation of any sort has occurred. Please advise. 19. Per DBAR “All alien and invasive plant species that may emerge during construction (i.e. weedy annuals and other alien forbs) must be promptly removed”. But this has not occurred at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing where the damaged area is now covered in IAPs. Please advise. 20. ENSync met with us on 29/1/24 and explained that this project had nothing to do with the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing. They further indicated this was a unilateral action taken by the Ugu Operations team, unrelated to the project and which ENSync were not involved in. This now seems completely contradicted in the DBAR. Please clarify.	document. However, all proposed works have been evaluated in the BAR, and the EMPr has been developed accordingly. The EMPr includes provisions addressing the control of alien and invasive plant species, which will become legally binding on the applicant if approved. 20. The Ndesingane/Sezela clearing took place on the same pipeline segment currently under scrutiny by the EIA and engineers. However, as you mentioned, this work was carried out by the Ugu Operations team and it is our understanding without endorsement or approval from Ensync. Ensync were unaware of these activities until they were brought to their attention by Enviropro. Nevertheless EDTEA requested we continue with the BAR as before where these specific portions of the pipeline will not be included in any subsequent EA (as included in the BAR). 21. Response from Engineer The Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project, serving 40,000 consumers, is currently in the planning and authorisations phase. Once all of respective authorities, public, regulatory and legislative approvals of all the project objectives and parameters are in place, only then for onward consideration for public expenditure conditional grant funding, only then would the project move into the next implementation phase. The municipality does not control any of these processes. Once public expenditure is approved, only then would implementation first have to follow an annual legislated process of Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review, aligned to municipality Services Development Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and finally aligned to municipality Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Once all of above are adopted through Council protocols, then the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project servicing 40,000 consumers, would not be implemented as one single project or

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	21. We previously asked for the timeframes for the project. The answer provided on 4/6/24 was a “period of 3 years”. You will appreciate that an answer like that isn’t very informative. Please explain how/when the various phase will be implemented and where Bazley specifically fits into the timeline. In particular, please advise the expected timeframe for completing the work in Bazley.		contract, but rather rolled-out as smaller practical contracts, or work -packages, as practically aligned to all of the site requirements, supply and demand priorities, IDP, MTEF and SDBIP, all of which are similarly competing with many other projects over the entire Ugu district. This project is thus envisaged to be phased and implemented over a period of at least 3 years, if everything runs smoothy. However, every delay, with any of the above, all beyond the municipality control, would all accumulate to delay final delivery.
Anonymous I&AP 12.06.2024	WHAT IS YOUR MAIN AREA OF INTEREST WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT? I have an interest in Bazley and consequently have an interest in the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project and would like to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP). I feel this will negatively effect my property and safety. DO YOU HAVE ANY POINTS OF CONCERN OR SUPPORT REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT? IF “YES”, PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST THESE IN POINT FORM	Your comments have been noted. Please note that any disruption caused by the construction will be temporary. As required by the EMP, the contractor will liaise with all property owners regarding construction activities that might result in any disruptions.	

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	The safety of my property, the value and the disruption. I do not support this.	
P. Harvey I&AP 16.06.2024	Dear Dustin, Our questions below (sent 7/6/24) refer. We'd be grateful if you would let us know when we could expect answers. We are obviously very conscious of the tight deadline to complete our submissions. On a separate note, we'd like to draw your attention to the answers you provided below on 4/6/24. In particular: "Will exactly per servitudes as possible, follow existing pipeline routes, laying a new pipeline, without removing the old ailing one and then re-interconnections." and "Existing ailing pipeline would remain and there would be re-interconnections as and where appropriate." We remain rather unclear on this important aspect: - We can find no definition, or explanation, of the word "re-interconnections". Please advise what this word means, in particular as it relates to the proposed pipeline in Bazley. "re-interconnections as and where appropriate". Please elaborate on what this means practically, when installing the new pipeline. As we understand it, as you won't be removing the old pipeline, you will simply connect the new pipeline to the old pipeline at certain points. Thus, the existing reticulation system (going to each house) will not connect directly to the new pipeline, but will continue to remain connected to the old pipeline which will connect to the new pipeline "as and where appropriate". Please confirm and elaborate. - Subject to the answers to the above, it seems that the new pipeline does not need to follow the old pipeline religiously. This is borne out by the new pipeline route not following the existing old pipeline along the entirety of Marine Drive and the top part of Ridge Rd (beyond Reservoir Rd). Please confirm.	Hello Paul, Please note we will endeavour to get some responses to you by the end of the week. Response from Engineer Re- interconnection refers to a process of reconnecting into an existing network system, or infrastructure. The Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project is bulk augmentation pipelines, which would connect into existing supply reservoirs, and also into existing smaller active reticulation network pipes as and where requires, as well re-interconnect with existing river crossing lines where appropriate. Thus the existing ailing old bulk pipeline would remain in the ground and there would be re-interconnections as and where appropriate, for the new bulk pipeline into existing smaller reticulation network and structures, as appropriate.
P. Harvey I&AP 17.06.2024	Dear Dustin,	Hello Paul, Thanks for your email.

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	As I'm sure you're aware, we have fortuitously got Dr Jeremy Ridl assisting us (Bazley/BRA) with understanding and responding to this project. Jeremy has asked that I raise the following with you for your consideration and response: "It is acknowledged in the DBAR that "the applicant commenced with the replacement of a 6km section of the pipeline near Bazley Beach, part of the bulk pipeline replacement route, prior to receiving formal approval from EDTEA". Once "listed activities" have been commenced, the usual basic assessment process cannot be followed. The procedure is governed by section 24G of NEMA. The assessment process is similar, but before a decision is made the Applicant must pay a substantial administrative fine. Ugu could also be criminally prosecuted and should, as this is not the first time they have disregarded environmental laws during the construction of pipelines. It seems that there has been an attempt by the authorities to regularise this unlawful commencement of the activities by the issue of an environmental authorisation under section 30A(1) of NEMA. This is an improper and irregular use of section 30A, which provides as follows: 30A. Emergency situations.—(1) The competent authority may on its own initiative or on written or oral request from a person, direct a person verbally or in writing to carry out a listed or specified activity, without obtaining an environmental authorisation contemplated in section 24 (2) (a) or (b), in order to prevent or contain an emergency situation or to prevent, contain or mitigate the effects of the emergency situation. It is clear from the wording that this provision is available only in the case of "emergency situations" and must be preceded by an application for environmental authorisation (which may be oral), or issued on the initiative of the competent authority before commencement of the activities. There was no "emergency situation" as defined in section 30A(7) of NEMA, which is: In this section "emergency situation" means a situation that has arisen suddenly that poses an imminent and serious threat to the environment,	EnviroPro was appointed to conduct the environmental assessment for the propose Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project. After we began the work, a compliance issue arose, prompting us to halt our activities. We were not involved in the compliance process but were later instructed to resume the impact assessment. Consequently, I do not have any further insight into the agreement made between Ugu DM and EDTEA or how they reached their current conclusions. The municipality is however still obliged to rehabilitate the area that was cleared. Your comments however are noted and will be included in the comments and response table.

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	human life or property, including a 'disaster' as defined in section 1 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), but does not include an incident referred to in section 30 of this Act. There was no "incident" as defined to section 30, referred to above. This use of section 30A is an abuse of the process and cannot be condoned. Simply put, it is unlawful." We look forward to hearing from you.	
Anonymous I&AP 20.06.2024	WHAT IS YOUR MAIN AREA OF INTEREST WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT ? I represent seven couples who own Shad Shack as a holiday cottage. I have been mandated by the other owners to represent them in this issue as we are very concerned of the ramifications of the proposals that have been presented to our community for this project. DO YOU HAVE ANY POINTS OF CONCERN OR SUPPORT REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT? IF "YES", PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST THESE IN POINT FORM: As a community and as owners for more than 30 years of Shad Shack, we are in favour of improving the improvement of the water supply to the area; we understand that it is critically important primarily to residents of the greater area that it will service and we do not want to obstruct or block the project. However we are extremely anxious about the environmental impact to our coastal forest and other pockets of indigenous vegetation; as well as the disruption to roads and access in Bazley and the immediate surrounding areas. We feel a the route for the project can very realistically be re-designed in such a way as to minimise destruction to vegetation, which we fear will never be properly and thoroughly rehabilitated. The same applies to roads and verges which after a great deal of hard work and consultation with the local authorities have been improved to a significant extent.	Noted, the Shad Shack has been registered as an I&AP. Your concern has been noted. However, due to the nature of the proposal being a gravity-fed system, there are very few alternative routes that would significantly differ from the proposed route while reducing environmental impact. Nevertheless, alternative routes proposed by other I&APs have been considered in this application. If approved, this proposal will be subject to the provisions of both an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). These documents will be legally binding and will specifically address rehabilitation. This differs from normal municipal repairs, which do not impose such comprehensive requirements on contractors. Additionally, the EA and EMPr will mandate that the site be monitored by an independent environmental officer (ECO), whose role is to ensure all conditions are implemented.

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	ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WHO YOU FEEL SHOULD BE CONSULTED WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT? IF “YES”, PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST THESE IN POINT FORM: I am not familiar with which organizations and professional bodies would ordinarily be consulted in such a process but would like on behalf of my co-owners to feel completely comfortable with every possible expert in such projects be consulted and their input taken into account for the benefit in every way of the community.	All comments received from I&APs, along with input from individual specialists in fields such as aquatic environments, terrestrial environments, and heritage environments, have been incorporated into this application information will also be assessed by EDTEA during the deliberation period.
P.Harvey I&AP 22.06.2024	Dear Dustin, Thank you for your response below, which refers. Unfortunately, as of Friday, we had not received any answers to our queries, despite now waiting for over two weeks. We understand the pressures you may be facing on this matter; however, we must emphasize that these delays are significantly impacting our ability to prepare a comprehensive submission by the deadline. Key points to consider include: • The deadline imposed on IAPs appears to have been set without due consideration of the volume and complexity of the documents requiring review; • We previously highlighted the extensive nature and complexity of the documents provided, resulting in a seven-day extension to the deadline (now set for 1/7/24); • Initial questions were raised with EnviroPro on 30/5/24, with only superficial responses received (from the Project Engineer) five days later on 4/6/24; • Subsequent and follow-up questions (based on the 4/6/24 responses) were submitted on 7/6/24 but remain unanswered to date; and	Hello Paul, We have noted your comments and will include them in the comments and response report. Please note that we were awaiting feedback from the engineer, which we received today. Attached is the document containing our responses to your queries from your emails dated June 7, 2024, and June 16, 2024. Please refer to the above comment (P. Harvey_I&AP_07.06.2024) for the full list of responses.

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	As members of the BRA, we manage this alongside our day jobs, lacking specific expertise in this matter and relying on limited spare time after hours. Given these circumstances, we are concerned that the delays in receiving essential information from EnviroPro and others will severely hamper our ability to deliver a comprehensive response by the deadline. We kindly request that this issue be noted and considered. We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.	
P. Harvey I&AP 24.06.2024	Dear Dustin, Thank you for email and the response – we will work through these in due course. We will have to communicate directly with the Department on the matter of the abuse of section 30A of NEMA and circumvention of Section 24G. Please advise if you have any documents relating to this, and if so, we'd appreciate it if you could make them available to us, or provide the name (and contact details) of the official who dealt with the matter, or at least, who is dealing with the basic assessment process.	Hello Paul, Unfortunately, we do not have anything to share as we were not part of that process. However, the compliance officer is Ms. Glorious Mhlanga, who based on emails we were copied in has been in contact with you in the past.
N. Ndokweni EDTEA 26.06.2024	Dear Dustin <u>Re: COMMENTS ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF UMDONI SOUTH WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT RESULTING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS THAT HAVE A FOOTPRINT OF MORE THAN 10M² WITHIN THE EFZ REQUIRING THE EXCAVATION AND INFILL OF MATERIAL FROM A WATERCOURSE IN EXCESS OF 10M³ AND 5M³ FROM WITHIN 100M OF THE SEA'S HIGH-WATER MARK AS WELL AS THE CLEARANCE OF MORE THAN 300M² FROM AN ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEM IN UMDONI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, UGU DISTRICT, DC 21.</u>	

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	The Draft Basic Assessment Report (hereinafter referred to as “dBAR”) submitted to the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”) on 27 May 2024 has reference. 1. It is noted from the draft BAR that the developer proposes the development of a water augmentation project within Umdoni Local Municipality. 2. The draft BAR has been reviewed and the following shortcomings must be addressed: a. The draft BAR project description must be in detail in relation to existing infrastructure, proposed and what is to be upgraded. The amended dBAR must reflect information as stated on all the preliminary design reports, should there be any changes, appropriate amendments must be made in all reports included the amended dBAR to avoid discrepancies and to ensure the project description reflects all the activities applied for; b. Please ensure all the listed activities associated with the development are quantified and provided with a detailed description to which each activity is triggered, this must include Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1- The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for any development and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014, as it is anticipated that the development will entail decommissioning of the old water reticulation system;	The project description has been amended to become more aligned with the details included in the preliminary design reports. Please refer to Section 1.2 of the BAR for all modified and new information has been indicated in red text. Please refer to Table 4 through to Table 7 of the BAR which provides quantified values for each applicable listed activity. The values and applicable listed activities have been summarised as per the extract from the BAR (Page 12) below: • Infilling and removal of 1611.58m³ of material within the identified watercourses on-site (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19). • Infilling and removal of 8436.36m³ of material from areas that are within 100m of the high-water mark of the sea (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A). • The clearance of 478 281m² of indigenous vegetation from the endangered KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland ecosystem type (Listing Notice 3, Activity 12). • The development of 4290.03m² of infrastructure within 32m of a watercourse that falls within a rural area (Listing Notice 1, Activity 12).

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	c. The information provided on the project description of the amended dBAR does not specify the number of household connections the water reticulation will accommodate, however there has been no confirmation from the Ugu District Municipality in terms of the carrying capacity of existing Umdoni water reservoir if it will be able to accommodate the additional upgrades. d. Page 8 of the draft BAR states that “The existing bulk main which runs from Sezela Cricket Grounds on Sezela Drive and extending South along the coastline to the town of Elysium will be replaced as it has deteriorated and insufficient to meet demand. In some sections, the existing pipeline infrastructure could not be followed, and will therefore be re-routed to a better alternative route. New bulk mains will also be constructed as part of the proposal; these bulk mains will be constructed between the towns of Ifafa, Glebe and Pennington, and will run through Malangeni and parallel to the N2 highway” Please ensure that all potential impacts associated with pipeline laying on the new route are adequately assessed and provided with mitigation measures for the loss of sensitive habitat and migration of fauna and	The development of 659.86m² of infrastructures within 32m of a watercourse that falls within several estuarine functional zones (EFZ; Listing Notice 3, Activity 14). Please note that Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1 has not been included, as this activity pertains to the closure of existing facilities, structures, or infrastructure which must have an associated listed operational phase. The existing pipelines do not have an associated operational phase; therefore, Activity 31 of Listing Notice 1 is not applicable. Please refer to Section 1.2 of the BAR, which has been updated to state that a total of 201 houses will be supplied by the GDP reticulation at a rate of 0.010523 l/s. In terms of supply, a bulk water pipeline by Umgeni Water is under construction and will supply the Umdoni Reservoir with 6.67 Ml/day. This information has been included in Section 1.2 of the BAR, which also states that the Umdoni Reservoir will have its capacity increased to provide 48-hour storage for the supply areas, including an additional 2500 m³ of storage. All works associated with the capacity increase will take place within the existing reservoir site and as such no listed activities have been identified. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B, C, and D of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in sensitive environments, such as watercourses, EFZs, and vegetation.

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	flora due to alteration of habitat from clearance and other construction activities, these mitigation measures must also be included in the EMPr. e. It is stated on page 9 of the draft BAR that “As part of the project scope, the reservoirs feeding the bulk lines will be refurbished and where necessary capacities increased. Umdoni Reservoir, Malangeni Reservoir D and Malangeni Reservoir E will have their capacities increased, and these reservoirs will remain in the same location as they currently stand. All other existing reservoirs, namely Kelso, Pennington, and Hilltop, will be refurbished. The Water Supply System (WSS) is serviced partly by gravity-fed pipes, and some by the use of pump stations, this existing infrastructure will also be refurbished as part of the project scope “however, the project description omits to provide specification for refurbishment, <u>this includes specifications for associated infrastructure such as pump station, scour/valve chambers at low points along the pipeline route.</u> f. It is noted on the draft BAR that “There are multiple sections of pipeline where the route will need to cross the existing roads, two of which cross the N2. It is required by the Department of Transport that all road crossings be done by pipe boring. However, it has been proposed that gravel road crossings be constructed by open-cut trenching with the necessary provision for traffic deviations and control. For the N2 road crossings, a pipe jack will be used”, <u>please ensure that approval from the Department of Transport and SANRAL have been obtained to depict the pipeline route as per the approvals and included in the amended dBAR.</u> g. Page 12 of the GDP design proposal report states that “It is the requirement of the Department of Transport that all road crossings be carried out by pipe boring whilst it is proposed that the gravel road crossings be carried out by open trenching	Section 1.2 of the BAR, which describes the project, has been updated to include additional information regarding reservoirs and pump stations. However, due to the project currently being in the preliminary engineering phase, there is very little detailed design information available. This detailed information would include specifics about the pump stations and scour/valve chambers. Regarding the pump stations, the proposal includes the refurbishment of an existing pump station at Malangeni Reservoir D, which pumps towards Malangeni Reservoir E, and the construction of a new pump station from Umdoni Reservoir to Malangeni Reservoir D. The new pump station will be located on the grounds of the Umdoni Reservoir, so no additional vegetation clearance will be required for these works. As a standard design consideration, scour valves will be located at low points along the exact alignment that has been proposed. Therefore, all scour valves will fall within the pipeline alignment proposed in the application. According to feedback received from the engineer, the N2 and R102 road crossings have already been completed by uMngeni-uThukela Water as part of their South Coast Bulk Pipeline Phase 2B project. The Ugu DM Umdoni South Bulk Augmentation lines to the Malangeni area will run through these same existing culverts, the BAR has been updated accordingly. DoT wayleave approvals for all pipe bores underneath their asphalt district roads, as per their design and specification requirements, are currently with the DoT for approval. Communication with the DoT and the engineer regarding the DoT approval has been attached in Appendix C7. Please note that provisions for pipe boring for all road crossings have been made however the preferred method is open-cut trenching. This method of open-cut trenching has been submitted to DoT which is under consideration.

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	with the necessary provision for traffic deviations and control” it is unclear whether this method will only be considered for the new reticulation in the GDP area, as it contradicts the proposed method for road crossing as stated on the project description is pipe jacking. h. Page 32 of the draft BAR 1.4.1 that “The route traverse’s sections of previously untouched terrain but will largely follow existing infrastructure road reserves and railway lines. A significant portion of the pipeline will run parallel to existing pipeline routes, replacing them, and remaining within their designated servitudes. However, certain segments of the route will diverge from these servitudes to accommodate nearby properties and minimize disruption to occupants’ livelihoods during construction. The primary driver dictating the pipeline route is the topography as the proposed network has been designed to be a gravity-fed system. Gravity-fed systems work by means of transferring water from a single high point to points of lower elevation. Therefore, due to the proposal being a gravity-fed system no other feasible route alternative was available” The amended dBAR must specify the anticipated number of pump station to be constructed at low points where the pipeline may encounter elevation challenges and to ensure the required pressure of the pipeline is maintained. All pump stations must be depicted on the proposed layout plan and unpacked in a form of a table in the project description. i. The amended dBAR must address the Climate Change adaptation mitigation measures to incorporate climate resilient infrastructure design, through the use of materials and technologies that can withstand extreme weather events and ensure to implement water conservation measures to cope with potential changes in water availability for the Umdoni South Augmentation Bulk Water Project.	Please refer to Section 1.2 of the BAR, which has been updated to include information which speaks to the pump stations along the route. The proposal included in this application entails the refurbishment of an existing pump station at the Malangeni Reservoir D which pumps towards Malangeni Reservoir E and a new pump station from Umdoni Reservoir to Malangeni Reservoir D. New and refurbished pump stations will face many challenges including power outages and such as each pump station will include a backup system for power outages. Please note it was not deemed necessary to include a table due to the limited amount of detail available. Figure 2 of the BAR has been updated to show the location of both the Malangeni Reservoir D and Umdoni Reservoir where the pump stations are and will be located. Due to the nature of the proposal, being a potable water pipeline scheme, no significant impacts on climate change have been identified. However, the resilience of the pipeline to climate change impacts is addressed in Section 6.2 of the BAR i.e impact assessment. The proposed mitigation measures aim to ensure the pipeline remains resilient to failures from extreme events such as flooding. Additionally, mitigation measures such as public awareness campaigns have been included to encourage responsible water use.

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	j. It is stated on the Freshwater and Estuarine Ecological & Impact Assessment prepared by The Biodiversity company (dated February 2024) that “No alternatives were provided for consideration for the proposed development. The purpose of this assessment was to determine the sensitivities within the Project Area/PAOI so that development does not impact on the sensitive areas. Hence it is assumed that the development footprint will not encroach and/or negatively impact the sensitive of areas” this must be confirmed on the amended dBAR that the development will not result in any encroachment or negatively impact the sensitive areas. k. All potential impacts associated with aquatic ecology must be assessed and included in the amended dBAR, as the project area is considered highly sensitive to disturbance from a hydrological, biological and conservational perspective. This includes the numerous river and estuarine instream and riparian areas, all associated buffer areas, and Critically Biodiversity Areas. The amended dBAR must include satisfactory mitigation measures for construction and operational activities which take cognisance of this and avoid any unnecessary disturbance as the development within these sensitive areas will lead to modifications to the present ecological state and therefore ecosystem degradation. l. The amended dBAR must incorporate the assessment of potential impact associated with the downstream environment as there may be possible pipeline leaks or pipe burst closer to water resources as this may be a health hazard and may also impact negatively towards the aquatic ecosystem. and also provide sufficient mitigation measures and bringing to the fore the need to avoid disturbance on major rivers, drainage lines, estuaries, coastal and riparian habitats area as these sensitive areas have a potential risk of further degradation resulting from a shift in the biotic integrity of watercourses	Please after discussion with the specialist, this statement was made in error, as the pipeline will encroach and/or negatively impact the sensitive areas. It is for this reason that an application for Environmental Authorisation is being made. The specialist has thus updated their report. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B and C of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in sensitive environments, such as watercourses and EFZs. All mitigation measures proposed by the aquatic specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Since the pipeline carries potable water and not wastewater, there are no perceived health hazards resulting from leaks or pipe bursts, as the water is treated to drinking standards. However, large-scale bursts may lead to increased downstream turbidity, negatively impacting aquatic environments. Section 6.2 of the BAR, which includes the impact assessment, addresses this issue under Impact 33: Erosion caused by unplanned pipe leaks. Please also refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B and C of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in

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	within the Protected Area of Influence based on the severity of baseline habitat alterations or losses. m. A suitable stormwater management plan must be compiled and included in the amended dBAR for the facility and implemented during the construction phase. This plan must attempt to displace and divert stormwater from the project area and discharge the water into adjacent areas without eroding the receiving areas. The stormwater management plan must include appropriate mitigation measure to address the potential impacts associated with run off impacting on the watercourses within the project area. n. The amended dBAR must include an Alien Management Plan to be implemented prior the construction to control and prevent the spread of invasive aliens. This is particularly applicable for the area beyond the perimeter fence at the discharge area, as access through the access gate is limited by dense alien vegetation that has not been maintained. The mitigation measures for invasive plant management must allow for the monitoring of the discharge points and associated infrastructure. o. The Geotechnical Investigation Report (dated 01 March 2024) prepared by Drennan Maud (PTY) Ltd states that “The project area is characterised by moderate to occasional steep topography, which may produce localized problems where trench excavations alongside slopes and valley bottoms, in particular, where intersecting hill wash and deeply weathered clayey materials are. The sandy residual and colluvial subsoils derived from the weathered sandstone and weathered granite as well as the alluvium have relatively low clay content and associated cohesive characteristics. As such, potential instability can be expected in near vertical trench sidewalls in this sandy material if left open for extended periods of time”.	sensitive environments, such as watercourses and EFZs. All mitigation measures proposed by the aquatic specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Due to the nature of the proposal, i.e., below-ground pipelines, significant stormwater control is not required during operation, provided that rehabilitation is done in accordance with the EMPr. Instead, a stormwater management plan has been compiled for the construction phase and is included in Appendix F of the BAR. An Alien Management Plan has been compiled for the construction phase and is included in Appendix F of the BAR. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavations, specifically Impact 19 - <i>Trench failure due to poor construction techniques</i>.

