



Republic of South Africa  
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

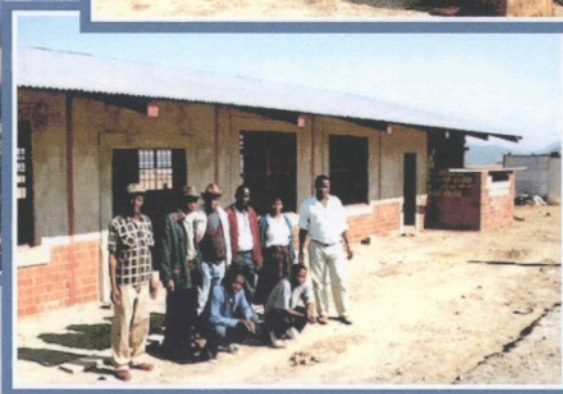


# THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

### MAIN REPORT

JULY 2000



Prepared by:  
ACER (Africa)  
Environmental  
Management Consultants  
PO Box 503  
Mtunzini 3867

Tel: (035) 340-2715

# **THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME**

## **MAIN REPORT**

July 2000

ACER (Africa) Environmental  
Management Consultants  
PO Box 503  
Mtunzini  
3867

**This report is to be referred in bibliographies as:**

**Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa. 2000. Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study. Public Involvement Programme - Main Report.** Prepared by ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants. **DWAF Report No. PB-V000-00-8900.**

THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants

July 2000

---

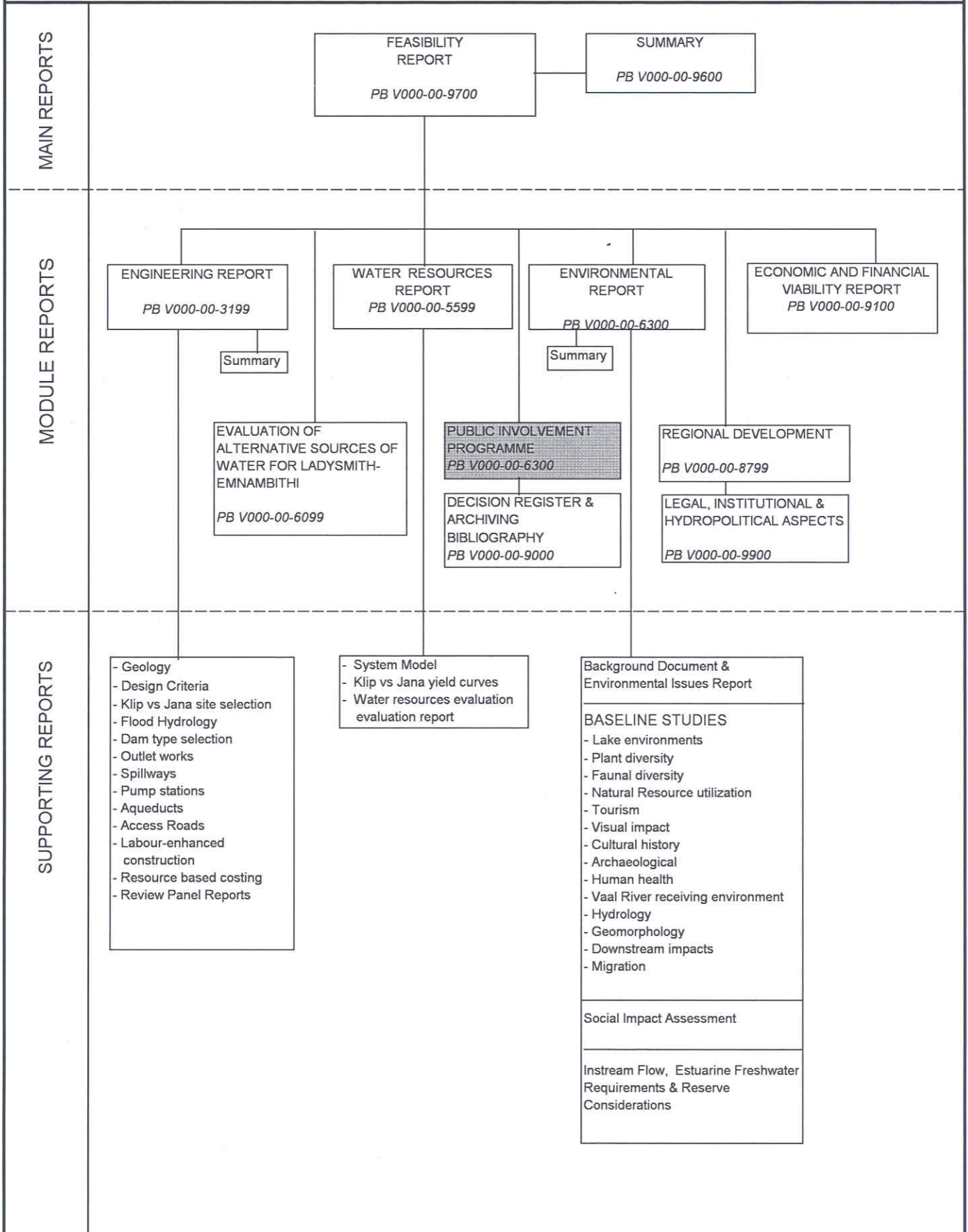
**Approved for ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants**



