
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR STELLA BULK WATER UPGRADING



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1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

EMG has prepared this document to inform you about:

-  The current understanding of the baseline environmental and social conditions.
-  Possible environmental impacts and proposed specialist studies
-  How you can have input into the Water Use Licence Application and relevant processes

2 YOUR ROLE

-  You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) who may want to be informed about the proposed development and have input into the processes and environmental reports.
-  You have an opportunity to review this document and provide your initial comments to us for incorporation in the process.
-  Comments will be recorded and included in the reports submitted to the relevant authorities for decision-making.

3 PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESSES

-  Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)
-  Surrounding landowners, land users and communities
-  Parastatals

3.1 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

-  Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
-  Department of Transport
-  Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality
-  Eskom
-  North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
-  North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
-  North West Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA)
-  North West Department of Health
-  North West Department of Public Works and Roads
-  SANRAL
-  Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)

3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITIES

-  Local Municipality – Naledi Local Municipality
-  District Municipality – Dr Ruth S Mompati District Municipality
-  Stella Water User Association
-  Other if applicable

Please let us know if any additional parties should be involved.

4 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd is the Professional Service Provider applying for a Water Use License on behalf of Dr Ruth S. Mompoti District Municipality for the proposed development at Stella and Middelkop wellfields located within the Naledi Local Municipality, Northwest Province. The project is situated within the Quaternary Catchment C32A.

5 LOCALITY

The site is located within the Naledi Local Municipality under the jurisdiction of the Quaternary Catchment C32A. The wellfields are located within the Town of Stella as well as within the surrounding area on farm Middelkop. This development is critical for maintaining domestic water supply, supporting future residential expansion, and ensuring the continued operation of municipal services. The coordinates provided below indicate the geographical location of the town of Stella:

Coordinates of the project:

