water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001, Sedibeng Building, 185 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria,
Tel: (012) 336-7500 Fax: (012) 323-4472 / (012) 326-2715

WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION SUMMARY:

PROPOSED UPGRADE OF BULK SEWAGE LINE AND STORMWATER OUTLETS IN ROSEMOOR, GEORGE, WESTERN CAPE

WU47142

NAME OF APPLICANT:

George Municipality

Compiled by:

James Dabrowski
(Confluent Environmental)

Signature: 

Date: 31 July 2025

1. Applicant Details

Name of applicant:	George Municipality
Address:	90 York Street, Old Town Hall, George, 6529
Cell phone number:	(044) 801 9268
E-mail address:	jkoegelenberg@george.gov.za

2. Person Submitting Application

Dr J.M Dabrowski	(Ph.D., Pr.Sci.Nat. Water Resources)
Registration Number:	114084
Date of registration:	November 2015

3. Background and Purpose

Confluent Environmental was appointed to submit a Water Use License Application (WULA) for the proposed upgrading of an existing bulk sewer pipeline (from end of service SANTAR pipes to PVC-u Class 34 pipes) and existing stormwater outlets in Rosemoor, George, Western Cape. Rosemoor is a residential suburb located within the town of George and falls within the catchment area of the Meul River. The development will take place within the regulated area of a watercourse (i.e. within 500 m of a seep wetland) and triggers several water uses that require a Water Use License (WUL) in terms of the National Water Act (NWA).

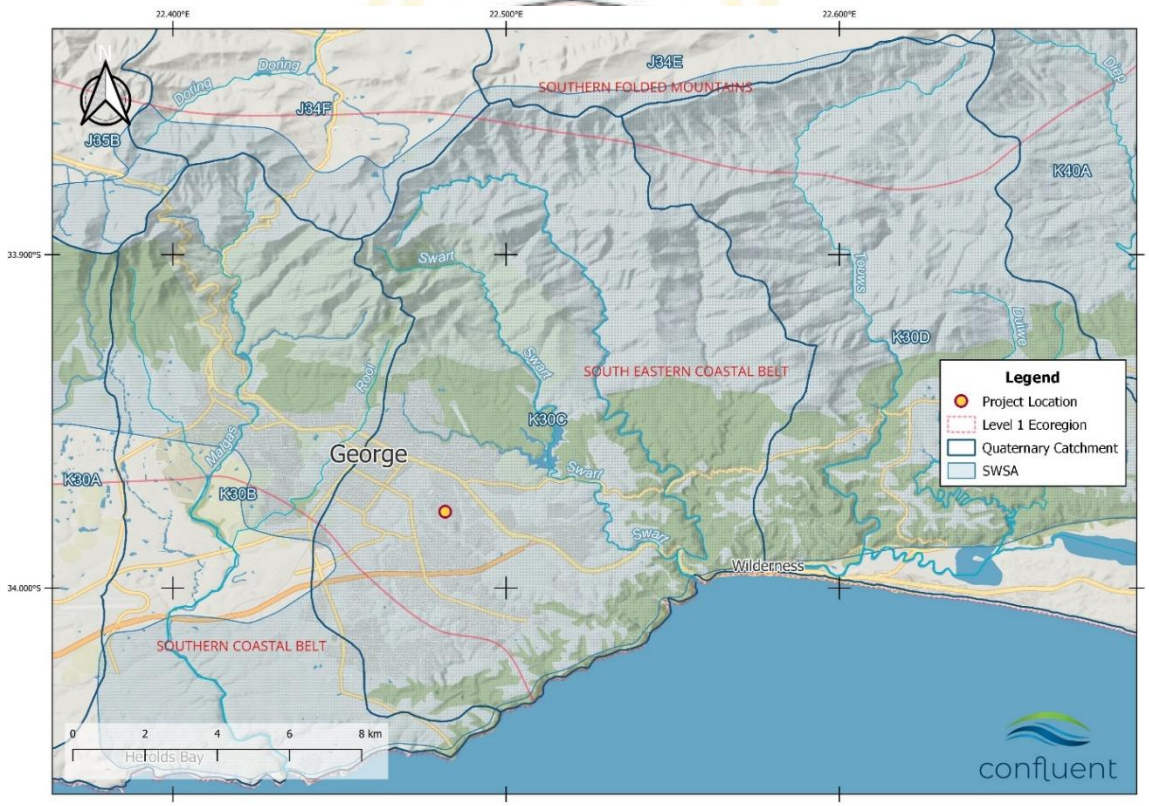

Figure 1: Map indicating the location of the bulk sewer pipeline and stormwater outlets in quaternary catchment K30C.

4. Location of Water Uses

The existing sewage pipeline and stormwater outlets are located within the upper reaches of the Meul River, which falls within quaternary catchment K30C (Figure 1). The main rivers draining this catchment are the Swart and Kaaimans, both of which originate in the Outeniqua Mountains. The Meul is a smaller river system that flows for a relatively short distance before flowing into the sea. The project area falls within the South-Eastern Coastal Belt (20) Level 1 ecoregion (20.02 Level 2 Ecoregion), which is characterized by moderately undulating plains and low mountains with altitude ranging from 0 to 1 300 m above mean sea level. Mean annual precipitation for the catchment area is approximately 800 mm per year and occurs all year-round, with peaks in October to November and March to April. Dominant natural vegetation in the vegetation comprises broadly of fynbos, renosterveld, dune thicket, and afro-montane forest.

Soils in the catchment area are relatively shallow consisting of a diagnostic pedocutanic duplex soil, with a clear textural contrast between the A and B horizon. The B horizon is however heavily enriched with clay, which serves as a barrier to both root growth and water movement. Sub-surface water therefore tends to flow laterally over the top of the B horizon, through the more coarsely textured A horizon. In addition, the area falls within a very high intensity rainfall zone. For these reasons, soils are highly erodible and is undoubtedly a contributing factor to the extent of erosion observed in and around watercourses – particularly where stormwater is discharged.

The Meul River originates from the industrial centre of George and passes through a combination of formal residential areas and informal settlements (with poor access to water and sanitation services). Sewage spills from blocked manholes and failing pump stations frequently result in sewage spills into the Meula River, which has resulted in closure of recreational activities at Ballots Bay (where the Meul River discharges into the sea). The longest section of the bulk sewer pipeline and stormwater outlets run along the northern edge of a seep wetland which abuts the Meul River. A smaller section of the pipeline runs along an eastern tributary of the Meul River which is also associated with a seep wetland (Figure 2). The formation of seep wetlands along the gentle slopes of valleys is consistent with the soil type in George (i.e. a coarsely textured A horizon overlying a relatively impervious clay enriched B horizion). The seep wetland features are sustained primarily by lateral sub-surface flow which is prevented from penetrating the deeper impervious B horizon and expresses near the surface as it travels down the relatively gentle slopes. The gentle slopes allow water to be retained in the soil profile for an extended period of time, leading to seasonally saturated conditions and the establishment of wetland vegetation. Further downstream (far below project area of interest below the N2 highway), the gradient of these slopes becomes steeper and water is retained in the soil profile for a shorter duration, and wetland habitat is replaced by woody vegetation typical of a riverine riparian zone.