.....  
Dr R-D Heinsohn  
TEAM LEADER/MANAGING DIRECTOR

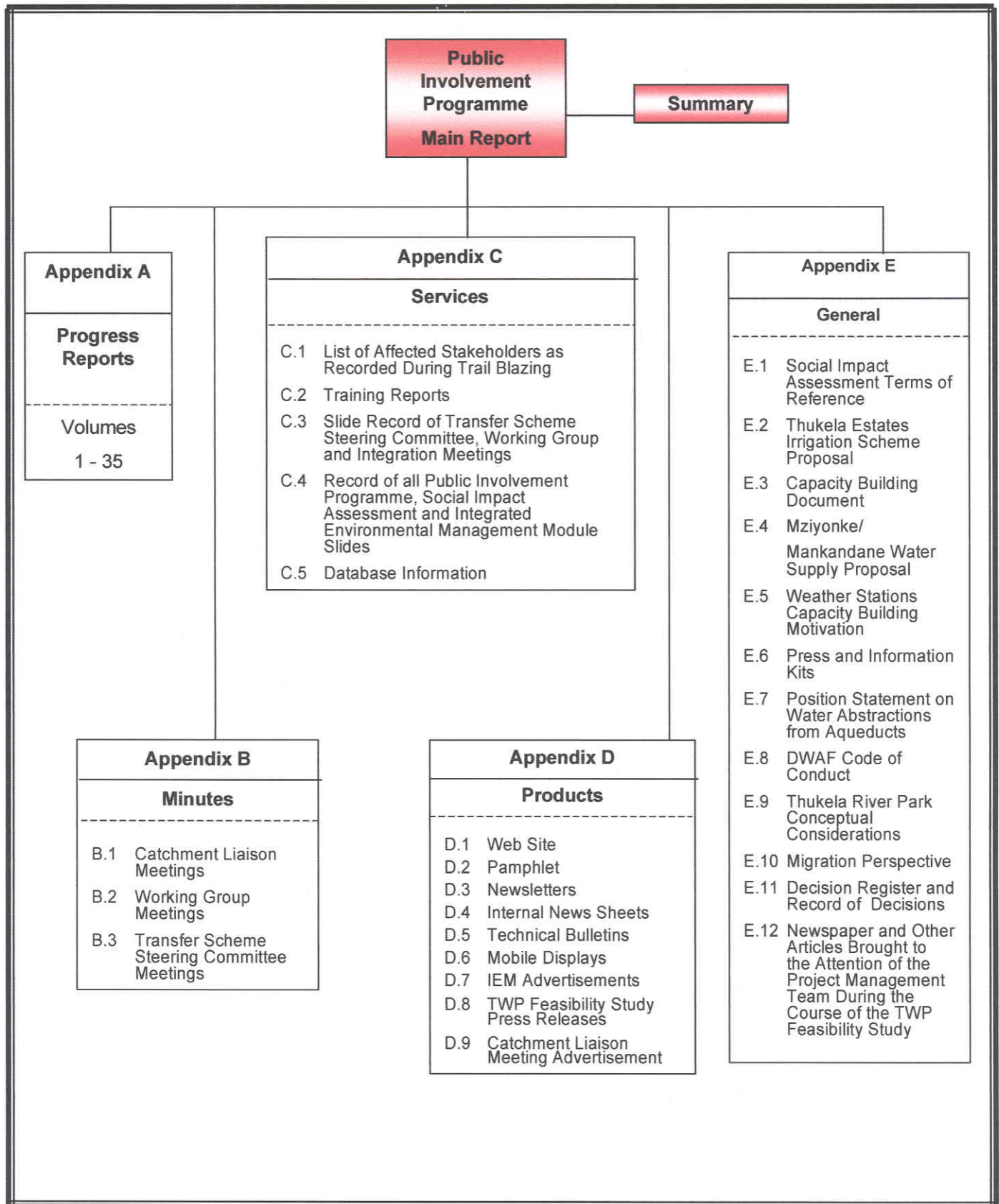
# THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

