

NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY



MEDIA STATEMENT: 21 APRIL 2021 **UPDATE ON PORT ALFRED EMERGENCY RO PLANT**

Project Summary

The project contractual commencement date was 10 December 2020 but on site the contractor commence in February 2021. Despite several challenges the project is progressing well and the works are of good quality. The project has unfortunately experienced several delays. These include a delay in the Department of labour issuing the work permit and the electrical supply. The anticipated completion date for the project is end of May 2021 with an anticipated 6 day extra up to the 6th of June for minor completion activities. Regular consultation is held with various departments, including Department of water and sanitation, Department of environmental affairs and other sector departments affected to ensure compliance with their requirements.

Funding

The project is being co-funded by COGTA, DWS and Ndlambe Municipality.

Seawater RO Plant

The main equipment for the seawater RO plant is on site. The tanks, UF container and RO container are in position. The connecting pipework and MCCs are expected to be delivered to site at the end of April 2021. In consultation with the appropriate government departments, the abstraction position was shifted 2.6 km upstream. The main reason for moving the abstraction position was due to environmental concerns. The trench to lay the abstraction pipeline has been completed. The abstraction pumpstation is on site.

Water Reclamation Plant

The main equipment for the seawater RO plant is on site. The tanks, UF container and RO containers are in position. The connecting pipework and MCCs are expected to be delivered to site at the end of April 2021. The success of the water reclamation RO plant is dependent on the inflow to the wastewater treatment works. A project is underway to refurbish several of the pump stations to ensure an inflow to the waste water treatment plant. Funding has been applied for to address additional pumpstations. The wastewater treatment plant is also being refurbished. Once sufficient inflow into the plant is achieved, the wastewater plant will need approximately 4-6 weeks to stabilise.

Risk Management

The contract is managed by Consultants using a FIDIC contract, all the contractual delays are managed through the contract processes following the signed contract between the parties. The contract includes the design, construction and operation of the works for a period of three years. The specialist contractor will provide process control services and the required training.

In terms of risk benefit, the project risks have been mitigated by means of transferring the operational and maintenance responsibility to the specialist contractor. This includes the operation of the wastewater treatment works to ensure the effluent received at the plant is of the required quality. Residual risks are considered acceptable to be managed and the following tests will be conducted during operation:

- Hourly electronic testing of critical elements
- Per shift testing at the onsite laboratory of water samples along the process train and
- Weekly testing by an approved external laboratory.

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ADV. R DUMEZWENI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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