The pipeline is mapped to cross a small non-perennial watercourse which originates form with the suburb of Rosemoor and drains into of the Meul River from the north (Figure 2). The site inspection revealed a narrow, incised channel that originates from a stormwater outlet and traverses a gently sloping plain (Figure 2). The outlet discharges onto the gently sloping plain with no defined valley or topography that would favour the formation of a natural drainage line/stream, and it is clear that the channel has been formed due to erosion caused by stormwater discharge. Wetland vegetation has colonised this channel (mainly *Typha capensis*) and as with other stormwater outlets in the area, levels of litter and dumping were high. The pipeline crosses the channel approximately 20 m downstream from the stormwater outlet. The channel is considered a man-made stormwater channel and does not provide habitat for aquatic biodiversity.

Wetland systems adjacent to infrastructure requiring upgrades have been heavily impacted by urban development and their Present Ecological State (PES) is D (Largely Modified), which is representative of a system that has experienced a large change in ecosystem processes and where loss of natural habitat and biota has occurred. Further details can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Details of properties in which infrastructure is located is provided in Table 1.

Figure 2: Map showing the delineated extent of seep wetlands along the Meul River and its eastern tributary

Table 1: Property details

Property description	Title Deed number	Owner
Erf 8662	T9515/2007	George Municipality
Erf 8596	T046112/09	George Municipality
Erf RE/464	GEQ15-15/1922	George Municipality

5. Administrative Documents and Technical Reports Submitted by Applicants

Administrative Documents

The following administrative documents will be submitted in support of this application:

- Title deeds of properties
- Tax invoice of Breed-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) administration fee

Reports and Other Technical Documents

Table 2: Technical Reports

Technical documents	Compiled by	Date compiled
Appendix 1 - Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment Report	James Dabrowski (Confluent Environmental)	March 2026
Appendix 2 - Engineering Services Report	Lyners	September 2025
Appendix 3 – Stormwater Management Plans	James Dabrowski (Confluent Environmental)	July 2026
Appendix 4 – Public Participation Report	James Dabrowski (Confluent Environmental)	July 2026
WULA Summary Report	James Dabrowski (Confluent Environmental)	July 2026

6. Project Description

Sewage Line Upgrade

The upgrade will involve replacing two sections of an existing bulk sewer pipeline with a larger diameter PVC-U Class 34 pipe (Figure 2). The southern alignment will be upgraded to a 400 mm diameter and the northern alignment to a 500 mm diameter.

Stormwater Outlets

The location of existing stormwater outlets that will be upgraded are indicated in Figure 2. Upgrades will involve constructing headwall outlets, energy dissipation basins and a 9 x 3 m gabion mattress for erosion protection (Figure 3). These will replace existing outlets which currently have no headwalls and no erosion protection. This has resulted in the formation of erosion gulleys below the outlet which have become informal waste dumping areas (Figure 4).

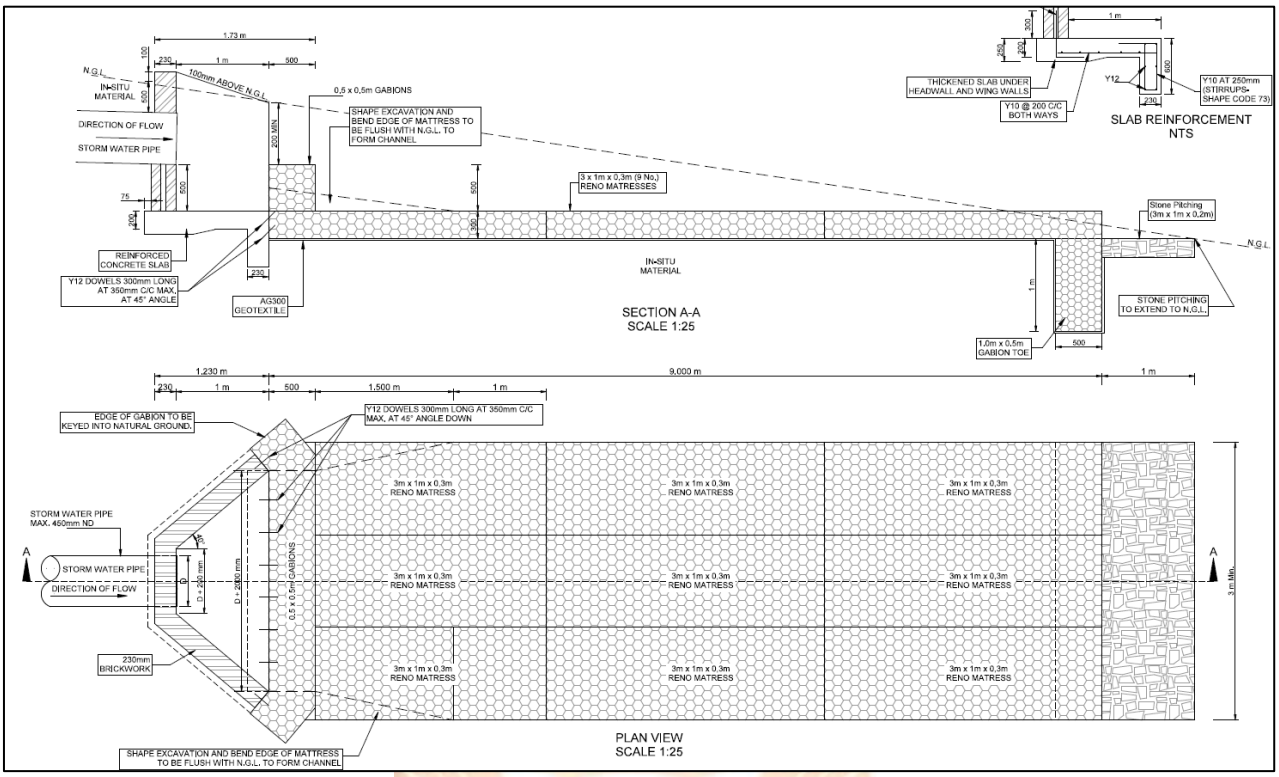

Figure 3: Plan and section view of proposed upgrades to existing stormwater outlets.

Figure 4: An example of an existing stormwater outlet with no headwall and no erosion protection.

7. Methods Statement

7.1 Bulk Sewage Pipeline

According to the engineering report, a conventional open-cut trenching has been proposed for the sewer pipeline construction method citing the following advantages:

- **Versatility:** Open-cut trenching is applicable to a wide range of pipe materials, sizes, and soil conditions. It can be used for various types of pipes, including PVC, HDPE, concrete, and metal, making it a versatile method for different projects.