-  Latitude: 26.546475° S
-  Longitude: 24.856484° E

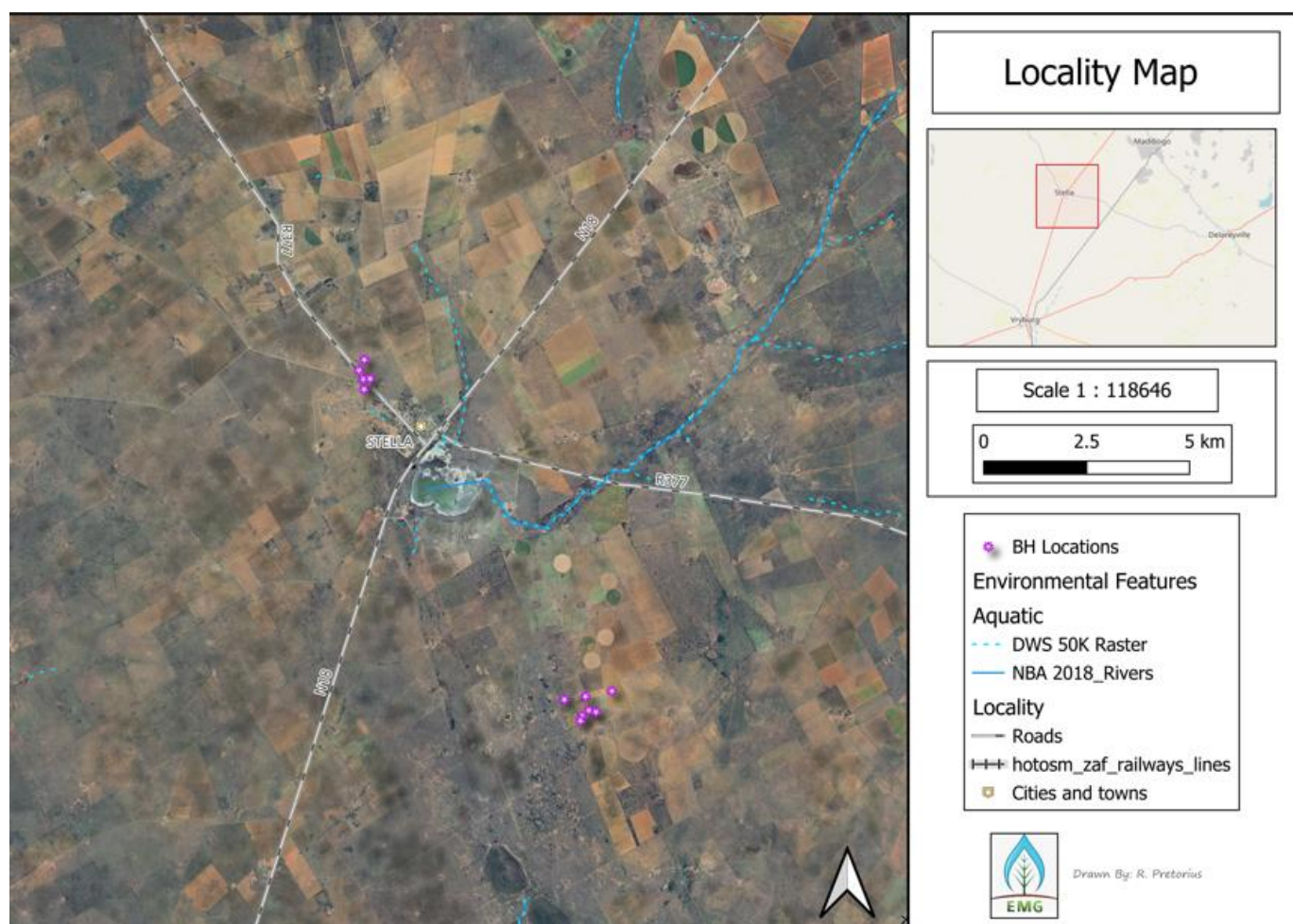


Figure 1: A detailed locality map of the town of Stella, which indicates the locations of the boreholes in relation to the surrounding area.

The boreholes are situated on two distinct properties, as detailed in the table below.

Table 1 Property Information Pertaining to the Location of the Boreholes.

Property Description	Extent (ha)	SG Code	Title Deed
Portion 19 of the Farm Biesjes Bult No. 549	672.804 ha	T0IN00000000054900018	T352/1963
Remaining Extent of the Farm Middel Kop No. 562	171.644 ha	T0IN00000000056200000	T838/1981

6 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Stella Bulk Water Supply Project aims to improve the reliability and capacity of potable water supply to the Stella and Rekgarathile communities by optimising existing and 3 new groundwater infrastructure. The project consists of abstracting groundwater from twelve boreholes in the Middelkop and Stella wellfields, refurbishing and upgrading existing boreholes, and integrating three new boreholes into the municipal bulk water supply network.

Groundwater abstracted from the boreholes is transferred via existing bulk pipelines to the existing and new storage reservoirs and elevated water tanks, from where it is distributed to the Stella community. The project also includes constructing a 1ML reservoir to improve system capacity, operational efficiency, and water security. Aquifer testing confirmed a sustainable abstraction volume of 1,341 m³/day from the twelve boreholes, with a current estimated population of approximately 7,943 people.