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	Specific mitigation measures for such must be provided and included in the EMPr. This must also include the preferred method of excavation in all areas of concern. p. It is noted on page 7 of the Geotechnical Investigation Report (dated 01 March 2024) prepared by Drennan Maud (PTY) Ltd that “Groundwater seepage is likely to be encountered at the soil-rock interface, perched on less permeable horizons or along open joints within the weathered bedrock. Such seepage is likely to occur during or shortly after rainfall events and be relatively short-lived. Along lower slope and valley bottoms or towards the heads of natural drainage lines, more permanent seepage is likely to be encountered at relatively shallow depths where perched in less permeable soils. All will be non-problematic if trench excavations are properly stored and supported where required” all potential impact associated with must be assessed and provided with adequate mitigation measures. q. The conclusion of the Geotechnical Investigation Report (dated 01 March 2024) prepared by Drennan Maud (PTY) Ltd states that “Once the localized testing component of the current assessment has been completed and the results assessed, further comment and recommendation pertaining to the proposed development with regards to material suitability, problem soils, seepage, trenchability and other pertinent geotechnical aspects along the pipeline route will be assessed in our final report “please confirm if this has been completed, should it be so, all relevant mitigation measure must be provided and included in the EMPr. r. The sensitivity layout plan on the amended dBAR must depict existing and proposed infrastructure including proposed associated infrastructure i.e. (reservoirs, pipeline route, & pump stations) etc. in relation to the sensitive environment (wetlands and areas of high ecological importance), and also	Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavations, specifically Impact 19 - <i>Trench failure due to poor construction techniques</i>. Relevant mitigations refer to the application of shoring when required. The final report has not yet been compiled, as the current level of detail provided in the Geotechnical Investigation Report, dated 01 March 2024, is sufficient for the preliminary design report purposes of this application. Please refer to Figures 2 and 33 of the BAR which provides the following detail: - Pipeline route (the location of the pipeline replacement has been indicated in the figure) - Reservoirs which include the pump station locations

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	where the pipeline will be crossing all identified watercourses on site including the areas which does not have existing servitude. s. The <u>layout plan</u> must depict the different pipeline types to be installed in terms of diameter, where there will be PVC installations, HDPE and where there will be installation of the steel pipeline which is said to be anchored into the existing bridges on certain areas, this must also be included on the layout plan legend. t. The issues of trail must be included on the amended draft BAR and must be inclusive of comments raised by relevant stakeholders with all issues adequately addressed and attached on the comments and response table on the amended dBAR and must be inclusive of detailed input provided by the competent authority as discussed on the approved pre-application meeting minutes. u. Please provide specific mitigation measures for potential impacts associated with excavation, backfilling and soil erosion aspects, considering the variations in soil, rock and possible groundwater regime which may occur during construction. v. The Invasive Alien Management Plan must be in line with the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy and provide methods of restoring vegetation to be cleared to make way for the pipeline as the site falls within the endangered KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland ecosystem and the Estuarine Functional Zones (EFZ). This must be in line with the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy and provide methods of rehabilitation to restore vegetation to be cleared to make way for pipeline laying.	- Sensitive environments Please refer to Appendix A1 for the Engineering layouts of the proposal which indicate pipe diameters and materials and the location of existing bridge attachments. Please refer to Appendix C7 and C8 which provide the full trail of all comments received during the application and the responses. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects E and H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavation, backfilling and soil erosion. Please refer to Appendix B where a rehabilitation plan has been developed to also include aspects that relate to alien plant management as well as the Alien Management Plan in Appendix F.

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	w. Please ensure to assess wetland functional health, structure and composition of wetlands to be impacted on, and provide adequate mitigation measure to ensure that biodiversity functioning is sustained and supported according to the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy. x. The Rehabilitation plan must include specific methods for revegetating, and restoring the degraded sensitive environment and loss of habit, including implementing the wetland offset strategy especially on areas where the pipeline will be rerouted and will not follow the existing pipeline servitude. y. The amended dBAR must assess all potential impacts associated with the altering of the stream flow and mitigation measures for all identified potential impacts, including water quality impairment. z. The amended dBAR must include the assessment of potential impacts associated with the development during the construction phase including disturbance of fauna due to noise and variation of vegetation degradation due to dust pollution. The assessment must also include mitigation measures for encroachment of Invasive Alien Plants due to increasing spread into, and from disturbed areas. aa. The conservation of Critical Biodiversity Areas is crucial and must be maintained in a natural or near natural state, biodiversity conservation targets must be met for the features associated with the site in this case the implementation of this development must ensure to assess all identified potential	Please note as per the specialist no wetlands were identified rather aquatic environments however please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B and C of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in sensitive environments, such as watercourses and EFZs. All mitigation measures proposed by the aquatic specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Please refer to Appendix B where a rehabilitation plan has been developed. No wetlands have been identified by the freshwater specialist and as such there has been no provision made for wetland offset. Please also refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B and C of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in sensitive environments, such as watercourses and EFZs. All mitigation measures proposed by the aquatic specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Please also refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects D of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction on the terrestrial environment, specifically Impact 12 - <i>Disruption/alteration of faunal species activities</i>. All mitigation measures proposed by the terrestrial specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Please also refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects D of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction on the terrestrial environment. All

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	impacts thoroughly and provide specific mitigation measures taking into consideration the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy, including providing recovery methods for the loss of habitat and sensitive environment. bb. The amended dBAR must include mitigation measure during construction and post construction for soil with collapse and erosion potential when subjected to abnormal increase in moisture content, including cohesionless soils which are highly susceptible to erosion from both wind and water. cc. Strict storm water control measures must be included on the amended dBAR and EMPr for potential accelerated run off resulting from transformation of the site for both construction and operation phase. dd. Please ensure that all impacts that have been assessed relating to all environmental sensitive features and have mitigation measures and that all recommendations of specialists are included in the EMPr for monitoring purposes and such environmental sensitive features are delineated according to the buffers determined by the specialist. ee. All the layouts must be in detail, pictures, diagrams and specialist studies with legend showing the sensitive environment must be in color, with visible keys and included in the amended dBAR. ff. Please ensure all the listed activities associated with the development are quantified and provided with a detailed description of which each activity is triggered under the NEMA Regulations. The project description must include all proposed associated infrastructure to be undertaken for the Umdoni Augmentation project. This can be done in a form of a table to distinguish what are the existing structures,	mitigation measures proposed by the terrestrial specialist have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavations, specifically Impact 19 - <i>Trench failure due to poor construction techniques</i>. Relevant mitigations refer to the application of shoring when required. A stormwater management plan has been compiled for the construction phase and is included in Appendix F of the BAR. Also refer to Section 3.5 of the EMPr which speaks to Soil, Stormwater Runoff and Erosion. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. All mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Noted, this has been adheared to. Please refer to Table 4 through to Table 7 of the BAR which provides quantified values for each applicable listed activity. The values and applicable listed activities have been summarised as per the extract from the BAR (Page 12) below: • Infilling and removal of 1611.58m³ of material within the identified watercourses on-site (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19).

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	proposed upgrades/refurbishments and all associated infrastructure to be included within the pipeline route. gg. <u>The layout plan</u> must depict the different pipes to be installed in terms of type, diameter, and size of all associated stormwater structures. This must also be depicted on the layout plan legend to be included in the amended dBAR. hh. The issues of trail must be included on the final BAR and must be inclusive of comments raised by relevant stakeholders with all issues adequately addressed and attached on the comments and response table on the amended dBAR must be inclusive of everything as stated on approved pre-application meeting minutes. ii. The amended dBAR must include mitigation measures all potential impacts associated with possible risk contamination of the aquatic features, loss of sensitive habitat and migration of fauna and flora due to alteration of habitat from clearance and other construction activities, these mitigation measures must also be included in the EMPr in the amended dBAR.	• Infilling and removal of 8436.36m³ of material from areas that are within 100m of the high-water mark of the sea (Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A). • The clearance of 478 281m² of indigenous vegetation from the endangered KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland ecosystem type (Listing Notice 3, Activity 12). • The development of 4290.03m² of infrastructure within 32m of a watercourse that falls within a rural area (Listing Notice 1, Activity 12). • The development of 659.86m² of infrastructures within 32m of a watercourse that falls within several estuarine functional zones (EFZ; Listing Notice 3, Activity 14). Please refer to Appendix A1 for the Engineering layouts of the proposal which indicate pipe diameters and materials. However, due to the nature of the proposal being a below-ground water pipeline, no stormwater infrastructure has been included. Repeat comment from above i.e. comment t. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects A, B, C and D of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with construction in sensitive environments, such as watercourses, EFZs and terrestrial environments. All mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been incorporated into the impact assessment.

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	jj. It has been noted on the draft BAR that the development entails a temporary channel diversion which will involve the construction of a berm to divert water from the original channel into a new temporary new channel during construction, however, it is unclear how the proposed method of diversion will ensure it does not contribute to stream flow reduction impacting negatively by altering water temperature, sediment transportation and increasing levels of nutrients in the water resource. kk. A method statement must be provided in the amended dBAR to ensure proper installation of the pipeline is properly constructed and that compaction for backfilling soils in all trenches is according to the required standards to prevent any possible collapse. ll. All potential impacts associated with groundwater seepage must be assessed accordingly and provided with adequate mitigation measures to address any unforeseen circumstances during prolonged rainfall, particularly during the summer season as perched groundwater flows at the soil/rock interface are likely to become more prolific in rainy months and platforms intercepting this interface are likely to encounter groundwater seepage during these times. mm. The amended dBAR must include mitigation measures for possible soil with collapse and erosion potential when subjected to abnormal increases in moisture content, including cohesionless soils which are highly susceptible soil erosion. These mitigation measures must include during and post-construction phase.	Please note that only minor diversions will be required within the macro channel of the river system. No diversions through temporary channels outside of the macro channel will be permitted. Instead, water will be diverted around the current work area only. Please refer to Section 1.3 of the BAR which provides construction methodologies for the pipelines, pipelines across existing bridges/culverts and pipelines across watercourses. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavations, specifically Impact 19 - <i>Trench failure due to poor construction techniques</i>. Relevant mitigations refer to the application of shoring when required if groundwater seepage impacts trench stability. Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. Aspects H of the impact assessment specifically address impacts associated with excavations, specifically Impact 19 - <i>Trench failure due to poor construction techniques</i>. Relevant mitigations refer to the application of shoring when required if groundwater seepage impacts trench stability. In terms of operation once the pipeline has been covered and compacted there is little perceived risk during abnormal increases in soil moisture content.

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	nn. Please ensure that all impacts that have been assessed relating to all environmentally sensitive features have mitigation measures and that all recommendations made by the specialists are incorporated into the EMPr for monitoring purposes and ensure such environmentally sensitive features are delineated according to the buffers determined by the specialist. oo. Please ensure that all identified key stakeholders (including Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for this proposed development and are provided with the amended dBAR for comment and ensure that proof of is submitted with the amended dBAR; pp. Please ensure that all alternatives are assessed i.e. the investigated alternatives, the motivation for not considering such, and a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including a preferred location of activity motivation for the preferred route, activity and technology alternative; a full description of the process followed reach the proposed preferred alternative. qq. A substantiated and a reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorized must be provided by the specialists for all the specialist report included on the amended dBAR. rr. Please ensure that details of the pipeline section that was approved as a directive in-terms of Section 30A are incorporated on the amended dBAR;	Please refer to Section 6.2 of the BAR for a detailed impact assessment of the proposal, including mitigation measures to address the identified impacts. All mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been incorporated into the impact assessment. DDFE has been consulted regarding this project and proof of such consultation will be included in Appendix C. Refer to Section 1.4 of the BAR for the description of feasible alternatives. Refer to Section 6.3 of the BAR for the environmental impact statement which provides a reasoned opinion by the EAP. Noted as included in Section 1.2 of the BAR: <i>It must also be noted that the applicant commenced with the replacement of a 6km section of the pipeline near Bazley Beach, part of the bulk pipeline replacement route, prior to receiving formal approval from EDTEA. Subsequently, EDTEA issued a Notice of Intent to Issue a Compliance Notice to Ugu District Municipality. Following consultation with EDTEA, Ugu District Municipality was granted a Section 30A approval for this work on the condition that no other work continues, and that rehabilitation of this section be incorporated into the Umdoni South Water Augmentation Project</i>

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	<i>Environmental Management Plan (EMPr). For the purpose of the Environmental Authorization (EA) Application and EMPr, the entire pipeline was evaluated. However, it is important to note that this specific portion of the pipeline will not be included in any subsequent Environmental Authorizations.</i> 3. When issuing an instruction to the construction team, the word 'must' is to be used. Words like, should, need to, is to be, may, avoid, regularly, adequately, where possible, etc. are ambiguous and cannot be audited. Please address this accordingly. 4. Please could the EAP ensure that all recommendations made by specialist reports are incorporated into the amended dBAR. 5. The Department requests that the amended dBAR report be amended to address all issues stated above and be submitted to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including State Departments, for comment by Section 24O of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998). 6. You are reminded that submission of the final report is due to the Department by 02 August 2024. 7. No construction activities may commence without an Environmental Authorisation. 8. It is the developer's responsibility to continually ensure that environmental requirements are met, especially if there are changes in the project description. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department, should you have any queries regarding this correspondence.	<i>Environmental Management Plan (EMPr). For the purpose of the Environmental Authorization (EA) Application and EMPr, the entire pipeline was evaluated. However, it is important to note that this specific portion of the pipeline will not be included in any subsequent Environmental Authorizations.</i> Noted All mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Noted, an additional 30-day comments have been given to all I&APs Noted Noted Noted
I.Lax	Dear Enviro Pro	

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I&AP 27.06.2024	Kindly confirm the following aspects which are difficult to ascertain from the maps and images provided : 1. It appears that the proposed developments are in essence and upgrade of the existing bulk water supply which has been necessitated due to an increase in demand for water services in the areas served. If this correct? 2. The proposed pipeline appears to be intended to follow the existing footprint of the current pipeline? Is this correct? 3. Is this an upgrade of the existing pipeline or a complete replacement of the pipeline? Please clarify which it is? 4. The images provided are unclear. Kindly provide a clearer resolution image showing exactly where the pipeline will run between Ifafa Beach and Umwtalume. 5. When is construction likely to take place?	Please note the entire proposal included 47.83km of pipeline, comprising both <u>new</u> (20.13km) and <u>upgraded</u> (17.30km) bulk mains and 10.40km of <u>new</u> constructed reticulated pipelines in the GDP area. In areas where the pipeline is being replaced, it is intended to follow the existing footprint of the current pipeline. The new pipeline will be laid parallel to the existing one. However, in some sections, the existing pipeline infrastructure could not be followed, and will therefore be re-routed to a better alternative route. In areas which have been labelled as upgrade a new improved pipe will be laid. The old pipe will long be in use once the works are complete. Please see the attached Google Earth File which can be used to view the route. Response from Engineer The Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project, serving 40,000 consumers, is currently in the planning and authorisations phase. Once all of respective authorities, public, regulatory and legislative approvals of all the project objectives and parameters are in place, only then for onward consideration for public expenditure conditional grant funding, only then would the project move into the next implementation phase. The municipality does not control any of these processes. Once public expenditure is approved, only then would implementation first have to follow an annual legislated process of Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review, aligned to municipality Services Development Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and finally aligned to municipality Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

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	Once the answers and required information is received, we reserve the right to comment or enquire further.	Once all of above are adopted through Council protocols, then the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project servicing 40,000 consumers, would not be implemented as one single project or contract, but rather rolled-out as smaller practical contracts, or work-packages, as practically aligned to all of the site requirements, supply and demand priorities, IDP, MTEF and SDBIP, all of which are similarly competing with many other projects over the entire Ugu district. This project is thus envisaged to be phased and implemented over a period of at least 3 years, if everything runs smoothly. However, every delay, with any of the above, all beyond the municipality control, would all accumulate to delay final delivery. Noted
A Bhengu Umdoni Municipality 28.06.2024	RE: THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UMDONI SOUTH BULK WATER AUGMENTATION The Environmental Management Section of uMdoni Municipality has studied the Draft Basic Assessment of the above proposed project and does not have objections on the application for the proposed uMdoni South bulk water augmentation. However, The Municipality emphasis that the applicant should obtain license from Department of Forest before Clearance of an endangered indigenous vegetation within the construction footprint and all waste that will be generated during the construction phase should be disposed at the Municipal landfill site. It is also recommended that the applicant must obtain all required environmental authorisation, permits and license prior commencement of the proposed project.	Noted DFFE has been consulted regarding this project and proof of such consultation has been included in Appendix C. As per the EMPr all waste will be required to be disposed of at a licenced waste disposal facility. Noted

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A.Edgson Environmental Advisor I&AP 29.06.2024	Comments on documentation presented to I&APs for the Proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Project situated in Umdoni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province – EDTEA Ref: DC21/0030/2024 dated May 2024 The need for this project is undisputed and for the most part so are the findings of the specialist assessments. Having reviewed the suite of documents made available in respect of the proposed water pipeline project BAR/EMPr, specialist reports, engineering designs etc, the writer hereof submits comments on behalf of Clr A. Cutten Ward 10 and the Ward Committee as well as the Pennington Conservancy and myself. <u>However, it must be noted at this time that vital documents/comprehensive plans are “missing”, inter alia, site development plan; alien invasive plant control and extirpation plan, site and section specific comprehensive rehabilitation plan. These plans must be compiled by specialists in the respective fields; the rehabilitation and alien invasive extirpation plans could be combined into one.</u> The comments below are based mainly on the contents of the EMPr, and some discrepancies between it and the DBAR and the lack of inclusion of all the specialist’s recommendations. These comments will also share some local knowledge of the situation “on-the-ground” (so to speak) <u>General</u> 1. In the finals BAR and EMPr please name (as far as possible) the rivers which correspond with the WC crossings and link the tributaries of those rivers as well so that we can get a better understanding of the on the ground situation. Are the GPS co-ordinates for these crossings based on Google Earth mapping or have they been taken with a hand-held GPS unit?	All documents which have been stated in this comment have been included in the BAR i.e. engineering layout (Appendix B), alien invasive management plan and rehabilitation plan (Both Appendix F). Noted Please refer to Table 9 of the BAR which provides the associated river for each watercourse crossing, this has been brought through into the EMPr. Yes, Google Earth has been used to obtain all co-ordinates in line with standard procedure.

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	2. The DBAR states a 10m servitude for the entire pipeline – but the EMPr swings from 10m to 5m and then back to 10m. There is also mention of 5m servitude when working in river. ❖ The 5m servitude is preferable and we ask that this is applied throughout not only the river crossings but also when working in wetlands 3. DBAR also states that it will be necessary to clear all vegetation within the 10m servitude – whilst this is understandable why would it be necessary if the pipeline is to be fixed to existing structures over the river – e.g at the Nkomba River the clearance of all vegetation within a 10 m servitude will destabilise the river banks causing downstream siltation impacts. ❖ We cannot support this. Furthermore clearing must be kept to a maximum of 5m when working in hill-slope seeps, rivers and drainage lines. The clearing of vegetation in these sensitive areas must be done by hand as advocated in the Aquatic specialist report (page 72). This does not appear to have been captured in the EMPr. 4. We fully support the recommendation in the Aquatic specialist report that The proposed pipeline system must be divided up into 100 m intervals. ❖ However, this is not strongly stated in the EMPr - it must be included from the outset so that the contractor can allow for the costing thereof	The inclusion of 5m was a typo as a 10m servitude will be applied along the entire length of the pipeline. However, this does not mean the full 10m servitude will be used along the entire length of the pipeline, as this is the maximum allowance. Where possible the pipeline will be fixed to existing structures over the rivers. With respect to the pipeline crossing of the Nkomba River it will indeed be attached to the existing crossing structure (WC2), refer to section 1.2 of the BAR where this is stated. The 10m working corridor has been applied along the entire length of the pipeline, however, this does not mean the full 10m servitude will be used along the entire length of the pipeline, as this is the maximum allowance. Included in the EMP is the following condition: - Construction work within the watercourse areas must be strictly limited to the construction footprint only. A construction corridor of 10m must be maintained. The total width of the construction footprint must be kept to an absolute minimum and approved by the ECO Please note the following has been included in both the BAR and EMPr as per the specialist mitigations: - Clearing of vegetation within a watercourse must be conducted by hand. - All cleared and trimmed vegetation must be removed from any watercourse to prevent flooding / snagging hazards being created; The condition as per the specialist report has been included several times in the impact assessment of the BAR and such has been brought through into the EMPr.

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	5. DBAR states that after consulting the desktop data and visiting the site, it was determined that there were no wetlands within the project area, only rivers, estuaries, and associated tributaries/drainage areas ... ❖ We disagree with the statement that no wetlands were found e.g. there is a significant hill-slope seep wetland associated with crossing WC1 - Further more we find the designation of micro-estuaries rather strange in areas as far inland as Ifafa Glebe and Amangamazi - local knowledge knows these as hill-slope seep wetlands and they must be augured to show their extent, especially where the pipeline will cross, and to ensure that the correct soil profile is known, understood and rehabilitated in terms of soil replacement and vegetation. 6. The DBAR states that there are small patches of Forest along the pipeline route that fall within existing road and pipeline servitudes. Trees within these Forests will require pruning or removal for the construction of the pipeline within the 10m construction corridor. The appropriate permits will be required prior to commencement of clearance for these areas. ❖ The removal of trees can in most cases, with a little care and planning be avoided. We request that this is avoided as much as possible and that the only pruning that MUST be done, is done by a tree felling specialist to avoid damaging the trees like splitting branches and tearing bark which leaves the tree in a susceptible condition to disease and die-back. All pruned branches must be sealed after cutting. It must be borne in mind that many of the forests referred to are climax forests, and are highly functional – albeit they are remnants	Please note after discussion with the specialist they have confirmed that the area near WC1 is not a wetland and remains a drainage area due to riparian features. As per the specialist feedback, Ifafa Glebe and Amangamazi areas are not designated as micro-estuaries. Due to the meandering nature (including alluvium) and riparian areas (presence of marginal trees), these have been characterised as drainage areas and will remain so. The micro-estuaries only occur at the coast and have been indicated in Figures 24 -28. In terms of the soil profile individual mitigations as per the specialist have been included to ensure soil profiles are maintained following rehabilitation: • Document the soil profile on removal and ensure the soil is backfilled in the same horizon order in which it was removed. Ensure that topsoil is appropriately stored and re-applied; and • Make sure that the soil is backfilled and compacted to appropriate geotechnical specifications for the project area. Please note that the EMPr only allows the clearance of vegetation that is necessary for the construction of the pipeline. The following mitigation has been included in the BAR and EMPr and will be legally binding: • The vegetation that will be cleared must be restricted to the construction footprint of the pipelines. No vegetation may be cleared other than that is required for access to the site or for the construction activities associated with the construction of the Umdoni Water Supply Infrastructure.