- **Accessibility:** With open-cut trenching, the entire length of the pipe is accessible for inspection, repair, or replacement. This allows for comprehensive assessments of the pipe condition and facilitates accurate measurements and fittings during installation.
- **Cost-effective for certain scenarios:** In some cases, conventional pipe excavation can be more cost-effective than trenchless methods. If the project involves short pipe runs or areas with easy access and minimal obstructions, open-cut trenching may require fewer specialized equipment and skilled labour, resulting in lower overall costs.
- **Simplicity:** Open-cut trenching is a straightforward and well-established method. Contractors and workers are generally familiar with the process, and it can be easier to plan and execute in certain cases compared to trenchless techniques

Conventional open-trench excavations are most commonly used for all pipeline installations. This method involves digging a trench along the pipeline route to accommodate the pipe and related structures. The following is a typical overview of the process:

- **Planning:** Determine the pipeline route, considering factors like terrain, existing services, and environmental considerations if applicable. Obtain necessary permits and wayleaves etc.
- **Excavation:** Use sufficient machinery, such as excavators, to dig an open trench along the planned route. The trench's dimensions depend on pipe size, depth requirements, and soil conditions.
- **Support and shoring:** If required install support structures like trench boxes or shoring systems to prevent cave-ins and ensure worker safety. This is particularly important for deep excavations or unstable soil.
- **Pipe Installation:** Lay the water/sewer/stormwater pipeline into the trench, ensuring proper alignment and grade. Connect pipe sections using appropriate fittings and jointing methods.
- **Backfilling:** Once the pipe is in place, backfill the trench with suitable materials, such as compacted soil, gravel, layer works etc. This provides support, protects the pipe, and restores the ground surface.
- **Compaction and Restoration:** Compact the backfilled materials to ensure stability and minimize settling. Restore the surface areas to its previous condition, including e.g., grassing or repaving affected areas.

7.2 Stormwater Headwall Outlets

Site Establishment

- Demarcate the approved construction footprint using danger tape or fencing.
- Clearly demarcate the wetland no-go area.
- Establish designated:
    - Material storage areas
    - Refuelling areas
    - Concrete washout area
    - Waste storage area
- Install temporary access routes.

No construction activities shall occur outside the approved footprint.

Environmental Protection Measures

Before construction begins:

- Install silt fences.
- Install sediment traps.
- Install straw wattles where necessary.
- Install diversion berms upslope.
- Protect nearby vegetation.
- Ensure spill kits are available.

Vegetation Clearing

- Remove vegetation only within the approved footprint.
- Minimise disturbance.
- Stockpile topsoil separately.
- Retain indigenous vegetation outside the footprint.

No burning of vegetation is permitted.

Excavation

- Excavate foundations to the required depth.
- Avoid over-excavation.
- Stabilise excavation sides where necessary.
- Dewater only if unavoidable.

If groundwater is encountered:

- Pump water into a sediment tank or settlement basin.
- No direct discharge into the wetland.

Foundation Preparation

- Trim excavation.
- Compact founding level.
- Install blinding layer if specified.
- Place reinforcement.
- Install formwork.

Concrete Placement

- Concrete shall be delivered directly into formwork.
- Prevent concrete entering the wetland.
- Concrete trucks shall remain outside the wetland.
- Vibrate concrete appropriately.
- Cure concrete according to specifications.

Concrete wash water shall never be discharged into the wetland.

Outlet Protection

After curing install erosion protection such as:

- Rock riprap
- Reno mattresses
- Gabions
- Energy dissipaters
- Concrete apron

All rock shall be durable and appropriately sized.

Backfilling

- Use approved material.
- Compact in layers.
- Restore original ground profile.
- Replace stockpiled topsoil.

Avoid excessive compaction outside the footprint.

Rehabilitation

Immediately after construction:

- Loosen compacted soil.
- Replace topsoil.
- Replant disturbed areas with indigenous wetland species where appropriate.
- Install erosion-control blankets on steep slopes.
- Water vegetation if required.

Site Clean-up

- Remove excess material.
- Remove temporary fencing where appropriate.
- Remove sediment control measures once vegetation is established.
- Dispose of waste at licensed facilities.

8. Stormwater Management Plan

The purpose of the stormwater management plan (SWMP) is to manage stormwater during construction to prevent erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and pollution of the adjacent watercourse, while ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and best practice (see Appendix 3).

8.1 Objectives

The objectives of the SWMP are to:

- Prevent sediment-laden runoff entering the watercourse.
- Minimise erosion of exposed soils.
- Maintain the natural drainage patterns as far as practical.
- Prevent flooding of excavated areas (e.g trenches and foundations).
- Protect the ecological integrity of the watercourse.
- Rehabilitate disturbed areas promptly.

8.2 Scope

This plan applies to all construction activities associated with:

- Sewer trench excavation.
- Pipe laying.
- Manhole construction.
- Temporary access roads.
- Stockpile areas.
- Dewatering activities.
- Construction camps and laydown areas adjacent to the wetland.

8.3 Potential Stormwater Impacts

Stormwater impacts during the construction phase are associated with increased surface runoff from cleared surfaces and include the following:

- Soil erosion.
- Sediment entering the watercourse.
- Trench wash-outs.
- Flooding of excavations.
- Pollution from fuels, cement or sewage.
- Instability of stream banks.
- Damage to existing drainage systems.

8.4 Stormwater Management Principles

Construction activities must follow the following hierarchy:

- Minimise the disturbance area and clearing of vegetation as a priority.
- Divert clean runoff away from active works/excavated areas using temporary stormwater controls.
- Contain dirty water using temporary stormwater controls.
- Remove sediment before discharge of stormwater into the environment.
- Stabilise disturbed surfaces immediately.
- Rehabilitate progressively.

8.5 Construction Planning

Construction activities should be planned to minimise the extent and duration of excavated areas being exposed to stormwater runoff. The following should be considered:

- Undertake construction during the dry season where practicable.
- Construction must be planned to minimise the duration of open trenches.
- Avoid simultaneous excavation of long pipeline sections.
- Limit trench lengths to those that can be completed within one working day where feasible.
- Complete reinstatement immediately after installation.

8.6 Temporary Stormwater Controls

Diversion Berms

Temporary earth berms can be installed upslope to divert clean stormwater around the construction area. These berms must meet the following requirements:

- Stable side slopes.
- Regular maintenance.
- Discharge onto vegetated areas.

Cut-off Drains

Temporary cut-off drains can be used to intercept upslope runoff and divert it around construction areas.

- Drain outlets must discharge into stable vegetated areas or sediment traps.

Sandbags

Sandbags may be used to:

- Divert runoff.
- Protect trench entrances.
- Prevent stormwater entering excavations.

