

UPGRADING OF THE BULK WATER PIPELINE SYSTEM BETWEEN THE WESBANK RESERVOIR AND THE AREAS OF MALMESBURY AND ABBOTSDALE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Upgrading of the Bulk Water Supply from Wesbank Reservoir to Malmesbury and Abbottsdale is a strategic intervention to secure reliable water supply for growing urban, industrial, and rural communities within Swartland Municipality. The project delivers a new 355 mm HDPE bulk pipeline linking Wesbank Reservoir to the Old Malmesbury Road, strengthening the backbone of the municipal water system. It responds directly to rising demand driven by economic expansion and settlement growth, while addressing historical infrastructure constraints that limit equitable access to water. The upgrade enables long-term development, improves system resilience, and supports sustainable regional growth.

PROJECT STATUS



The project is informed by the Swartland Bulk Water Masterplan completed in 2020 and has progressed to preliminary design stage. The preliminary design report has been completed, confirming technical feasibility, route alignment, and future demand requirements. Detailed design and environmental authorisation are scheduled for the 2025/2026 financial year, including the Basic Assessment process and statutory approvals for national road and railway crossings. Construction is planned to commence in July 2026, subject to funding confirmation and regulatory approvals.

FINANCIAL NEEDS



Approximate value: R 19.71 million

This amount is inclusive of professional fees, contingencies, escalation, and VAT. Funding is proposed through a blended model comprising Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding and Swartland Municipality's own capital contribution. The required MIG allocation amounts to approximately R 15.37 million, with the municipality contributing approximately R 4.34 million. Funding is planned across the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years to align with design, procurement, and construction milestones.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITY



Private sector investors can engage through:

Professional engineering, environmental, and construction services supporting detailed design and delivery phases.

Supply and installation of specialised HDPE bulk water pipeline materials and associated infrastructure.

Construction partnerships for trenchless crossings beneath national roads, railways, and watercourses.

Long-term operations support, monitoring technologies, and maintenance advisory services post-construction.

KEY PARTIES



Swartland Municipality

Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) – Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) administrator

Civil Engineering Service Directorate (Swartland Municipality)

West Coast District Municipality

GLS Consulting (Bulk Water Masterplan)

BVI Consulting Engineers Western Cape (Pty) Ltd

Enviro EAP (Pty) Ltd

Department of Water and Sanitation

South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL)

Transnet

Affected communities of Malmesbury, Abbottsdale, Chatsworth, and Kalbaskraal

MAP OF THE PROJECT



Location of Swartland Municipality in the Western Cape leading to the bulk Pipeline Route Layout

The project route extends from the Wesbank Reservoir, tying in at the corner of Myrte Avenue and Alfa Street, running through Koljander Street, beneath the N7 highway, along Nywerheidsingel and Schoonspruitweg, crossing two railway lines and the Dieprivier, and connecting to the existing bulk main at Old Malmesbury Road.

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TIMELINE

Upgrading of Bulk Water Supply – Wesbank Reservoir to Malmesbury/Abbotsdale

Phase	Period	Key Activities	Status / Notes
Strategic planning	Jun - 20	Swartland Bulk Water Masterplan completed, identifying capacity constraints and future demand requirements for Malmesbury and Abbotsdale	Completed
Project initiation	2023 - 2024	Project scoped as priority bulk water intervention aligned to long-term infrastructure development strategy	Completed
Preliminary design	2024 / 2025	Hydraulic modelling, route identification, demand projections (3,055 kl/day), preliminary cost estimates	Completed
Funding preparation	2024 / 2025	Preparation of MIG technical report and supporting documentation for grant application	Completed
Detailed design	2025 / 2026	Final engineering design, construction drawings, technical specifications, procurement readiness	Planned
Environmental authorisation	2025 / 2026	Basic Assessment process under NEMA, including specialist inputs and public participation	Planned
Statutory approvals	2025 / 2026	Approvals from SANRAL (N7 crossing) and Transnet (railway crossings)	Planned
Procurement	Late 2025 / Early 2026	Appointment of contractors and suppliers following completion of approvals	Planned
Construction	Jul - 26	Site establishment and start of bulk pipeline installation	Planned
Construction phase	2026 - 2027 (or longer)*	Pipeline installation, road, railway and river crossings, pressure management infrastructure	Planned
Practical completion	April - May 2027*	System testing, commissioning, and integration into existing bulk network	Planned
Final close-out	2027 - 2028*	Defects liability period and final project close-out, if extended construction period applies	To be confirmed

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