## STRUCTURE OF REPORTS



# THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

## STRUCTURE OF REPORTS



**Public Involvement Programme Main Report**

**Summary**

**Appendix A**

**Progress Reports**

---

Volumes  
1 - 35

**Appendix C**

**Services**

---

C.1 List of Affected Stakeholders as Recorded During Trail Blazing

C.2 Training Reports

C.3 Slide Record of Transfer Scheme Steering Committee, Working Group and Integration Meetings

C.4 Record of all Public Involvement Programme, Social Impact Assessment and Integrated Environmental Management Module Slides

C.5 Database Information

**Appendix E**

**General**

---

E.1 Social Impact Assessment Terms of Reference

E.2 Thukela Estates Irrigation Scheme Proposal

E.3 Capacity Building Document

E.4 Mziyonke/  
Mankandane Water Supply Proposal

E.5 Weather Stations Capacity Building Motivation

E.6 Press and Information Kits

E.7 Position Statement on Water Abstractions from Aqueducts

E.8 DWAF Code of Conduct

E.9 Thukela River Park Conceptual Considerations

E.10 Migration Perspective

E.11 Decision Register and Record of Decisions

E.12 Newspaper and Other Articles Brought to the Attention of the Project Management Team During the Course of the TWP Feasibility Study

**Appendix B**

**Minutes**

---

B.1 Catchment Liaison Meetings

B.2 Working Group Meetings

B.3 Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings

**Appendix D**

**Products**

---

D.1 Web Site

D.2 Pamphlet

D.3 Newsletters

D.4 Internal News Sheets

D.5 Technical Bulletins

D.6 Mobile Displays

D.7 IEM Advertisements

D.8 TWP Feasibility Study Press Releases

D.9 Catchment Liaison Meeting Advertisement

---

## **THUKELA WATER PROJECT – FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

During 1994, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry initiated an investigation to determine the most suitable option of augmenting water supply to the Vaal River System following the completion of Phases 1A and 1B of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The Thukela River option showed merit and, thus, an Interim Study was commissioned to better define development options in the Thukela River for investigation during a comprehensive Feasibility Study.

The Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study was commissioned in 1997 with most study teams commencing work in early 1998. The proposed scheme consisted of a dam in the Thukela River (either at the Jana or Klip site), a dam in the Bushman's River (Mielietuin site) and an aqueduct (either a canal, pipeline or a combination canal and pipeline) linking the dams to the existing Tugela-Vaal Transfer Scheme at Kilburn.

Public involvement is an integral component of Integrated Environmental Management, the principles of which have been embraced by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in all of its activities. Thus, ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants was appointed as Public Involvement Consultant to undertake public involvement for the duration of the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK AND RESULTS**

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism principles for public participation were adopted for the purposes of the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study Public Involvement Programme. In brief, these can be described as follows:

- The meaningful and timeous participation of Interested and Affected Parties.
- A focus on important (key) issues.
- The due consideration of alternatives.
- Accountability for information used for decision-making.
- Inclusivity.
- Encouragement of co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership.
- Dispute resolution.

Within the above principles, the duties and responsibilities of the Public Involvement Consultant ranged over a number of activities. Apart from introductions to stakeholders and assistance to study team members during field work, ACER was required to identify interested and affected parties and to facilitate their participation in the Feasibility Study process. To facilitate participation, information was disseminated to stakeholders via a number of methods, including pamphlets, newsletters and an Internet Web Site. Where there were capacity constraints to involvement, ACER was required to identify and recommend necessary training required to overcome constraints. In addition, ACER was involved in elements of public relations.

The operational strategy of the Public Involvement Programme is categorised best under “meetings, services, products and general activities”.

■ Meetings.

Three types of meetings were held during the course of the Feasibility Study:

- A Catchment Liaison Meeting was held in continuation of such meetings from previous study phases. However, attendance was poor and, on analysis, it was interpreted that Catchment Liaison Meetings were no longer an optimal method of engaging stakeholders. Alternatives, for example, a mobile poster display, were sought and successfully implemented.
- Working Group Meetings were held throughout the Feasibility Study with directly affected landowners and other interested parties. Working Groups were established for Bergville, Winterton, Colenso/Jana/Klip, Estcourt/Mielietuin/Weenen, the Thukela Biosphere Reserve and Mziyonke/Mankandane. Furthermore, in the first half of 1998, two additional Working Groups were convened, viz. Ladysmith/Emnambithi and Capacity Building Working Groups.
- The Transfer Scheme Steering Committee was established as an important advisory body to the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry. It consisted of a wide range of organisations, from government (national, provincial and local) and the private sector. Members received regular interim progress reports and provided guidance and recommendations to the Project Management Team. Apart from one site visit in February 2000, Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings were held biannually.

Apart from formal meetings organised under the auspices of the Thukela Water Project, the Public Involvement Consultant and the Project Co-ordinating Engineer held numerous meetings with the uThukela Regional Council, the Service Providers' Forum, local Tribal Authorities (for example, Mthembu Tribal Authority), the Emnambithi Regional Authority, Thukela Catchment Transitional Local Councils (for example, Weenen, Estcourt, Bergville,

---

Winterton, Colenso and Ladysmith), Development Forums (for example, Bethany), Environmental Forums (for example, Mandeni) and service organisations (for example, Ladysmith Rotary Club, Nambithi Rotary Club and the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

■ **Services.**

- ACER provided a range of services to study teams during the course of the Feasibility Study. Initially, and during the investigation of aqueduct alternatives, trial blazing and the identification of landowners and affected parties was of primary importance. Following on from this task was the role of facilitating introductions and guiding study team members during site visits. Although this benefited the entire study team, this aspect of work was particularly important in assisting Integrated Environmental Management team members, Environmental Specialists and Drilling Teams.
- The Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee was initially established by ACER, and identified as a stakeholder group requiring training to enable members to more effectively participate in the Feasibility Study. Two training workshops were conducted through an independent training consultant. Training included:
  - The functions of a committee.
  - Organising committee meetings.
  - Reporting information on the project back to community members.In addition, a site visit to the existing transfer scheme and two local dams was undertaken. Following training, the committee put together successful proposals to the uThukela Regional Council for community halls.
- Stakeholder correspondence and interaction has been ongoing throughout the Feasibility Study. All stakeholder interactions and details were recorded on a database that has over 1 000 individual stakeholders registered.
- A number of public relations activities such as the sponsoring and operating of a watering table at the 1999 Bergville/Ladysmith Marathon were also undertaken.

■ **Products.**

ACER produced a range of media and visual products to disseminate project information.

- A Thukela Water Project Web Site was established and updated during the course of the study. This is regarded as relatively unique for a project of this nature and, judging by the number of “strikes” proved valuable to stakeholders as a means of obtaining information.
- Six newsletters were produced in English and Zulu documenting project background, milestones and technical details, and were distributed to all stakeholders on the database as well as being placed in office receptions in the catchment and further

---

afield. Newsletters proved very valuable as a means of communicating regularly with the full complement of registered stakeholders.