8.7 Sediment Control Measures

The following controls shall be installed before earthworks commence.

Silt Fences

Install silt fences:

- Along the downslope edge of disturbed areas.
- Adjacent to stockpiles.
- Between the works and the watercourse.
- Silt fences must be inspected weekly and after rainfall.

Sediment Traps

- Construct temporary sediment traps where runoff concentrates.
- Sediment shall be removed when storage reaches approximately 30% of trap capacity.

Geotextile Protection

Geotextile must be used beneath:

- Riprap.
- Temporary outlet protection.
- High-risk slopes.

8.8 Trench Water Management

Groundwater and stormwater accumulating in excavations shall be managed by:

- Pumping into sediment tanks or settlement ponds.
- Allowing suspended solids to settle.
- Discharging only clear water onto stable vegetated areas.
- No untreated water shall be discharged directly into the watercourse.

8.9 Excavation Protection

Open trenches shall:

- Be covered where practical before rainfall.
- Have temporary diversion berms installed upslope.
- Be protected using sandbags during storm events.
- Excavations shall not remain open during periods of heavy rainfall.

8.10 Stockpile Management

Topsoil and excavated material shall:

- Be located outside the delineated area of the wet.
- Be protected using silt fencing.
- Be covered if rain is forecast.
- Be shaped to reduce erosion.
- Stockpiles shall not obstruct natural drainage.

8.11 Concrete Works

Concrete activities include:

- Manhole construction.
- Pipe encasement.
- Headwalls.
- Anchor blocks.

Requirements:

- No concrete wash water into the watercourse.
- Concrete washout area to be established at least 50 m from the delineated edge of the wetland.
- Collect and dispose of wash water appropriately.
- Protect fresh concrete from rainfall runoff.

8.12 Fuel and Chemical Management

Fuel storage must:

- Be located at least 50 m from the delineated edge of any watercourse.
- Be placed within bunded areas.
- Have spill kits available.
- Refuelling shall only occur in designated areas.
- Any spills shall be cleaned immediately.

8.13 Existing Drainage

Existing stormwater systems shall remain operational throughout construction. Where temporary diversion is necessary:

- Install temporary pipes.
- Maintain hydraulic capacity.
- Reinstate immediately after construction.

8.14 Erosion Protection

Areas susceptible to erosion shall receive:

- Geotextile.
- Riprap.
- Reno mattresses where specified.
- Grass seeding.
- Hydroseeding where appropriate.
- Erosion control blankets.

8.15 Rainfall Response Plan

Prior to heavy rain the Contractor must:

- Stop excavation if required.
- Secure stockpiles.
- Inspect silt fences.
- Protect trench ends.
- Remove loose material.
- Inspect diversion berms.

During heavy rain construction must cease if:

- Unsafe conditions develop.
- Flooding occurs.
- Water quality is threatened.

After Rainfall

- Inspect:
    - Silt fences.
    - Sediment traps.
    - Diversion drains.
    - Culverts.

    - Trench stability.
    - Watercourse.
- Repair damage immediately.

8.16 Monitoring and Inspection

The Contractor must inspect stormwater controls:

- Daily during active works.
- Weekly.
- Before forecast rainfall.
- After rainfall events exceeding 10 mm in 24 hours.
- Following significant storm events.

The ECO shall undertake weekly environmental inspections and compile compliance reports.

8.17 Emergency Response

The Contractor shall implement emergency procedures for:

- Major sediment releases.
- Flood damage.
- Fuel spills.
- Sewer spills.
- Trench collapse.

Emergency equipment shall include:

- Spill kits.
- Sandbags.
- Plastic sheeting.
- Pumps.
- Silt fencing.
- Emergency contact list.

9. Rehabilitation Plan

The upgrade of a section of the bulk sewage pipeline that runs through part of a seep wetland has the potential to cause temporary disturbance to wetland soils, vegetation, hydrology, and ecological functioning. This plan provides measures to restore the affected wetland to a stable and acceptable condition following construction.

The rehabilitation philosophy is based on:

- Minimising the area of disturbance;
- Progressive rehabilitation immediately following construction;
- Restoring natural wetland hydrology;
- Re-establishing indigenous wetland vegetation;
- Preventing erosion and sedimentation;
- Controlling invasive alien plant species; and
- Monitoring rehabilitation success until ecological recovery is demonstrated.

9.1 Rehabilitation Objectives

The objectives of rehabilitation are to:

- Restore the original wetland landform and micro-topography.
- Reinstate natural surface water flow paths.
- Reinstate subsurface hydrological connectivity.
- Restore wetland ecological functioning.
- Minimise soil compaction.
- Prevent erosion.
- Restore indigenous wetland vegetation.
- Prevent colonisation by alien invasive plants.
- Ensure no long-term impacts on wetland ecosystem services.

9.2 Rehabilitation Principles

The following principles shall apply throughout construction:

- Disturb only the approved construction footprint.
- Store topsoil separately.
- Minimise construction duration within the wetland.
- Backfill trenches immediately following pipe installation.
- Commence rehabilitation immediately after each completed section.
- Restore all disturbed areas before moving to the next section where practical.

9.3 Pre-Construction Requirements

Prior to commencement the following must be undertaken within the section of wetland traversed by the sewage pipeline:

<u>Vegetation</u>

- Identify sensitive plant communities.
- Mark areas that must not be disturbed.
- Salvage suitable indigenous wetland vegetation where feasible.
- Collect seed or rhizomes from local wetland species for replanting.

<u>Topsoil</u>

- Strip approximately 150–300 mm of topsoil (depending on site conditions). It is recommended that a top layer of vegetation in association with the top soil should be removed and set aside for replanting or covering the backfilled in trench. Topsoil shall:
    - Remain separate from subsoil;
    - Not be mixed with spoil;
    - Not exceed 2 m stockpile height;
    - Remain outside the wetland where practicable; and
    - Be protected from erosion.

<u>Wetland Delineation</u>

The wetland boundary shall be pegged by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). No construction outside the approved alignment of the pipeline shall be permitted.

9.4 Construction Phase Rehabilitation

Trench Excavation

Excavation shall be undertaken in short sections (preferably ≤ 30–50 m open at any one time) to minimise disturbance. Measures include the following:

- Immediate backfilling after pipe installation.
- Prevent prolonged exposure of excavated soils.
- Separate storage of topsoil and subsoil.
- Prevent sidewall collapse.
- Dewater only where necessary.

Soil Replacement

Following installation:

- Replace subsoil first.
- Replace topsoil to original depth.
- Restore original soil horizons.
- Avoid excessive compaction.
- Rip compacted areas if required.

Wetland Surface Restoration

Following backfilling:

Restore:

- Hummocks;
- Depressions;
- Micro-topography;
- Natural slope.

Avoid creating:

- Berms;
- Artificial channels;
- Depressions that trap water;
- Raised ridges.

9.5 Hydrological Rehabilitation

Maintaining wetland hydrology is the most critical aspect of rehabilitation. The following measures shall be implemented:

Surface Flow

Restore:

- Natural flow direction;
- Drainage lines;
- Diffuse flow;
- Seasonal inundation areas.

No permanent diversion of flow shall occur.

Sub-surface Flow

Where organic rich soils occur:

- Replace soils in original sequence.
- Avoid compacting saturated soils.
- Restore groundwater movement across the trench.

Trench backfill shall not form a subsurface barrier to groundwater movement.

9.6 Erosion Control

Immediately following rehabilitation install the following where required:

- Biodegradable erosion-control blankets;
- Coir matting;
- Jute mesh;
- Brush packing;
- Mulch;
- Temporary silt fences;
- Straw bales.

These measures shall remain until vegetation has established.

9.7 Wetland Vegetation Rehabilitation

General

Only indigenous wetland species naturally occurring within the George area shall be used. Preference shall be given to:

- Salvaged plants;
- Locally collected seed;
- Local nursery stock.

No horticultural cultivars shall be introduced.

Recommended Plant Species

Species	**Density**
Zantedeschia aethiopica	2–3 plants/m²
Kniphofia uvaria	2–3 plants/m²
Wachendorfia thyrsiflora	2–3 plants/m²
Dietes bicolor	6–8 plants/m²
Cliffortia odorata	1 plant per 2–3 m²
Psoralea pinnata	1 plant per 2–3 m²
Helichrysum cymosum	6–8 plants/m²

9.8 Alien Invasive Plant Control

Monitor disturbed areas monthly. The following must be removed immediately:

- Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)
- Bugweed (*Solanum mauritianum*)
- Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)
- Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Castor-oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*)

Follow-up clearing shall continue for at least 12 months.

9.9 Waste Removal

Upon completion remove:

- Excess spoil;
- Concrete waste;
- Pipe offcuts;
- Timber;
- Geotextile offcuts;
- Litter;
- Temporary fencing;
- Construction markers.

No waste shall remain within the wetland.

9.10 Rehabilitation Monitoring

During Construction

Inspect weekly for:

- Erosion;
- Sediment movement;
- Vegetation disturbance;
- Pollution;
- Trench settlement.

Post Construction

Monitoring should occur:

- Monthly for six months;
- Quarterly until 24 months after construction;
- After major rainfall events (>25 mm in 24 hours).

Monitoring should assess:

- Vegetation establishment;
- Invasive alien plants;
- Erosion;
- Settlement;
- Hydrological connectivity;
- Wetland saturation;
- Sediment deposition.

9.11 Success Criteria

Rehabilitation shall be considered successful when:

- No active erosion is present.
- No sediment enters downstream wetlands or watercourses.
- Original wetland topography has been restored.
- Surface water flow follows natural pathways.
- Groundwater movement is not impeded.
- At least 80% indigenous vegetation cover has been established within 12 months.
- No significant trench settlement is evident.
- Invasive alien plants account for less than 5% cover.
- Wetland ecological functioning is comparable to adjacent undisturbed areas.

9.12 Maintenance

Maintenance shall continue for a minimum of **24 months** and include:

- Replacing dead plants.
- Repairing erosion damage.
- Filling settlement depressions.
- Re-seeding bare areas.
- Watering plants during establishment if required.
- Removing invasive alien vegetation.
- Maintaining erosion-control structures until vegetation is self-sustaining.

9.13 Roles and Responsibilities

Contractor	Implement rehabilitation measures, minimise disturbance, undertake progressive rehabilitation, and maintain rehabilitated areas during construction.
Environmental Control Officer (ECO)	Monitor compliance, inspect rehabilitation works, approve reinstatement of wetland areas, and recommend corrective actions where necessary.
Site Engineer	Ensure construction methods comply with specifications, verify trench backfilling and compaction, and certify rehabilitation works.
Wetland Specialist	Advise on vegetation salvage, hydrological restoration, species selection, and evaluate rehabilitation success through post-construction monitoring.
Employer/Project Manager	Provide adequate resources, ensure contractual compliance, and oversee implementation of the rehabilitation plan.
Contractor	Implement rehabilitation measures, minimise disturbance, undertake progressive rehabilitation, and maintain rehabilitated areas during construction.

10. Water Uses Applied For

Table 3: Water Uses

Water use(s) activities	Purpose	Dimensions	Property Description	Co-ordinates	
Section 21(c)					
North Sewage Line	Construction of Bulk Sewage Line (500 mm diameter)	150 m	Erf RE/464	22.484788	-33.97191
South Sewage Line	Construction of Bulk Sewage Line (400 mm diameter)	1300 m	Erf RE/8596	22.48042	-33.981856
South Sewage Line	Construction of Bulk Sewage Line across drainage (400 mm diameter)	1300 m	Erf RE/8662	22.482668	-33.981485
North Sewage Line	Operation of Bulk Sewage Line (500 mm diameter)	150 m	Erf RE/464	22.484788	-33.97191
South Sewage Line	Operation of Bulk Sewage Line (400 mm diameter)	1300 m	Erf RE/8596	22.48042	-33.981856
Section 21(i)					
SO1	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8596	22.477986	-33.980434
SO2	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8596	22.480667	-33.981809
SO3	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8662	22.481923	-33.982669
SO4	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8662	22.482173	-33.982547
SO5	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8662	22.482453	-33.981753
SO6	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8662	22.48287	-33.981862
SO7	Stormwater Outlet	3 x 9 x 1 m	Erf RE/8662	22.483016	-33.982864

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11. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

As highlighted in Figure 2, the pipeline and stormwater outlets are located immediately adjacent to or intersect with delineated wetland habitat. Construction activities can therefore impact the wetland and mitigation measures must be implemented in order to avoid and/or minimize these impacts (Table 4).