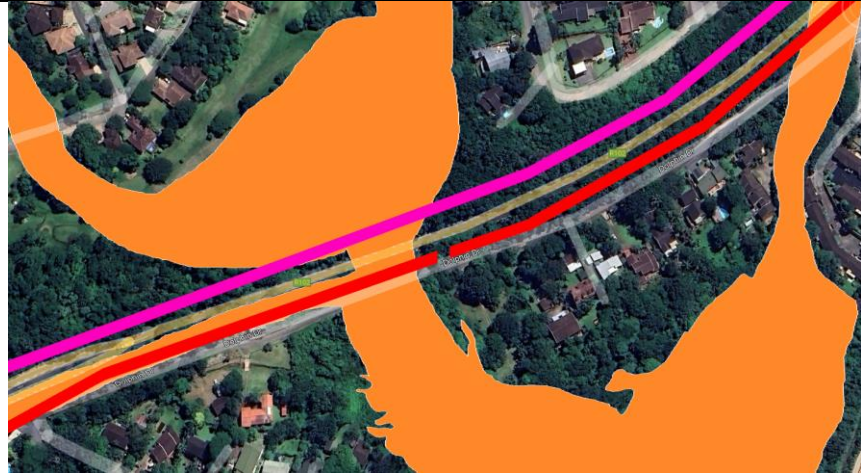
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	include resident, indigenous riparian and hydrophilic plant species that have established in the local area. This, to ensure survival and proliferation of site-specific vegetation that have already adapted to the current conditions and provide ecosystem services for other terrestrial and aquatic biota. ❖ Re-vegetation of disturbed areas must be undertaken with site-specific indigenous species in accordance with biome-specific vegetation types. ❖ All present alien and invasive plant species in the project area should be eradicated if the project is approved. Therefore, as part of the rehabilitation plan, regular removal of alien and invasive plant species should take place; ❖ Habitat plays an integral role in species richness, hence any reduction/deviation from the optimal vegetation, stones, gravel, sand, mud, and/or differential flow availability may reduce biodiversity; 10. The EMPr states that: “An extensive Invasive Alien Plant Programme must be developed and implemented. This should regularly be updated to reflect the annual changed in AIP composition.” ❖ The Alien Plant Control Plan (page 66 of the EMPr document) is TOTALLY inadequate and in fact is not a control plan at all. <u>We have discussed these aspects above</u> 11. Further in this section “the responsible use of herbicides” is touched on ❖ again TOTALLY inadequate plus NB the application of herbicides can only legally be done by a certified Pest Control Officer or under the direct control of a PCO 12. <u>Reservoirs</u> - it is noted that the work that will need to be done to increase reservoir capacity has not been covered in the DBAR or the EMPr.	An Alien Management Plan has been compiled for the construction phase and is included in Appendix F of the BAR. An Alien Management Plan has been compiled for the construction phase and is included in Appendix F of the BAR. At certain existing reservoir sites new storage reservoirs will be required but would be constructed within space available within existing fenced reservoir sites of no consequence to the environment, this has been incorporated into

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	❖ As construction work of this type is very different from laying a pipeline, those reservoirs that are to have a capacity increase must be assessed and impacts on the receiving environment addressed. 13. We note that the aspect of <u>discharge points and the construction of air-valves</u> has not been addressed at all within the DBAR or the EMPr. ❖ Discharge points are traditionally placed at a low point in the pipeline route - has the possible impact of many thousands of chlorinated litres of water being discharged into a water resource been assessed? <u>Where will air-valve chambers be built?</u> 14. The EMPr states that adequate toilet facilities (such as chemical toilets) sufficient in number to cater for the number of staff on-site must be provided. And then states that one toilet per 15 staff must be provided. ❖ Please note that the allocation of 15 people per toilet is based on the ablution being linked to water-borne sewage; septic or conservancy tanks - i.e a flushing system. For Chemical toilets the norm is 7 people per toilet <u>Critical Biodiversity Areas and associated Ecological Support Areas;</u> 15. Whilst we do not dispute the statement made by the Aquatic and	section 1.2 of the BAR. Therefore there are no listed activities associated with the works associated with the reservoirs. Therefore standard construction mitigations included in Section 3 of the EMPr would apply to these works and should adequately address all environmental impacts. Due to the project currently being in the preliminary engineering phase, there is very little detailed design information available. This detailed information would include specific scour and air valve chambers along the route. However, as a standard design consideration, scour valve chambers will be located at low points and air valves will be located at high points along the proposed alignment. Therefore, all valve chambers will fall within the pipeline alignment proposed in the application. Regarding large discharges of chlorinated water at scour valves, Impact 38 has been added in the BAR. As discharges are unavoidable if repairs are required, the following mitigations have been incorporated: • The release of water from scour valves must only be conducted during emergency situations or routine maintenance procedures. • All work involving the use of scour valves must be performed under the supervision of a suitably qualified technician. Noted, the figure has been updated.

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	Terrestrial specialists that CBAs & ESAs along the pipeline route are not of pristine or even high integrity, they do however have some biodiversity value and must not be further impacted on by the parking off of heavy machinery or the laying down of construction materials. ❖ This must be ensured by the ECO. 16. Further, we point out the existence of the Nkomba Sanctuary through which Subtropical 73 runs - Subtropical 73 is the Nkomba River which rises west of the N2 and exits into the Indian Ocean through an active temporarily open/closed estuary. ❖ The Aquatic specialist has confirmed a “very high” sensitivity for this system. Although the Nkomba Sanctuary is not recognised in terms of the NEM:PAA it does have Conservation zoning in terms of the Umdoni Land Use Management Scheme and has been awarded a “Site of Conservation Significance” certificate by EKZNW. It is an important green lung within the built up coastal strip of Pennington and has ecological, social and historical value within its boundaries; several eco-systems, riverine, valley bottom wetland, Northern Coastal Forest, Remnant of dune forest, many protected trees and plants, and is home to several SCCs such as Blue Duiker. According to the 2018 NBA Terrestrial Threat Status the Sanctuary has within its boundaries Northern Coastal Forest belonging to the Bioregion of Zonal and Inter-zonal forests and KZN Coastal Belt Grassland (Biome: Indian Ocean Coastal Belt) The KZN BSP CBA rating is valid as the Sanctuary is home to Blue Duiker, Bushbuck, water mongoose, otter, rock hyrax, various species of aquatic birds, crabs (crustaceans), bats,	Noted, as per the EMPr the ECO will be responsible for monitoring all aspects of the EA and EMPr, which includes conditions that speak to heavy machinery only operating within the approved working servitude. We acknowledge your concern. However, all mitigation measures provided by the specialist have been included in the EMPr. The EMPr will be a legally binding document that the applicant will be obliged to implement. The mitigation measures have been proposed to ensure the level of impact is kept to the absolute minimum.

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	almost 100 bird species have been identified within the Sanctuary plus a host of frogs and toads including the Platanna and the Pickersgill Reed Frog. The Nkomba River is a vital water source to the fauna, avi-fauna, amphibian, and flora that lives in the Sanctuary In referencing the Aquatic Assessment (pg 65) section 8.4 impacts from WC crossings would therefore be expected directly within the sensitive areas through damage to the watercourse/aquatic resource habitat, notably where construction disturbance will take place. Impacts have the potential for downstream impacts if left unmitigated. It is highly likely that WC 1, 2 and 3 will have an impact on this area and we are extremely concerned about this. 17. Additionally in this part of the proposed pipeline, it would seem that the pipeline is to be laid just west of the R102. ❖ An exploratory walk 100m south and north of the Nkomba River did not reveal any existing pipeline nor associated infrastructure such as discharge points, air valves or in fact any manholes. Is this then a new pipeline route for the first +/- 600m? It was noted during this walk that the forest in this area is of good quality and it is very likely that a hill-slope seep will exist there too. We believe this requires more in- depth assessment.	Please note, according to the detailed information provided by the engineer and sourced from Ugu DM, the existing pipeline runs along the southern side of the R102 near the Nkomba River. Therefore, no existing infrastructure is present along the northern side of the R102. Since the existing pipeline on the southern side will remain in operation, no further space is available within the road reserve, making the northern side the only viable route. Both the aquatic and terrestrial specialists identified sensitive environments in this area. However, they indicated that if the proposed mitigations, including rehabilitation, are undertaken, significant degradation should not occur. Additionally, according to the engineer, the point where the pipeline will cross the Nkomba River will be attached to the existing bridge structure. Please refer to the figure below indicating the position of the new and existing pipelines.

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	<u>Construction in water-courses / wetlands</u> The Aquatic Assessment report, in Section 9, lists excellent mitigation and rehabilitation measures (section 9.1.8 is particularly important) - these ALL need to be included in the EMPr or alternatively we recommend they are included as an addendum to the EMPr so that they can be easily referenced. However, on page 70 under section 9.1.4 the following point is made: 'An alien invasive plant management plan needs to be compiled and implemented prior to construction to control and prevent the spread of invasive aliens. This is particularly applicable for the area beyond the perimeter fence at the discharge area, as access through the access gate was limited by dense alien vegetation that has not been maintained. Subsequently the monitoring of the discharge point and associated infrastructure cannot be conducted.' This needs some clarity as discharge points and perimeter fencing does not appear in any of the documents given to us 18. We fully support the stipulated buffer zones that have been given in the specialists' reports and again stress that the ECO must	 All mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been incorporated into the impact assessment. Please note an Alien Management Plan has been included in Appendix F. following discussion with the specialist the aspect related to the perimeter fence at the discharge area was included as an error and such has since been removed. Noted, as per the EMPr the ECO will be responsible for monitoring all aspects of the EA and EMPr.

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	ensure that said buffers are respected as No-Go areas. ❖ <u>Ensuring buffers are intact increases the resilience of a watercourse to future disturbances.</u> As well as the mitigation measure from the same report that states: 19. The time taken to construct in a wetland must be kept to a minimum (preferably < 24 hours), this will include excavation of the trench, pipe installation, backfill and restoration of the wetland. ❖ However, please qualify the word restoration - is this based on returning functionality or re-vegetation or both? 20. In several sections of the EMPr it is stated that the watercourse area must be rehabilitated as soon as the installation of the pipeline has been completed. ❖ Please clarify that this applies to installation of the pipeline for that crossing and not the installation of the complete pipeline 21. The EMPr, speaks to the contamination of rivers/streams by earthworks and/or unset cement or cement powder. ❖ But does not suggest a real mitigation - we would like to recommend that "river curtains" are placed across rivers/streams downstream of the construction area. These "catch" unwanted materials and limit sedimentation 22. A recommended mitigation measure in Section 9.1 of the Aquatic report states: Document the soil profile on removal and ensure the soil is backfilled in the same horizon order in which it was removed. Ensure that topsoil is appropriately stored and re-applied; and Landscape and re-vegetate all cleared areas as soon as possible to limit erosion potential.	All rehabilitation activities must be undertaken to ensure that the environment left after the construction is completed is equal to or better than the environment before construction commenced, in accordance with NEMA Section 28 Duty of Care. As per the EMPr rehabilitation of all disturbed areas must be an ongoing process and areas must be rehabilitated as soon as construction is completed in that area (i.e. rehabilitation of the whole route is not only undertaken once all construction is completed, but rather in incremental sections as construction progresses. The EMPr states the outcome i.e. there must be no contamination of rivers/streams by earthworks and/or unset cement or cement powder. There are many ways to prevent such contamination, which will depend on the site-specific conditions. Therefore, the condition has purposefully not been prescriptive. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to implement such measures to ensure compliance. Please note that it is the responsibility of the contractor to implement the entire EMPr. The EMPr has been divided into sections and has not been written to provide mitigations in any particular order depending on importance.