- Two sets of mobile display posters were produced. The first set provided general project background and individual project components. This display was set up in libraries throughout the catchment, was displayed in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Pretoria, and was displayed in Ladysmith during a Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce and Industry function at which the French Ambassador to South Africa was a guest. The second mobile display showed a generic interaction of engineering, environmental investigations and public involvement modules over the course of a project's life cycle.
  - An internal Intranet was established to facilitate communication between study teams and study team members. The Intranet hosted a range of information, for example, minutes of Intermodule Meetings and Internal News Sheets.
  - Media releases from the project team were prepared and sent to local, provincial and national newspapers at appropriate times during the Feasibility Study. In addition, the Public Involvement Consultant provided inputs for a number of solicited and unsolicited media articles, for example, Engineering News and the Natal Witness, respectively.
  - Apart from a significant contribution to regional planning via inputs to the Service Providers' Forum, as part of its involvement in the Regional Development Module, ACER, in conjunction with the Project Co-ordinating Engineer, attended to the following:
    - Preparation and facilitation of a Regional Development Workshop.
    - Drafted a proposal for the rehabilitation of Thukela Estates Irrigation Scheme.
    - Assisted with the drafting of a proposal for improved community water supply in the Mziyonke and Mankandane areas.
    - Drafted a Capacity Building Document following the Capacity Building Workshops.
    - Drafted a proposal to utilise the operation of weather stations (required for the Thukela Water Project) as a capacity building opportunity.
    - Sponsored the course fees for a representative of the uThukela Regional Council to attend a course on Integrated Environmental Management.
- General.
- ACER prepared the first draft of the Social Impact Assessment Terms of Reference and assisted in the adjudication of proposals.
  - ACER prepared a position statement on the abstraction of water from aqueducts and also produced a code of conduct for study teams working on private property.

- 
- ACER drafted a document to further define the concept of a Thukela River Park and, in contribution to the Integrated Environmental Management Module, prepared a specialist perspective on the effect of the Thukela Water Project on the migration of people.
  - ACER also assisted the Project Management Team in the preparation of a draft format for the Decision Register and Records of Decisions.
  - Finally, the print media was scanned on an on-going basis, with articles of interest and relevance being forwarded to the Project Management Team for information and action (if necessary).

## DISCUSSION

It is the considered opinion of the Public Involvement Consultant that the Public Involvement Programme for the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study has achieved its aims and objectives, and, importantly, has successfully applied the principles of public participation as elucidated by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. This is evidenced by key aspects such as:

- A continuation of public involvement from the Pre-feasibility Study, through the Interim Study, to the Feasibility Study, with an ever increasing number of stakeholders participating as development proposals were formulated and elucidated.
- The provision of sufficient project information in an easily assimilable and understandable manner to enable the participation of stakeholders in the formulation of project alternatives, for example, the alignment of aqueducts.
- A clear and unambiguous focus on matters that were important at any given time during the study, for example, the Jana/Klip debate, aqueduct alignments and regional development, as described and discussed in information dissemination media at the time, for example, newsletters.
- The expenditure of significant resources during the consideration of alternatives, particularly as relates to aqueduct types and alignments.
- Particular attention to the detail of information used during decision-making in support of co-regulation, shared responsibility and sense of ownership, for example, the production of Technical Bulletins. Also, assistance was rendered to stakeholders in the preparation of material in support of stakeholder perspectives, for example, a perspective paper on Thukela River Park Conceptual Considerations.
- As and when disputes and conflicts arose, these were dealt with by the Public Involvement Consultant and the Project Co-ordinating Engineer.

#### WAY FORWARD

After a lengthy and inclusive Public Involvement Programme, ACER believes that stakeholders in the Thukela River Catchment have been afforded sufficient opportunity to participate meaningfully during the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study. In addition, stakeholders from further afield have also participated, but to a lesser degree of intensity. Various positive and negative issues and recommendations have been raised by stakeholders. These are not statements of fact but, rather, opinions and perspectives. Importantly, they have been addressed or accommodated within the feasibility study where applicable, appropriate and possible.

It is the understanding of the Public Involvement Consultant that the Thukela Water Project will probably proceed into further study phases. If this is the case, attention will need to be given to the broader base of interested parties who may wish to participate in future planning activities, for example, stakeholders in the receiving environment, viz. the Vaal River Supply Area. Provision for this has been encapsulated in a draft scope of work for future public involvement for the Thukela Water Project. However, if a decision is made not to proceed with the Thukela Water Project, public involvement activities will be wound down with all registered stakeholders being informed of the decision to cease investigations into the transfer of additional water from the Thukela River catchment to the Vaal River Supply Area.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT IDENTIFICATION .....	i
REFERENCE .....	ii
SIGNATORY PAGE.....	iii
TWP FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT STRUCTURE.....	iv
TWP FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT STRUCTURE.....	v
SUMMARY .....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xv
LIST OF TABLES .....	xvi
LIST OF PLATES .....	xvii
ACRONYMS .....	xviii