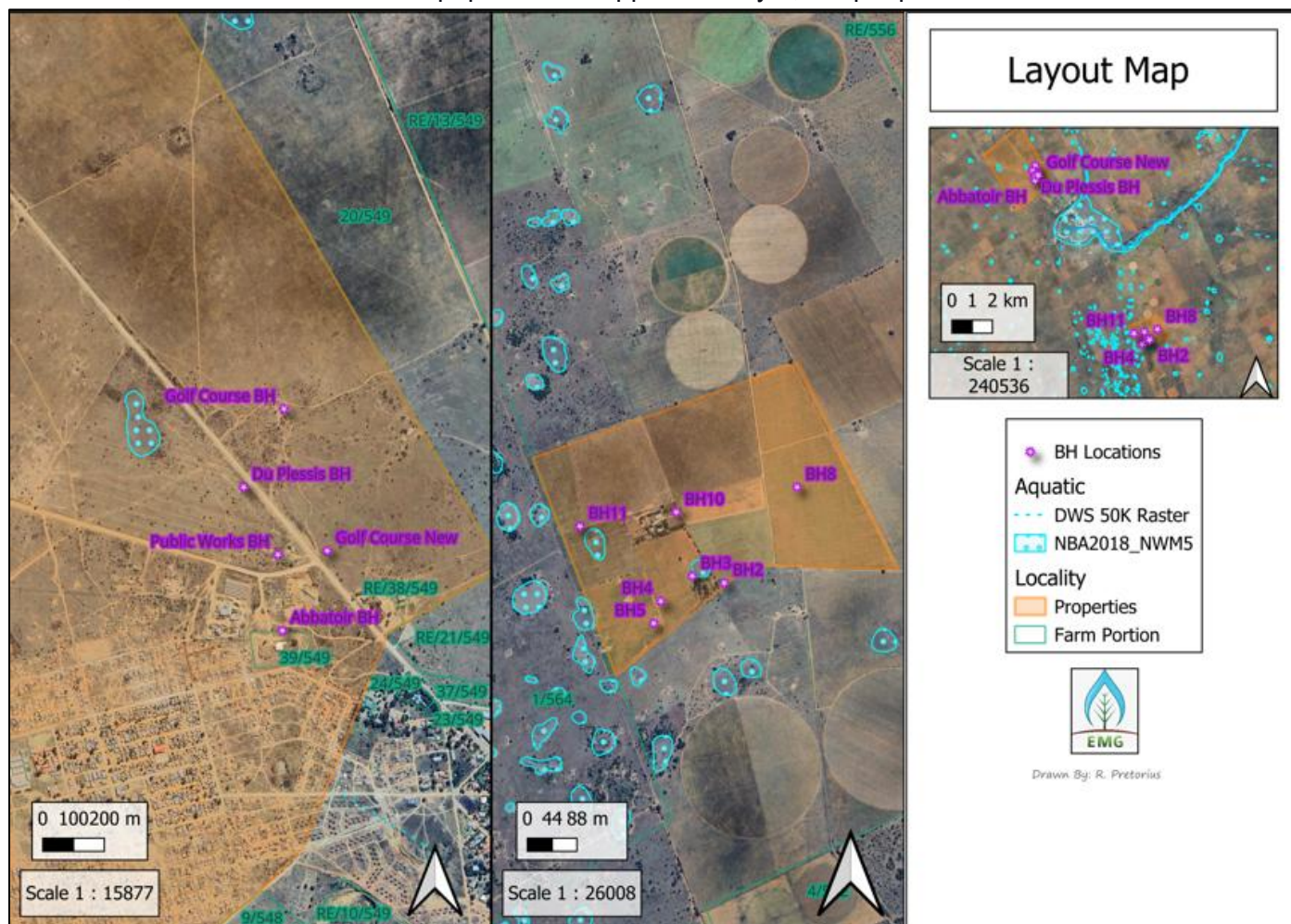


Figure 2 Layout map of proposed borehole locations

7 Water Demand

Stella's current population is estimated at 7,943 people. Based on an average water demand of 123.5 litres per person per day, the total water requirement is approximately 981 kL/day, or 358,065 m³ per annum. Applying the average annual population growth rate for Naledi Local Municipality of 1.71%, the projected population for Stella by 2039 is estimated at approximately 10,243 people. Based on an average water demand of 130 litres per person per day, the projected water requirement is approximately 1,332 kL/day, or 486,030 m³ per annum.

The available borehole yields can supply approximately 489,465 m³ per annum. Consequently, it is proposed that a groundwater abstraction volume of 489,465 m³ per annum be applied for. This volume will adequately meet the projected future water demand while providing sufficient capacity to ensure long-term water security for the Stella community.

8 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Water Use Licence

Prior to the commencement of the proposed development, A Water Use Licence in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended, and the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GN R 267), must be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Water and Sanitation.

According to the NWA, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:

NWA: Section 21 (Act No. 34 of 1998), as amended

Table 2 The table below indicates the various water uses and examples of such uses.

S21 Water Use	Description
Section 21 (a)	Taking water from a water resource.
Section 21 (b)	Storing water.
Section 21 (c)	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
Section 21 (d)	Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity.
Section 21 (e)	Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 28(1) of the NWA.
Section 21 (f)	Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource.
Section 21 (g)	Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.
Section 21 (h)	Disposing in any manner of water which contains waste from, or which has been heated in any industrial or power generation process.
Section 21 (i)	Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.
Section 21 (j)	Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary of the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of the people.

9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is a fundamental part of the Water Use Licence application process. It aims to give Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) clear, accurate, and comprehensive information about the proposed Stella Bulk Water Upgrading.

In addition, the planned project development considers input from the public and interested and affected groups. As a result, a register of comments and responses is maintained to record issues raised and comments made. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised.

9.1 Water use licence Public Participation Process

The WULA PPP will run concurrently with the EIA process in accordance with GN R 267, Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals Section 17(2) *“Where a public participation process has already been undertaken through the Environmental Impact Assessment Processes or any other public consultation process and that public participation process contains and covers all issues pertaining to water use activities, then that public participation process report may, subject to approval by the responsible authority, be submitted for the requirements of the water use licence application”*. The following process was followed in accordance with GN R267:

-  Erect site notices.
-  Placing of a newspaper advert in one local newspaper.
-  Public & authority commenting period of 60 calendar days.

Table 3: Summary of timeframes for receiving and steps in processing of a water use license application

No	Steps in processing of WULA	Days allocated
0	Pre-application enquiry	0
1	Application submitted	1
2	Responsible authority acknowledges receipt of the application	10
3	Applicant confirms arrangements for site inspection with an allocated case officer	5
4	Site inspection to confirm water use, a determine information requirements and the need for public participation	20
5	Confirm requirements for water use license application technical report based on site visit and meeting	5
6	Compilation, consultation and submission of water use license application technical report by applicant	105
7	Reject / Accept water uses license application technical report	10
8	Assessment	90

9	Decision and communication to applicant	5
		251

In order to ensure that you are identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), individuals are requested to respond by submitting their complete contact details and any comments in writing to the details provided below.

The Background Information Document (BID) will be furnished on request and published on the Environmental Management Group (EMG) website for public access. A **(60) sixty-day** period is given for your comments/concerns on the Water Use License Application to reach us. (**National Water Act, 1998**).

All information will be available on the website provided below.

Contact person(s): N Du Toit
 Tel: 051 412 6350
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 Website: www.envmgrp.com

