

# BLAAUWBOSCH BULK WATER PIPELINE

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## INTRODUCTION

Hanslab Environmental Consultants was appointed by Royal Haskoning DHV to undertake Environmental Control Officer duties for the Blaauwbosch Bulk Water Pipeline project in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal.

The project's construction phase commenced in September 2021. Hanslab is conducting monthly site audits to assess compliance according to the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), issued by the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

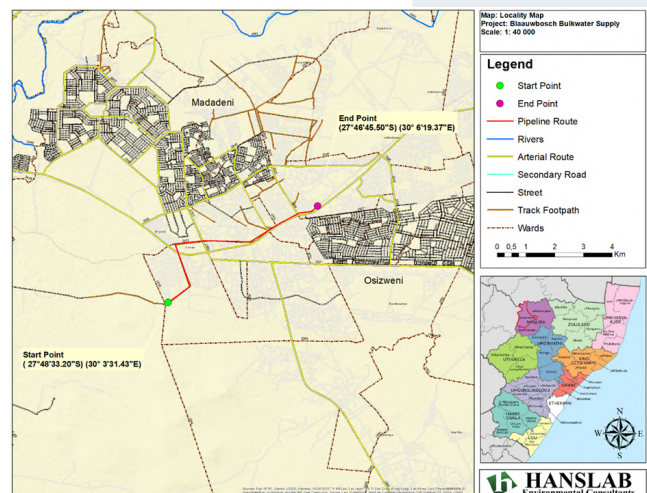
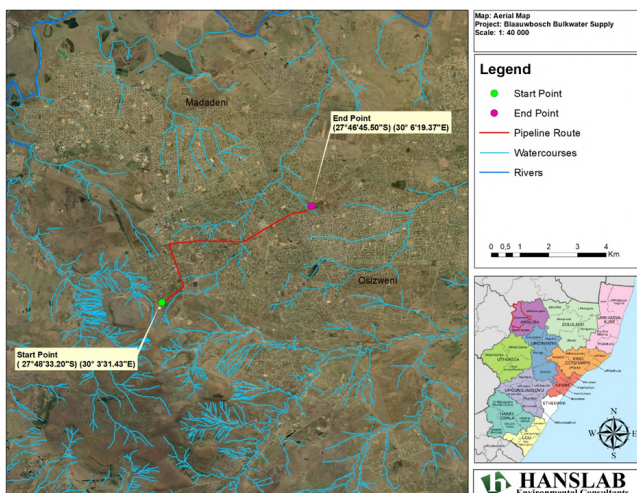


Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project area is situated within the Amajuba Municipality approximately 25km East of Newcastle. The project involves the construction of a 450 mm diameter steel pipeline for the bulk transportation of water from the Braakfontein Reservoir to the Blaauwbosch supply area. The route of the pipeline follows an existing road servitude and is approximately 15km long.

This development forms part of a larger initiative being undertaken by Newcastle Local Municipality, where the Blaauwbosch bulk transportation of water has been identified as a key capital project. The pipeline route extends from the cluster of reservoirs (Braakfontein Reservoir); in a north-easterly direction towards the regional cemetery, where the line then routed northwards, crossing the Madadeni Main Road, up to the abandoned railway line and then the Madadeni Road (as in the image below).





# SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The project area is within a residential area surrounded by roads, pathways, and small subsistence agricultural practices. The main agricultural activities in the area are livestock and the cultivation of maize. In terms of positive social impacts, the project will enhance water availability in the area of Osizweni and Madadeni townships, as the area has previously disadvantaged communities which lack proper water infrastructure.

The project will also result in temporary economic benefits as local labour is employed, this will also boost the local economy and skills that are transferred to the workforce. Local service providers will also get a boost as the contractor prefers to use the services of local companies.



Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER DUTIES

The role of an Environmental Control Officer is to monitor all site-specific activities during the development of the project. They ensure that the respective project team complies with all authorisations and/or issued permits. Site-specific requirements and mitigation measures that have been assessed and investigated in an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and approved by the Department are also monitored to ensure compliance.

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which is a site-specific document compiled by a qualified Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) outlines potential environmental impacts and their respective mitigation measures in relation to activities being undertaken as part of the development. Auditing activities therefore also consider the requirements of the EMPr.

An environmental audit report, compiled after each site visit details the findings noted on-site, non-compliances that require attention, photographic evidence of works being undertaken as well as recommendations that must be actioned to improve the site conditions.

# OUR ROLE ON THE PROJECT

The following conditions were adhered to in compliance with the EA:

- We were appointed as the ECO before the commencement of any authorised activities;
- We have delegated personnel with the necessary experience to act as the ECO for the construction phase of the development;
- The ECO ensures compliance with the provisions of the issued EA and approved EMPr;
- The ECO is keeping a record of all activities on-site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO and
- Monthly reports are submitted to the Competent Authority.



Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd

## ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ECO ON SITE;

The methodology utilised to conduct the environmental compliance audit include:

- Compilation of the audit checklist for the site visit in accordance with the EA and the EMPr approved by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA);
- Monthly Site Visit including visual inspection of activities on site;
- Verification of environmental documentation on-site;
- Capturing photographic evidence during the site visit for monitoring purposes during the project lifecycle;
- Consultation with the Site Safety Officer and Site Manager and
- Report back to the client at monthly meetings



Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd