

Nicole Loser

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**PROPOSED MOKOLO CROCODILE (WEST) WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT PHASE 2:
STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

This serves as an update on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Mokolo Crocodile (West) Water Augmentation Project Phase 2, which entails a transfer scheme from the Crocodile River (West) at Vlieëpoort near Thabazimbi to the Lephalale area (Limpopo Province).

To date we have completed the EIA Announcement phase, which included the following key tasks:

- Notification of the project through newspaper notices and onsite notices, as well as distributing a Background Information Document;
- Registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs);
- Convening an authorities meeting and a series of meetings with I&APs in May 2016; and
- Obtaining comments from authorities and I&APs.

A number of technical issues were raised, which require the necessary attention by various units within the Department of Water and Sanitation as well as members of the technical project team. Once the requisite preparations have been made, targeted meetings will be held with the irrigators, landowners and other I&APs as part of the ongoing public participation process. The draft Scoping Report will also be compiled and lodged for public review (scheduled to take place around April 2017), which will include another series of public meetings.

We will keep you posted as the EIA process unfolds.

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