Table 4: Summary of impacts and mitigation measures

Water Use activity	Possible causes of impacts to the water resources	Possible Impacts to the water resource and other water users	Mitigation Measures
CONSTRUCTION PHASE			
Construction of Sewer Pipeline & Stormwater Outlets	• Leakage of fuels, oils etc. from vehicles and machinery	• Pollution of adjacent watercourses	• Excavators and all other machinery and vehicles must be checked for oil and fuel leaks daily. No machinery or vehicles with leaks are permitted to work in the wetland; • Refuelling and fuel storage areas, and areas used for the servicing or parking of vehicles and machinery, must be located on impervious bases and should have bunds around them (sized to contain 110 % of the tank capacity) to contain any possible spills; • Construction areas to be inspected on a regular basis (at least weekly) by an appropriately qualified ECO for signs of disturbance, sedimentation and pollution during the construction phase. If signs of disturbance, sedimentation or pollution are noted, immediate action should be taken to remedy the situation and, if necessary, a freshwater ecologist should be consulted for advice on the most suitable remediation measures.
	• Excavation of trench, laydown and stockpile areas	• Mobilisation of sediment	• Construction activities must be timed to coincide with low rainfall probability (dry season) to avoid erosion of exposed banks; • A silt fence must be placed downslope of the trench, along the length of the pipeline alignment; • Construction must be sequenced so that installation of the pipeline can take place with the minimum possible delay. Disturbance/excavation of areas where the pipeline is to be installed must be undertaken only when final placement can follow immediately following the initial disturbance; • A construction schedule must be developed and clearly defined so as to avoid multiple sites being exposed and unattended to at any moment in time. The completion date for each phase of development must be indicated and all clearing, excavation, and stabilisation operations must be completed before moving onto the next phase; • Following backfilling of the trench, exposed unvegetated slopes must be stabilised with appropriate geotextiles (e.g. SoilSaver®) or vegetated with appropriate indigenous vegetation. Banks must be regraded to match existing slopes/contours; and • Wooden stakes must be used to anchor erosion control mats as there is a high probability that metal stakes will be stolen. • Position stockpiles on level, stable ground where possible. • Select locations that minimise the risk of runoff reaching the wetland. • Clearly demarcate approved stockpile areas before construction commences. • Restrict stockpiles to designated areas identified in the construction layout plan.
		• Disturbance of Wetland Habitat	• Construction within wetland seep areas must be confined to clearly demarcated areas so as to prevent unnecessary disturbance of wetland habitat outside of these areas; • Where crossing through delineated wetland habitat is unavoidable, use less disruptive methods if these are feasible. For example, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) can be used to install the pipeline beneath the wetland, avoiding surface disturbance; • Restrict construction activities to designated corridors and limit vehicle and equipment movement to reduce soil compaction and habitat damage; • Rehabilitation of disturbed wetland areas must be actively undertaken. The pipeline route is currently well covered by indigenous wetland vegetation which could be used to revegetate

Water Use activity	Possible causes of impacts to the water resources	Possible Impacts to the water resource and other water users	Mitigation Measures
CONSTRUCTION PHASE			
			the trench post-construction. It is recommended that when trenching, a top layer of vegetation in association with 20-30 cm of soil should be removed and set aside for replanting or covering the backfilled in trench; • During excavation of the trench, topsoil and subsoil must be separated and, when backfilled, must be replaced in sequence (i.e. subsoil followed by topsoil); and • Once construction has been completed, the trench must be backfilled and the original topography, soil structure, and hydrology must be restored as much as possible to ensure water can flow freely and the vegetation can re-establish. • No laydown areas, stockpiling of construction materials or excavated topsoil is permitted within delineated wetland areas;
	• Sanitation for construction workers	• Pollution and degradation of habitat quality	• Chemical toilets should be provided on-site at 1 toilet per 10 persons; • Waste from chemical toilets must be disposed of regularly (at least once a week) in a responsible manner by a registered waste contractor;
	• Dumping of excavated material into the watercourse; • Poor management of waste generated during construction activities;	• Degradation of habitat quality	• Workers must be properly instructed in the proper care of the environment, especially with respect to poaching, disturbance of nesting and roosting areas, disposal of human waste, garbage etc.; • No dumping of waste materials in the watercourse; • The watercourse should be inspected on a regular basis (at least weekly) by an appropriately qualified ECO for signs of disturbance, sedimentation and pollution during the construction phase. If signs of disturbance, sedimentation or pollution are noted, immediate action should be taken to remedy the situation and, if necessary, a freshwater ecologist should be consulted for advice on the most suitable remediation measures.
	• Mixing of concrete or cement in or in close proximity to watercourses.	• Pollution and degradation of habitat quality	• Cement/concrete used in the construction must not be mixed on bare ground or within the watercourse. An impermeable/bunded area must be established in such a way that cement slurry, runoff and cement water will be contained and will not flow into the surrounding environment, the stream or riparian zone or contaminate the soil;
OPERATIONAL PHASE			
Operation of Upgrade Sewage Pipeline	• Sewage Spills	• Sewage leaks into the environment,	• The pipeline must be inspected on a routine basis to ensure that is free of any blockages and debris and is operating according to design specifications
Operation of Stormwater Outlets	• Stormwater flows directed towards aquatic habitat	• Erosion of watercourses	• The stormwater outlet structures must be inspected on a routine basis to ensure that is free of any blockages and debris and is operating according to design specifications; • The bed and banks of the river must be routinely inspected (especially following heavy rainfall events) to ensure that the outlet structure is not causing unnecessary erosion of the bed and banks of the river. Any erosion observed must immediately be attended to through appointment of a suitably qualified aquatic specialist; • All gabion structures must be inspected on a routine basis to ensure that the baskets are intact and that rocks have not displaced. Any faults must be immediately repaired; and • Gabion structures must be lined with geotextiles to prevent the migration of fines that would otherwise undermine these structures.

12. Water Demand and Water supply

Not applicable

13. Public Participation

A 60-day public participation for the WULA commenced on the 21st of May of 2026 and ran till the 20th of July 2026. No comments were received during this period (see Appendix 4).

14. Section 27 (1)

The requirements contained in Section 27(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) have been considered and are discussed further below.

a) Existing lawful water uses

Not applicable, as the water use license will be for Section 21 (c) and 21 (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

b) Need to redress the results of past racial and gender discrimination

The water use is not specifically targeted at redressing past racial or gender discrimination. The main beneficiaries of this project will be the residents of Rosemoor which is considered a lower- to middle-income residential suburb. The water use is considered to be in the best interests of the Rosemoor community and the broader general public – which includes people of all races and gender.

c) Efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest

George Municipality originally identified only the need to upgrade the stormwater infrastructure and associated streets in the Municipality after severe flooding in numerous areas following heavy rainfall. A Stormwater Masterplan was developed by Nadeson Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd in 2020 to analyse the catchments, identify problematic areas and proposed upgrades to the stormwater system (both low and high priority). After initial investigations and discussions with the Directorate's operational teams, it became evident that there are significant challenges within the existing stormwater, water, and sewer reticulation networks across the entire suburb of Rosemoor. While large sections of the water reticulation network have previously been upgraded, pockets of asbestos cement pipes still remain and need to be replaced as the pipes are identified. The sewer reticulation network consists of SANTAR pipes, which have reached the end of their service life. With the commencement of the GIPTN road upgrades project in the area, it soon became apparent that these sewer pipes are prone to collapse due to their deteriorated condition, with some being over 40 years old.

d) Socio-economic impact –

Rosemoor is a well-established residential suburb situated on the southern side of George, within the George municipal area. Historically developed as a lower- to middle-income residential neighbourhood, Rosemoor continues to play an important role in providing affordable housing close to employment opportunities in the George urban area. The suburb is characterised by a predominantly residential land use pattern, with supporting schools, community facilities, places of worship, and neighbourhood-scale commercial activities. The following socio-economic benefits are

anticipated:

- **Improved public health:** A reliable bulk sewer system significantly reduces the risk of sewer blockages, overflows, and leaks that can expose residents to untreated sewage. This reduces the incidence of waterborne and sanitation-related diseases, improves hygiene, and creates a healthier living environment, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Benefits include:
    - Reduced exposure to pathogens.
    - Improved community sanitation.
    - Lower public health risks.
    - Reduced healthcare costs associated with sewage-related illnesses.