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	❖ Whilst this is very nicely covered in the EMPr (with a pictorial example) it is tucked away at page 41. It is suggested that this is shown and discussed in more detail in Section 2 Aspect A as well, so that the contractor is aware from the beginning on the importance of this aspect. This is particularly important for the wetland crossings (of which there are many) 23. More site specific management measures per river are required in the EMPr - each river has its own set of characteristics and therefore there cannot be a “one-size- fits-all” river/estuarine crossing methodology - the mitigation measure proffered do not for example cover the issue of crossing a broad meandering river /estuary such as the Ifafa vs the narrow stronger flowing mKhumbane 24. Clearing of vegetation shall be conducted by hand. All cleared and trimmed vegetation shall be removed from any watercourse to prevent flooding / snagging hazards being created; ❖ Fully supported and must be ensured 25. <u>Material sourcing and waste disposal</u> - These aspects are extremely important to prevent “off-site” degradation and pollution. ❖ There are many un-permitted (illegal) borrow pits along the pipeline route or close by. Use of them MUST be prevented. All construction material sourced must come from permitted suppliers ❖ All, waste, whether wet or dry, must be disposed of correctly to a suitably permitted waste disposal amenity. Please note: the	Please note that each watercourse crossing has been divided into two distinct categories: pipelines across existing bridges/culverts and pipelines across watercourses. Simple construction methods are provided in Section 1.3 of the BAR, while both the BAR and EMPr offer mitigation measures proposed by specialists, considering the entire project proposal. The exact detailed construction methodology to be implemented at each watercourse crossing and/or sensitive coastal zone will only be known once the contractor has been appointed. However, as included in the BAR and EMPr, for each watercourse crossing and/or sensitive coastal zone, a site-specific method statement must be compiled and approved by the ECO prior to the commencement of that individual crossing/pipeline. These method statements will be formulated considering the requirements stipulated in the EMPr. Noted, this has been included in the EMPr, however, this only refers to areas within a watercourse. Noted, all aspects have been included in the EMPr.

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	<u>Umdoni Landfill site is NOT permitted to receive hazardous or toxic waste.</u> 26. We note that the aspect of <u>discharge points and the construction of air-valves</u> has not been addressed at all within the DBAR or the EMPr. Discharge points are traditionally placed at a low point in the pipeline route - has the possible impact of many thousands of chlorinated litres of water being discharged into a water resource been assessed? Where will air-valve chambers be built? <u>Environmental Control Officer</u> 27. It is stated that a qualified environmental control officer must be on site when activities begin. ❖ We also request that the ECO is present for each new area cleared 28. The above having been said, the ECO only being on site once a month is unacceptable (especially where Ugu is concerned); experience has proved that when working on a pipeline significant ground can be covered with concomitant impacts within a 24 hour period 29. Further ECO must be in attendance for all servitude clearing and progressive rehabilitation.	Due to the project currently being in the preliminary engineering phase, there is very little detailed design information available. This detailed information would include specific scour and air valve chambers along the route. However, as a standard design consideration, scour valve chambers will be located at low points and air valves will be located at high points along the proposed alignment. Therefore, all valve chambers will fall within the pipeline alignment proposed in the application. Regarding large discharges of chlorinated water at scour valves, Impact 38 has been added in the BAR. As discharges are unavoidable if repairs are required, the following mitigations have been incorporated: • The release of water from scour valves must only be conducted during emergency situations or routine maintenance procedures. • All work involving the use of scour valves must be performed under the supervision of a suitably qualified technician. The following condition has been included: • A qualified environmental control officer must be on site when activities begin and must approve all new areas to be cleared. Please note that monthly ECO visits are a standard requirement. However, the exact frequency of audits will be prescribed by EDTEA. Nevertheless, the EMPr mandates that an internal Environmental Officer (EO) must be responsible for day-to-day monitoring. The following condition has been included: • A qualified environmental control officer must be on site when activities begin and must approve all new areas to be cleared Monitoring of all rehabilitation will also form part of the ECO duties.

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	30. EOs are traditional appointed by the contractor and do not have the experience to monitor forest destruction, river and wetland crossings etc 31. Alternative suggestion is that the proponent appoints an Environmental Site Officer who is on site at all the sensitive stages as listed above and the ECO visits can then be limited to monthly and the process of auditing 32. A site walk through is recommended by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to any activities taking place and any SSC or protected species should be noted. ❖ Supported	The EO responsibilities and duties have been prescribed in the EMPr and such must be adhered to. As included in the EMPr the EO must be: • Daily compliance monitoring of construction against the requirements set out in this EMPr, and the environmental authorisation. • Undertaking the mitigation measures to address the environmental impacts identified. • Ensuring that all site staff are adequately trained in environmental matters. • Liaising with site staff and I&APs through the Community Liaison Officer (CLO), if required. • Must be conversant with the applicable legislation pertaining to the environment. • Liaise directly with the ECO on the monthly audit findings. • Identification of possible areas of improvement during construction. • Monitoring the construction site regularly and recording key findings. • Advising the Project Manager and the contractors on environmental matters. • Provide recommendations to address and rectify these matters. • Monitoring implementation of the EMPr by the contractor. • Work hand in hand with the health and safety officer. • Maintain records pertaining to the requirements of the EMPr and EA. The EMPr is required as an on-site EO who must be conversant with the applicable legislation pertaining to the environment and such cannot simply be a SHE officer. Noted

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	<u>Mitigation / Rehabilitation</u> 33. The DBAR confidently states “The proposed project should have no significant negative impact on ecological integrity based on the understanding that the applicant will construct and operated the pipelines as per the conditions of the EMPr” and the Impact Statement refers to reduction of impacts through mitigation measures. ❖ HEREIN LIES OUR PRIMARY CONCERN - Ugu's track record is abysmal when it comes to adhering to mitigation measures and rehabilitation - e.g. (as stated in the documents provided) “It must also be noted that the applicant commenced with the replacement of a 6km section of the pipeline near Bazley Beach, part of the bulk pipeline replacement route, prior to receiving formal approval from EDTEA. ❖ How the EDTEA saw it within their powers to accept a section 30A application for this ecological devastation is mystifying and clearly in contravention of Sect 28 of the NEMA and of the community's right to have the environment protected (SA Constitution) ❖ Further to this incident several others spring to mind that have occurred throughout Ugu's area of jurisdiction from Port Edward to Scottburgh and inland. ❖ From a local aspect Ugu was given approval, through a Section 30A application, to fix a broken sewage pipe, crossing the Makamati Stream (just below the Umdoni Rd south crossing) - as is the norm for Ugu - no rehabilitation of the work face has occurred. ❖ A second example is that of the Dolphin Drive Pumpstation 3 project - NO rehabilitation has taken place of the work site, nor of the adjacent wetland (which the contractor trashed) nor or the	All these concerns have been noted and will be included in the BAR that is submitted to EDTEA for their review.

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	private properties that were impacted upon. Experience as proved that Ugu are incapable of undertaking a project / development in an environmentally sensitive manner - they have a “gung-ho” attitude and display total disregard for legislation applicable to their work within the natural environment. Further, this Municipality lacks the <u>official and political</u> commitment to undertake any rehabilitation/re-instatement of the areas on which they impact. We therefore appeal to the competent authorities to ensure that Ugu give a water-tight commitment to progressive and ongoing rehabilitation and ensure that sufficient budget is made available to achieve this <u>Conclusory comments :</u> 34. As previously stated, several “plans/programmes” have not been provided to us for comment. As these plans/programmes are substantial and extremely important in ensuring the success of this project, we trust that ample time will be given to I&APs and stakeholders for them to scrutinise and comment on the content of the plans/programmes accordingly We respectfully request a site meeting with the environmental consultants regarding issues relating to possible impacts on the Nkomba Sanctuary	Noted a further 30-day comment period has been afforded to the I&APs as per the EDTEA's requirements. Your request has been noted, however, based on the responses above we feel a lot of your comments have been addressed. Nevertheless, the BAR has been recirculated once again for further comment following all amendments,
M. Van Prooijen Pennington Conservancy I&AP 30.06.2024	Comments re: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UMDONI SOUTH WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT Dear Caitlin Anthony, The Pennington Conservancy NPO supports the improvement to enhance the lives of our neighbours in the greater Malangen area to receive water via a proper and efficient water supply, however the	Noted

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	Pennington Conservancy must raise the following comment. Comment The Conservancy is unable to place its trust in the Umdoni Municipality and UGU to repair what they damage post construction. We are doubtful that the Umdoni Municipality will adequately repair roads and driveways in this area or rehabilitate the sensitive environment according to the Environmental Management Procedure (Section 4), especially at the watercourse crossings, WC1, WC2, WC3, WC4, WC21 and WC22. Why are we concerned? ☐ Roads and kerbs dug up in Pennington to fix leaking water pipes are never repaired afterwards (see appendix 1 for examples). ☐ Sewage Pump house 3 and the R102 bridge, both in the area of the Nkomba Sanctuary (ERF1160), were repaired and the area never rehabilitated. ☐ Post flooding damage to the Nkomba Sanctuary (ERF1160) especially to the rare Sea bean forest, has never been rehabilitated. The Pennington Conservancy NPO is an urban conservancy which incorporates the area between the Umzinto River in the north and the Nkumbane River in the south and extends inland from the sea to the N2 Highway. It includes areas of Conservation Significance for example ERFs 1160 and 3/2147 (see yellow delineation on the arial map below). In Summary We are doubtful of the commitment from the Umdoni Municipality and UGU to adequately repair and rehabilitate post construction.	All these concerns have been noted and will be included in the BAR that is submitted to EDTEA for their review. However please note if approved, the EMPr will become a legally binding document that the applicant must comply with. Ensuring compliance with the EMPr will be the responsibility of the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA. However, the EA and EMPr will mandate that an independent ECO supervise the site. This ECO will be responsible for monitoring the site against all conditions of the EA and EMPr and reporting to the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA, which will also conduct regular site monitoring as part of their standard procedures.
P. Harvey I&AP 30.06.2024	Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation (USBWA) project (the Project) Bazley Residents Association (BRA) Final submission on the DBAR, dated May 2024, as prepared by EnviroPro 30 June 2024	

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	The BRA is a representative body for the town of Bazley and is registered as an IAP for the Project. Bazley forms a significant part of the Bazley Conservancy, a registered conservancy with Conservancies KZN. We expend significant resources and time on protecting the conservancy, an aspect which the consultants and Ugu seemed unaware of and is not mentioned in the DBAR. Details of the conservancy and the work we do are comprehensively detailed on our website: www.bazley.org.za. We have provided below our submission on the Project. This should be read in conjunction with all our previous correspondence with EnviroPro and other parties involved on the Project. 1. At the outset we must make it clear that we are well aware of the dire need for the construction of a proper and efficient water supply for the Greater Malangeneni area and GDP communities. Our comments below relate solely to Bazley, which appears to be a totally separate project with a much lower level of priority. 2. There are nine (per the DBAR) very different communities/areas covered under the Project and DBAR, yet very little effort is made to distinguish between them and their different needs – it mostly paints all areas with the same brush. Furthermore, there seems to be, at least, two very different projects proposed. Bazley seems to be part of very much a secondary project, together with Elysium and Ifafa, which entails only replacement/refurbishment of an existing pipeline.	Please note that although there are several different communities included in this application, the water supply network is part of the Ugu Water Masterplan 2020-2025. Since all infrastructure is operated and owned by the Ugu DM, all areas have been grouped into the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Project. From an economic standpoint, it would not make sense to undertake separate activities for individual areas based on their priority levels. Instead, all areas have been grouped together as the fundamental aim of the project is to provide long-term potable water security for the communities within the project area. <i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024:</i> Based on the engineering report discussed in the BAR, there are several distinct areas, each requiring varying levels of service based on existing water infrastructure availability. The two specific areas you mentioned—new infrastructure in Pennington/Malangeneni/Kelso/GDP and replacement infrastructure in Elysium/Ifafa/Bazley—are accurate. However, the overarching goal of the entire proposal is to establish long-term water provision infrastructure in the region, presenting a common need described as one. However, these areas have been further expanded on in the engineering reports as included in Appendix B. The purpose of this application is to authorize the identified listed activities as per EIA Regulations. Therefore, despite different facets within the

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	3. When the DBAR was released, a deadline for submissions by IAPs was given as 22 June 2024 and, following a request by the BRA, was extended to 30/6/2024. We submitted various questions on 30/5/24 and only received answers on 4/6/24, five days later. We then submitted further questions on 7/6/24 and only received answers, after follow ups, on 24/6/24 – seventeen days later and two days after the initial deadline. This is unreasonable, given the tight deadline we were provided with. We understand that these delays were due to responses being awaited from the Engineer. Furthermore, regrettably, we must put it on record that the responses indicated as being from the Engineer were mostly vague and not particularly helpful in assisting us in preparing our submission. 4. Our correspondence starting 23/11/23 through to Feb 2024, and included in appendix C of the DBAR, refers. We also refer to EnviroPro's email responses of 12/6/24 and 18/6/24. In multiple emails to EnviroPro and other involved parties over this extended period, we sought to obtain explanations for the unauthorised mass clearing of indigenous coastal forest by Ugu District Municipality (Ugu) between Sezela and Ndesingane Rivers (Sezela/Ndesingane clearing). To date, we have received no clear answers from EnviroPro, the Consulting Engineers (ENsync), Ugu themselves or the EDTEA. The matter is however referred to on pg11 of the DBAR: "the applicant commenced with the replacement of a 6km section of the pipeline near Bazley Beach, part of the bulk pipeline replacement route, prior to receiving formal approval from EDTEA." None of the parties that should have been aware of this, and preventing it, were aware of it, or where it was even located. We	application, they are all ultimately linked to specific listed activities that must be assessed as a cohesive whole. Please note as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended the full 30 day comment period was afforded to all I&APs as per standard practise. In addition as stated a further 7 day extension was given as per the request of an I&AP. <i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024:</i> EnviroPro was appointed to conduct the environmental assessment for the proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project. After we began the work, a compliance issue arose, prompting us to halt our activities. Although we were aware of the outcomes of the process, we were not involved in the compliance procedures and therefore have no further insight into the agreements made between Ugu DM and EDTEA or how they reached their current conclusions. The referenced extract was included in the BAR to ensure complete transparency regarding our understanding of the matter. We have noted your concerns regarding the management of the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing and the impacts that have resulted. These activities did not take place in accordance with the prescribed legislation and did not have any overarching management document. However, all proposed works have been assessed in the BAR whereby the EMPr has been developed to ensure that all identified impacts are mitigated as

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	spoke to EnviroPro, EDTEA, Ugu's Compliance Officer and ENSync – all claimed complete ignorance of the matter. With this in mind, our obvious overriding concern is whether the Project, as it pertains to Bazley and the Bazley Conservancy will be undertaken in a competent, properly managed and independently monitored manner, with the necessary safeguards and oversights in place. This was clearly not the case at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing, as illustrated by the following: • The clearing done for the construction corridor was measured to be between 12 - 20m wide, which is up to double the 10m maximum footprint allowed, as stipulated in the DBAR; • The route the unauthorised clearing followed does not align with the • proposed corridor as indicated in the DBAR, and in places was over 20m out from the proposed corridor. Annexure 1 provides images showing the discrepancy between the proposed and actual unauthorised cleared route; • The work done was obviously unsupervised, and the contractor clearly displayed no concern about the destruction and damage being unnecessarily done to the natural environment; • The excavator used worked and cleared vegetation to the river edge, in contravention of the guidelines indicated in the DBAR; • Notwithstanding the explicit requirements in the DBAR, none of the area has been rehabilitated (7 months and counting) and is now predominantly covered in Castor-oil Plant <i>Ricinus communis</i> – an Alien Invasive Plant (AIP). On page 105 of the DBAR, it stipulates that the two objectives of the Project are: "For there to be no lasting negative impacts on the environment once construction is complete" and "To practice	thoroughly as possible. It is crucial to understand that the effectiveness of the EMPr depends on strict adherence to all its conditions. If approved, the EMPr will become a legally binding document that the applicant must comply with. Ensuring compliance with the EMPr will be the responsibility of the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA. However, the EA and EMPr will mandate that an independent ECO supervise the site. This ECO will be responsible for monitoring the site against all conditions of the EA and EMPr and reporting to the compliance and enforcement branch of EDTEA, which will also conduct regular site monitoring as part of their standard procedures.

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	responsible construction, ‘best practice’”, and further on: “The contractor is responsible for and must ensure that the site has been rehabilitated in full before leaving the site.” None of these objectives were remotely achieved at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing. In light of the above, we as a community are unable to place our trust in Ugu to employ “best practice” when working in Bazley. Nor are we able to place reliance on any of the parties involved to ensure/enforce Ugu’s compliance with the DBAR as they are required to do. To be clear, if what happened at the Sezela/Ndesingane clearing happens in Bazley, our town and its natural environment will be irretrievably damaged, and we are therefore very concerned and apprehensive about the Project and Ugu’s involvement. In answers to questions (dated 24/6/24) we were assured “the EA and EMPr will mandate that an independent ECO supervise the site.” Further to this, we would request the inclusion of a condition in the environmental authorisation, that would require monitoring reports (monthly) are submitted to interested and affected parties at the same time as they are submitted to EDTEA. 5. With regard to the Bazley section of the proposed route, there has been insufficient consideration of “alternatives”. A proper consideration of alternatives is required by the Regulations. In the case of linear projects, such as pipelines, alternative routes must be considered and selected through a consultative process. It seems that the route was first chosen (informed mostly by the route of the existing pipeline) and “consultation” (limited to the invitation to comment on the DBAR) followed afterwards. There has therefore been no prior consultation on the route through Bazley. It has been pre-determined, and it is only the impacts that we have been invited to comment on. As will become evident further on in our submission, we have	Due to the nature of the proposal being a gravity-fed system, which transfers water from a single high point to lower elevations, there are very few alternative routes that would significantly differ from the proposed route while reducing environmental impact. During the pre-feasibility stage, other routes were considered; however, they required excessive clearance of aquatic environments and were therefore deemed infeasible and such were not assessed. Nevertheless, the routes proposed in these comments have been considered and responses have been given below.

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	considered alternative routes, compared to that proposed in the DBAR, and have identified one that we believe will be significantly less damaging and disruptive to Bazley. From a project perspective, it will also be less costly and time consuming. 6. In previous answers (4/6/24), Enviropro/Project Engineer indicate “pipe boring” would only be used for national/provincial roads, and the rest will be dug up. This means several roads and multiple driveways in Bazley will be dug up. We are very concerned about how this will disrupt the town during construction, and then subsequently how/if the damage caused will be adequately repaired. Past experience has proven Ugu cannot be trusted to repair what they have damaged. Attached as Annexure 2 is photographic proof of vast damage to Bazley’s roads, done by Ugu while repairing water pipe breakages, and never repaired. We sit, years later, with large and dangerous holes in our roads which Ugu have failed to repair. According to the answers provided on 24/6/24, we have been assured that: • “Pipelines would not run down the middle of roads but down the side of roads”; • “Road crossing/closure does not take more than a day.”; and • “Rehabilitation of roads and driveways...are undertaken through strict contractual codes and not by municipality itself.” 7. A 10m wide working corridor, as stipulated in the DBAR, through our town will destroy our tiny roads and verges. In some places there is considerably less than that available. This size of corridor will also destroy and disturb large areas of coastal forest. Discussions with the Ugu Compliance Officer last year suggested that such a small pipeline (160mm) could be completed within a 3m wide working corridor.	<i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024 which included feedback from the engineer:</i> Road crossings are very common practice for all basic essential services and there are strict contractual protocols in place for public funded capex projects of this nature. Only contractors who are registered with the Construction Industry Development (CIDB) are permitted to tender for municipality Capex projects. During construction, residents are notified for any planned road closure and date and time agreed with the appropriate community structures. Normally, Road crossing/closure does not take more than a day. For and driveway homeowners are notified and crossings would not take more than a day and rehabilitation agreed with the homeowner. On completion, a satisfaction form is signed by homeowner as a confirmation that he/she is satisfied with rehabilitation done on the driveway. Rehabilitation of roads and driveways on capex projects such as Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project are undertaken through strict contractual codes and not by municipality itself. <i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024</i> Please note that different construction methodologies will be required along the pipeline due to site-specific factors such as roads, private properties, and large obstructions like rocks. The detailed methodologies will only be determined just before construction begins at these specific points. To accommodate these variations, a 10-meter working corridor has been included. However, this does not mean the entire corridor will be used along

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	The answer provided on 24/6/24 that “this does not mean the entire corridor will be used along the entire length of the pipeline”, gives us very little comfort. We would therefore appeal for the specific working corridor in Bazley to be significantly reduced. 8. The original pipeline in Bazley was laid around 1973, 51 years ago, when the town was vastly different as compared to today. There were no tarred roads, no electricity no Fibre and only a handful of houses compared to the present day (150+ houses). To largely follow the existing pipeline is simplistic and seems inappropriate, given that part of it runs under main roads and it will cause significant destruction and disruption to current infrastructure and properties. The layout of the town as it exists today needs to be properly considered, and a route devised which minimises the impact, and makes sense from both a practical and economic perspective. In essence, the route proposed in the DBAR appears to simply follow the existing pipeline as laid down in 1973 without taking cognisance of the fact that the entire configuration of Bazley has fundamentally changed since then. Our proposed route takes into account the current physical realities on the ground. 9. Per the DBAR: “a Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist was commissioned. Based on the specialist’s findings the proposed footprint area is of a ‘High’ sensitivity,”. Also, per the DBAR: “The water pipeline will result in a large amount of clearance of Endangered indigenous vegetation when creating the construction corridor”. Given this and the existence of Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Forest alongside “Modified” habitat (predominantly sugar cane), we would suggest that it would be considerably better to avoid the	the entire length of the pipeline, especially in more densely populated areas such as Bazley. Please note that the BAR and EMPr have been updated to include the following mitigation measures to prevent unnecessary vegetation clearance within the construction corridor: Where the construction footprint overlaps highly sensitive vegetation the extent of the working corridor must be approved by the ECO. <i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024 which included feedback from the engineer:</i> All pipeline routes are strip-surveyed and final most practical routes are selected to minimize impacts on properties and other features. Ellysium section pipeline replacement would be no different. Please note as discussed above due to the nature of the proposal being a gravity-fed system, which transfers water from a single high point to lower elevations, there are very few alternative routes that would significantly differ from the proposed route while reducing environmental impact. During the pre-feasibility stage, other routes were considered; however, they required excessive clearance of aquatic environments and were therefore deemed infeasible and such were not assessed. Nevertheless, the routes proposed in these comments have been considered and responses have been given below.