- **Improved environmental quality:** Rosemoor lies within a catchment where stormwater and drainage systems ultimately discharge into nearby watercourses. Upgrading the sewer pipeline reduces the likelihood of sewage entering rivers, wetlands, and groundwater through pipeline failures or overflows. Upgrading stormwater outlets will avoid continued erosion of steep embankments and minimize sedimentation into water resources. Environmental benefits include:
    - Protection of surface and groundwater resources.
    - Improved ecological health of nearby watercourses.
    - Reduced pollution incidents.
    - Compliance with environmental legislation.

  The George Municipality has identified upgraded sewer and stormwater infrastructure as a key measure to reduce pollution risks and secure long-term environmental sustainability.

- **Increased reliability of municipal services:** Much of the existing sewer infrastructure in older residential areas is approaching the end of its design life. Upgrading the bulk sewer line improves service reliability by:
    - Reducing pipe failures.
    - Minimising emergency repairs.
    - Decreasing sewer blockages.
    - Improving operational efficiency.

  Residents benefit from fewer service interruptions and improved confidence in municipal service delivery.

- **Capacity to accommodate future growth:** George is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the Western Cape. Population growth, residential densification, and commercial expansion continue to increase wastewater flows. Increasing the capacity of the bulk sewer line will:
    - Accommodate future residential development.
    - Support infill housing projects.
    - Enable commercial and mixed-use development.
    - Prevent future capacity constraints.

  This aligns with the municipality's long-term investment in bulk water and sanitation infrastructure to support future growth.

- **Support for economic development:** Reliable engineering infrastructure is fundamental to local economic development. Adequate sewer capacity enables:

- New housing developments.
- Commercial investment.
- Tourism-related development.
- Small business growth.
- Industrial expansion.

Infrastructure constraints are often a limiting factor for development approvals. Increasing sewer capacity removes one of these constraints and supports sustainable economic growth.

- **Increased property values:** Well-maintained municipal infrastructure generally contributes to:
  - Increased property values.
  - Greater investor confidence.
  - Improved neighbourhood attractiveness.
  - Increased private investment.

  Reliable municipal services are a significant consideration for both homeowners and developers.

- **Employment creation:** Construction of the upgraded sewer pipeline and stormwater outlets provides temporary employment opportunities during the implementation phase. Potential benefits include:
  - Employment for local labour.
  - Opportunities for local contractors.
  - Skills development.
  - Procurement from local suppliers.
  - Increased spending within the local economy.

Large municipal infrastructure programmes in George have also highlighted local job creation and skills development as important socio-economic outcomes.

- **Reduced municipal operating costs:** Replacing ageing infrastructure can reduce:
  - Emergency maintenance costs.
  - Frequency of repairs.
  - Energy consumption at pump stations (where applicable).
  - Sewage spill response costs.
  - Insurance and liability risks.

  These savings allow municipal resources to be redirected towards other service delivery priorities.

- **Improved social well-being:** Reliable sanitation infrastructure contributes to improved quality of life by:
  - Enhancing neighbourhood amenity.
  - Eliminating unpleasant odours associated with sewer failures.
  - Improving public confidence in municipal governance.
  - Supporting safer and cleaner public spaces.

- **Improved resilience to climate change:** Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of intense rainfall events in the Garden Route. Upgraded sewer infrastructure is generally more resilient to:
  - Hydraulic overloading.

- Infiltration and inflow during storms.
- Flood-related damage.
- Climate-related infrastructure failures.

This improves the long-term resilience of essential municipal services.

e) Any catchment management strategy applicable to the relevant water resource

The properties fall within the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA). The vision of the BOCMA Catchment Management Strategy is captured by:

"Quality water, for all, forever"

This can be reflected by the mission which is to:

- Ensure quality water for all people and the environment
- Address water allocation reform
- Ensure good administration of registration and licensing
- Inspire change in attitudes towards the environment
- Promote economic growth in a sustainable way

So that:

- The developmental needs of the people are addressed and contribute to the eradication of poverty
- Water allocation is fairly, equitably and well controlled, while maintaining the integrity of the natural resource
- The ecosystem is managed in a sustainable manner, and
- All stakeholders are allowed a voice in how water resources are managed

The water use license application process has been implemented to ensure that water use activities are authorised in a manner that achieves these broad mission statements, particularly the mission of ensuring healthy water resources and allocating water for all forever.

f) Likely effect of the water use to be authorized on the water resource and on other water users.

Upgrading the bulk sewage pipeline will significantly reduce the likelihood of sewage spills in the future and is designed to accommodate the increasing population growth in the area. This is considered a positive benefit to water resources through reducing the risk of pollution events and deterioration in water quality. Similarly, upgrading of stormwater outlets minimises erosion of the embankment and

g) Class and the resource quality objectives of the water resource

The site to be developed falls within quaternary catchment K30B (**Error! Reference source not found.**), in the Breede-Olifants Water Management Area. The quaternary catchment falls within the G15 Coastal Integrated Unit of Analysis (IUA). The Water Resource Class for this IUA is II, indicating moderate protection and moderate utilisation. Main rivers falling within the IUA are the Gwaing River, with a Target Ecological Category (TEC) D. The proposed mitigation and rehabilitation measures are aimed at maintaining and improving the ecological integrity and function of wetland habitat and are therefore unlikely to result in a deterioration in the TEC.

RQO's are defined as clear goals (numerical or descriptive statements) relating to the quality of a water resource and are set in accordance to the management class for the resource to ensure the water resource is protected. The purpose of RQO's is to set clear objectives for the resource against which water use licenses and the related impacts can be evaluated and managed to achieve a balance between the need to protect and utilise the resource. No specific RQOs have been set for the watercourse in which the proposed water uses will occur.

h) Investments already made and to be made by the water user in respect of the water use in question

The total preliminary cost estimate is approximately R 50 000 000.

i) Strategic importance of the water use to be authorised

The proposed upgrade of the bulk sewer pipeline is strongly aligned with the strategic objectives, infrastructure priorities and service delivery commitments contained within the George Municipality 2022–2027 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and associated Sewer Master Plan.

The IDP recognises that George is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the Western Cape, with continued residential, commercial and industrial expansion placing increasing pressure on existing municipal engineering infrastructure. To accommodate this growth, while maintaining acceptable levels of service, the municipality has identified the upgrading of bulk sewer infrastructure as a strategic priority. The Sewer Master Plan specifically identifies inadequate capacity within sections of the existing bulk sewer network and recommends the construction and upgrading of bulk sewer pipelines and associated infrastructure to meet both current and future wastewater demands. The proposed upgrade is therefore motivated by the following IDP objectives:

- **Provision of Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure:** The IDP prioritises the provision of reliable, resilient and sustainable engineering services that support existing communities while accommodating future growth. Upgrading the bulk sewer pipeline will increase hydraulic capacity, improve system reliability and reduce the risk of sewer overflows and infrastructure failures, thereby supporting the municipality's long-term infrastructure planning objectives.

- **Supporting Population Growth and Urban Development:** George continues to experience sustained population growth and increased urbanisation, resulting in higher wastewater flows. The existing sewer network was not designed to accommodate the anticipated future demand associated with residential expansion, commercial development and economic growth. The proposed upgrade forms part of the municipality's planned infrastructure investment programme to ensure sufficient bulk sewer capacity for future development.

- **Improving Service Delivery:** A key strategic objective of the IDP is to improve basic service delivery through the maintenance, renewal and expansion of municipal infrastructure. Increasing the capacity and reliability of the bulk sewer pipeline will improve sanitation services to existing residents while providing additional capacity for future consumers. This contributes directly to improved public health and quality of life.

- **Protection of the Environment:** The IDP places considerable emphasis on environmental sustainability and the protection of natural resources. An ageing or overloaded sewer system increases the likelihood of sewer blockages, pump failures and sewage spills, which may

contaminate rivers, wetlands and groundwater resources. Upgrading the bulk sewer pipeline will reduce these risks and assist the municipality in complying with environmental legislation and protecting sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

- **Supporting Economic Development:** Reliable municipal infrastructure is fundamental to economic growth and investment. The IDP recognises that adequate bulk engineering services are essential for attracting new investment, supporting tourism, facilitating commercial and industrial development and enabling housing delivery. The proposed pipeline upgrade will therefore contribute towards creating an enabling environment for continued economic development within George.

- **Implementation of the Sewer Master Plan:** The George Municipality Sewer Master Plan, incorporated into the IDP, identifies numerous projects aimed at upgrading bulk sewer pipelines, pump stations and wastewater treatment works. The Water Services Development Plan specifically notes that the municipality must address the inadequate capacity of bulk sewer pipelines and sewer drainage networks by implementing future bulk sewer infrastructure projects for George and Wilderness.

- **Infrastructure Asset Management:** The IDP promotes proactive asset management through the rehabilitation and replacement of ageing municipal infrastructure before significant failures occur. Upgrading the existing bulk sewer pipeline forms part of this preventative approach by improving operational efficiency, reducing maintenance requirements and extending the service life of the municipal sewer network.

j) The quality of water in the water resource which may be required for the Reserve and for meeting international obligations

It is not foreseen that there will be a significant impact on downstream water quality or quantity in the watercourse. The primary objective of the development is to upgrade sewage infrastructure and minimise risks of sewage spills in the future. The proposal is therefore likely to result in an improvement of water quality through mitigating this risk.

k) Probable duration of any undertaking for which a water use is to be authorised

The duration of this water use is permanent.

christiaan@sescc.net

From:	christiaan@sescc.net
Sent:	Friday, 07 August 2026 08:46
To:	christiaan@sescc.net
Subject:	FW: FW: Proof of Receipt of your Technical Report (WU47142)
Attachments:	Rosemoor Final WULA Technical Report.pdf

From: James Dabrowski
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 3:51 PM
To: 'christiaan@sescc.net' <christiaan@sescc.net>
Cc: 'michael@sescc.net' <michael@sescc.net>
Subject: RE: Proof of Receipt of your Technical Report (WU47142)

Hi Christiaan

Rosemoor WULA has been submitted. I've attached a copy of the summary report.

Regards

James

confluent biodiversity specialists 10 Year Anniversary

Dr. James Dabrowski

Director & Aquatic Specialist
Pr. Sci. Nat. (Water Resource & Ecology)

7 St. Johns Street
Dormehls Drift,
George, 6529

+27 83 557 5688
james@confluent.co.za
www.confluent.co.za

From: Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za <Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 3:46 PM
To: James Dabrowski <james@confluent.co.za>
Subject: Proof of Receipt of your Technical Report (WU47142)

PROOF OF RECEIPT OF YOUR TECHNICAL REPORT TO SUPPORT YOUR WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT 36 OF 1998), BOCMA - Breede-Olifants - Worcester.

Rosemoor Sewage Upgrade
Ref No: WU47142

The Department of Water and Sanitation hereby acknowledges receipt of your technical reports that support your water use licence application that is received on **31 Oct 2025**.

A formal letter will be sent to you in no later than **5 days** of receipt of this letter to either accept or reject your application with reasons.

Click Here to access the Application

Kind Regards,

e-WULAAS on Behalf of **Department of Water and Sanitation**

Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001
Sedibeng Building, 185 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 336 7500
Fax: (012) 323-4472
Website: www.dws.gov.za
Email: E-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za

water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

e-WULAAS

In e-WULAAS Notifications

christiaan@sescc.net

From: James Dabrowski <james@confluent.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 11:55
To: christiaan@sescc.net
Subject: Fw: Application Notification (WU47142)

Hi Christiaan

See proof of submission for Rosemoor sewage upgrade attached.

Regards

James

Get Outlook for Android

From: Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za <Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 1:41:03 PM
To: James Dabrowski <james@confluent.co.za>
Cc: CRautenbach <CRautenbach@bocma.co.za>; cabrahams@bocma.co.za <cabrahams@bocma.co.za>
Subject: Application Notification (WU47142)

Dear Dr James Dabrowski,

The following application has reference :

Rosemoor Sewage Upgrade (WU47142)

The reason for the notification is as follows :

PROOF OF RECEIPT OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM TO APPLY FOR A WATER USE LICENCE IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT 36 OF .1998), Breede-Olifants - Worcester

WSP : GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY : Rosemoor Sewage Upgrade
Ref No : WU47142

The Department of Water and Sanitation hereby acknowledges receipt of your application to apply for a water use licence that was received on **31 Oct 2025**.

A formal letter will be sent to you no later than 7 days of receipt of this letter to arrange for a site inspection or provide you with a list additional documents required to complete your technical report.

You received this email from :

Name : Mrs Coreen Rautenbach (Regional Admin/WUAAAC)
e-Mail : crautenbach@bocma.co.za
Tel : 0233468020

Click Here to access the Application

Kind Regards,

e-WULAAS on Behalf of **Department of Water and Sanitation**

Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001
Sedibeng Building, 185 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 336 7500
Fax: (012) 323-4472
Website: www.dws.gov.za
Email: E-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za

water & sanitation
Department:
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e-WULAAS