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	former and rather use the areas of the modified habitat as far as possible. 10. The biodiversity specialist findings state in 2.5.1 of the DBAR that: "The location, state and size of the ecosystem means that it is unlikely that any functional habitat or SCCs will be lost because of the impacts arising from the proposed activities." However, in certain sections of the proposed route, most notably the Ndesingane – Bazley section, this is untrue, as functional coastal forest that is known to support SCCs will be damaged, and SCC habitat will definitely be transformed and degraded if the proposed route is followed (see further in point 12e). 11. A large excavator was used in the unauthorised Sezela/Ndesingane clearing, which was completely unnecessary and caused the massive damage already mentioned in point 4. above. Not only will heavy machinery damage the natural vegetation and properties, moving it through Bazley town will damage our fragile roads. In many places our tar roads are very thin, which we know from continually repairing potholes (done by the community, not the municipality), so we know it will not handle any heavy vehicles and machinery. We request that the fragility of our town and its road system be carefully borne in mind when determining what machinery/vehicles should be used here. The response from the Engineer in the answers of 24/6/24 provided no clarity or comfort on this specific aspect. 12. EnviroPro provided us with the KMZ files indicating the location of the existing pipeline in Bazley, and the proposed route of the new pipeline. Bearing in mind the various points above, we have reviewed these in detail and have several suggestions on how the route could be minimally adjusted, yet with significant effect on the potential damage and disruption to our town. On the maps which are referred	Please note that this statement made by the specialist is based on the fact that the pipeline will be placed underground and that all proposed mitigation measures, including rehabilitation, will be implemented. <i>As per the response provided on the 24.06.2024 which included feedback from the engineer:</i> Pipeline excavations are very common practice for water services and there are strict contractual protocols in place for public funded capex projects of this nature. Excavations are carried out by machine or by hand, determined by access, the ground conditions and Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to safeguard the environment. During Construction the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) monitors compliance of activities with an Environmental Management Plan and with regular environmental audits to ensure that the contractor is compliant. In addition to the above, the impact assessment and EMPr have been updated to provide mitigation measures specifically addressing the use of heavy machinery within the working corridor, specifically Impact 25.

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	to below, the DBAR proposed pipeline is in yellow and our proposed route is in pink. Our suggested changes (from south to north) are as follows: - Starting from the south side, where the proposed pipeline crosses the Ifafa river and goes north alongside the railway line, there is a gravel road adjacent to the railway line on the west side which should be followed. From MacNicol's Caravan Park onwards our route would then follow that as proposed in the DBAR, on the east side of Lagoon Drive. Beyond the last driveway on the west side, however, we believe it would be hugely beneficial for the pipeline to move to the west (inland) verge of Lagoon Drive. Annexure 3 illustrates our suggested route (pink), as compared to that proposed in the DBAR (yellow). - Following on from a. above, running the pipeline predominantly along the east (sea side) verge of Lagoon Drive will cause damage to numerous roads and driveways and is likely to interfere with, and damage, existing infrastructure, in particular Bazley's Fibre, which is laid there. We believe that a large portion of this pipeline should therefore be laid on the west (inland side) of Lagoon Drive. From the point mentioned in a. above all the way to the P560 (main entrance to Bazley), there are no roads and properties on the west side/verge. Using the west side verge would therefore cause considerably less damage and disruption than the east side. Annexures 4a and 4b illustrate our suggested route, as compared to that proposed in the DBAR. - From the P560 northwards, running the pipeline predominantly along the east (sea side) verge of Ridge Road will cause damage to numerous roads and driveways and is likely to interfere with and damage existing infrastructure, in particular the fibre which is laid there. We believe that significantly less damage will result if the pipeline rather follows the west (inland)	Based on the comments the following route deviations have been included in the application: - The pipeline following the existing gravel road - The pipeline to move to the west verge of Lagoon Drive These changes have been reflected in Figure 2 – 19. Based on the comments the following route deviations have been included in the application: - The pipeline to move to the west verge of Lagoon Drive all the way to the P560 These changes have been reflected in Figure 2 – 19. Through consultation with the engineer, they have acknowledged the exceptionally well-researched suggestions. However, the large deviation around the town of Bazley cannot be considered in the application. The key reason for this is that the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project involves bulk augmentation pipelines that will connect to existing supply reservoirs and smaller active reticulation network pipes as needed.

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	verge of Bushbuck Way. This route would avoid all roads, driveways and properties and would cause considerably less damage and disruption than following Ridge Road. In particular, this route would the large electrical sub-station on Marine as well as avoid crossing Marine Drive. Annexure 5 indicates our suggested route, as compared to that proposed in the DBAR. d. From where Bushbuck Way merges with the end of Hilltop Road, there is a road indicated through the adjoining cane fields that has a far more direct line to the reservoir than that proposed in the DBAR (along Ridge Road and Reservoir Road). This will ensure the rest of the town (including roads, driveways, existing infrastructure, properties, and several areas of indigenous forest) will remain undisturbed. Not only that, our proposed route will avoid having to cross two watercourses (WC28 and WC29 per the DBAR). Annexure 6 provides our suggested route, as compared to that proposed.	Additionally, the project will re-interconnect with existing river crossing lines where appropriate. The existing deteriorating old bulk pipeline will remain in the ground, with re-connections made to the new bulk pipeline at suitable locations within the existing reticulation network and structures. Relocating the replacement line to a different location would make this process unfeasible. Other reasons from a planning perspective include: - Unnecessary expenditure As per the Municipal Structures Act (Act No. 117 of 1998) and the Municipal Structures Amendment Act (Act No. 33 Of 2000) Ugu Municipality are the Water Services Authority for its area of jurisdiction. Where there is an existing corridor servitude available, as is the case with entire Bazely 4km stretch, the Ugu Municipal Accounting Officer can be held liable for any unnecessary expenditure as there would need to be the purchase and servitude registration over private property for a new pipeline and servitude where there is already one available in the existing road reserve. - Damage and disruption to Bazley Town. Only contractors who are registered with the Construction Industry Development (CIDB) are permitted to tender for municipality Capex projects and pipelines replacements and all rehabilitation of vegetation and roads and driveways on capex projects such as Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation project are undertaken through strict contractual codes and not by municipality itself. Capex projects such as proposed Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation versus Operational and Maintenance work, where concerns may lie, are completely separate entities both planned. financed and implemented through completely separate processes, as is the maintenance of roads, potholes and stormwater wash-aways. The EAP notes the proposed rerouting would remove the need for WC28 and WC29 however the proposed alignment would result in a new additional WC that is not associated with an existing formal road.

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	e. From the reservoir, the proposed pipeline in the DBAR travels down the gravel road from the reservoir to Ndesingane beach, on the south (forest) side of the road. In the process this will destroy and disturb large amounts of a significant area of indigenous forest. This forest patch is known to support a number of faunal species of conservation concern. This includes Green Mamba <i>Dedroaspis angusticeps</i> (Vulnerable), Crowned Eagle <i>Stephanoetus coronatus</i> (Vulnerable) and Blue Duiker <i>Philantomba monicola</i> (Vulnerable) (all of which are routinely observed in this and other forest patches around the town), and likely other sensitive species, most notably Spotted Ground-thrush <i>Geokichla guttata</i>, together with healthy coastal forest biodiversity communities. It would be unnecessarily destructive, as the pipeline could easily be run down the north side of the gravel road instead, where there is nothing but a sugarcane field boundary, consisting of sandy soil. We believe that putting the pipeline on the north side, where there is no forest or vegetation of consequence, makes environmental, practical and economic sense. Annexures 7a and 7b provide our suggested route, as compared to that proposed in the DBAR. 13. We have provided our own KMZ file as part of this submission, illustrating the various suggestions made in point 12 above. Annexure 8 provides our overall suggested route, as compared to that proposed. 14. Following our suggested route, as per points 12. and 13. above, as opposed to the proposed route in the DBAR will result in the following significant improvements: a. Avoid destroying large areas of indigenous coastal forest and other natural vegetation; b. Avoid interfering with, or damaging, large sections of	Based on the comments the following route deviations have been included in the application: - The pipeline to move to the north side of road to Ndesingane beach These changes have been reflected in Figure 2 – 19. Noted, thank you. The comments are noted and as per the above responses all proposals have been included apart from the major deviation around the Bazley town.

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	infrastructure including Fibre that has been laid predominantly along the east verge of our roads; c. Avoid crossing five roads; d. Avoid crossing multiple driveways. It is worth noting that our proposed route would miss virtually all of the driveways in Bazley, while the proposed route in the DBAR would cross some 60+ driveways; e. The proposed DBAR route will cross a number of waterways. Our proposed route would avoid crossing two significant waterways (WC28 and WC29 per the DBAR), together with their surrounding indigenous forest; and f. Our proposed route would greatly improve the costs of the project, as the excavation required would involve a shorter route along a generally easier, unvegetated route, away from populated areas. Specifically: less roads will need to be trenched and repaired, no driveways will need to be trenched and repaired and watercourses and indigenous vegetation will be avoided, thereby reducing the need for extensive rehabilitation. 15. In conclusion: a. The Bazley section of the Project does not have the same level priority as Malangeni, GDP and other areas north of Bazley; b. Bazley and the Greater Bazley Conservancy have large areas of coastal forest and natural vegetation which support rich biodiversity, including sensitive species; c. The proposed pipeline route will cause immense damage and disruption to our small town, and will result in the destruction of considerable sensitive natural habitat; d. Relatively small variations to the pipeline route will significantly reduce adverse impacts on the town and surrounding natural environment. 16. We therefore propose: a. It would be in the interests of Ugu to create a separate project for Bazley so that only this portion goes through a separate	The comments are noted, and all proposals have been included except for the major deviation around Bazley town. Please note that all mitigations identified by the independent specialist have been incorporated into both the BAR and EMPr. These mitigations have been proposed to ensure that there are no long-lasting impacts. It is important to note that, as stated above, both the EMPr and EA will be legally binding documents if approved, and as such, Ugu DM is obliged to comply. Please note that although there are several different communities included in this application, the water supply network is part of the Ugu Water

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	environmental assessment and authorisation process, and the rest of the basic assessment process can continue for the remainder of the route. This will give the parties the opportunity to consult on a more suitable route through Bazley. b. If the proposal in a. above is not accepted, then we would urge that the proposed route of the pipeline through Bazley be amended to reflect the aforementioned changes, as illustrated on the KMZ file provided and in Annexures 3 – 8, and: i. The construction corridor is reduced to the smallest workable size where it crosses, or runs adjacent to, areas of forest or within the town road network; ii. All areas of forest that are unavoidably destroyed or disturbed are appropriately rehabilitated through: 1. An alien plant control programme; and 2. If needed, replanting with appropriate locally occurring plant species, sourced from local material, all under the supervision of an experienced botanist, is done within an approved rehabilitation plan with appropriate and approved frequencies and timelines; iii. All construction areas and all areas that require rehabilitation are monitored at an appropriate frequency by an independent specialist, and that monitoring results are provided back to the EDTEA and the BRA to provide	Masterplan 2020-2025. Since all infrastructure is operated and owned by the Ugu DM, all areas have been grouped into the Umdoni South Bulk Water Augmentation Project. From an economic standpoint, it would not make sense to undertake separate activities for individual areas based on their priority levels. Instead, all areas have been grouped together as the fundamental aim of the project is to provide long-term potable water security for the communities within the project area. A 10m working corridor has been assessed in the application however based on feedback from I&APs with regards to the extent of this working corridor, the following mitigation measure i.e. condition has been included in the BAR and EMPr: - Where the construction footprint overlaps highly sensitive vegetation the extent of the working corridor must be approved by the ECO. Therefore, when construction must occur within a sensitive area, consultation between the contractor, engineer, and ECO is required to ensure only necessary actions are taken. Unnecessary clearance would be deemed non-compliance. The BAR, EMPr, Alien Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan all prescribe detailed measures which must be followed to ensure all sensitive environments are appropriately rehabilitated. As stated above, all four documents would be legally binding documents if approved, and as such, Ugu DM is obliged to comply. The entire site for the duration of the construction phase and post-construction will be monitored by an independent ECO. All monitoring reports will be submitted to EDTEA. This will be prescribed with the EA and has been included in the EMPr.

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	oversight. We appeal to those in authority to give serious consideration to our proposals and requests, in particular our suggested variations to the proposed route of the pipeline. We would welcome the opportunity, and urge the relevant parties, to walk the routes with us such that we can discuss and agree a route with the least damaging consequences for Bazley.	