---

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>APPROACH AND DESCRIPTION OF THE THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Principles.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Description of Public Involvement Programme.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>4.2.1 Meetings .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	4.2.1.1 Catchment Liaison Meetings.....	5
	4.2.1.2 Working Group Meetings .....	7
	4.2.1.3 Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings.....	8
	4.2.1.4 Other .....	8
	<b>4.2.2 Services .....</b>	<b>12</b>
	4.2.2.1 Trail Blazing.....	12
	4.2.2.2 Introduction and Guide.....	13
	4.2.2.3 Training .....	13
	4.2.2.4 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution.....	14
	4.2.2.5 Visual Aid Material .....	15
	4.2.2.6 Database Management.....	15
	4.2.2.7 Public Relations .....	16
	4.2.2.8 Stakeholder Correspondence .....	16
	<b>4.2.3 Products.....</b>	<b>16</b>
	4.2.3.1 Web Site and Intranet .....	16
	4.2.3.2 Pamphlet.....	17
	4.2.3.3 Newsletters.....	17
	4.2.3.4 Internal News Sheets .....	19
	4.2.3.5 Technical Bulletins .....	19
	4.2.3.6 Mobile Display.....	19
	4.2.3.7 Media Releases .....	20
	<b>4.2.4 General .....</b>	<b>20</b>
	4.2.4.1 Social Impact Assessment Terms of Reference .....	21
	4.2.4.2 Regional Development Initiatives .....	21
	4.2.4.3 Press and Information Kits.....	22
	4.2.4.4 Position Statement on Abstractions from Aqueducts .....	22

---

---

	<i>4.2.4.5 DWAF Code of Conduct .....</i>	<i>23</i>
	<i>4.2.4.6 Thukela River Park Conceptual Considerations .....</i>	<i>23</i>
	<i>4.2.4.7 Migration Perspective .....</i>	<i>23</i>
	<i>4.2.4.8 Decision Register and Record of Decisions .....</i>	<i>24</i>
	<i>4.2.4.9 Media Scanning .....</i>	<i>24</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>WAY FORWARD .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>ANNEXURE 1 .....</b>	<b>28</b>

---

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 1</b>	<b>Thukela Water Project Scheme and Study Area.....</b>	<b>4</b>
-----------------	---	----------

---

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Details of the Fifth Catchment Liaison Meeting.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Details of Working Group Meetings held during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Table 3</b>	<b>Details of Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings held during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Table 4</b>	<b>Newsletters published during the TWP Feasibility Study .....</b>	<b>18</b>

---

## LIST OF PLATES

<b>Plate 1</b>	<b>Members of the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee outside the community hall (under construction) funded by the uThukela Regional Council after submission of a business plan compiled by the Development Committee following training provided as part of the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Plate 2</b>	<b>Resource users from Mziyonke and Mankandane .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Plate 3</b>	<b>Bergville/Ladysmith Marathon (1999) watering table .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Plate 4</b>	<b>Mobile Display in the Ladysmith Library.....</b>	<b>18</b>

---

## ACRONYMS

ACER	ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs & Forestry
GRP	Glass Reinforced Plastic
I&APs	Interested & Affected Parties
IEM	Integrated Environmental Management
PIC	Public Involvement Consultant
PIP	Public Involvement Programme
PMT	Project Management Team
TWP	Thukela Water Project

---

## **THUKELA WATER PROJECT – FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Since the commencement of investigations into options to further augment water supplies to the Vaal River Supply Area, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) has been committed to open and transparent communication with interested and affected parties. Furthermore, public involvement is an important component of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM), the principles of which are practised by the DWAF in all of its activities.

Accordingly, ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants (ACER) was appointed as the Public Involvement Consultant (PIC) to undertake public participation during the Thukela Water Project (TWP) Feasibility Study. ACER was appointed prior to the commencement of Feasibility Study investigations so as to provide continuity between the Pre-feasibility and the Feasibility Studies. This report details the work of the PIC from December 1996 to February 2000<sup>1</sup>.

### **2 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the Public Involvement Programme (PIP) were set as follows:

- With the assistance of team members from other modules, the on-going identification of stakeholders and their incorporation into the PIP and Feasibility Study processes.
- Maintain existing and establish new liaison channels with stakeholders and stakeholder groups (including pre- and post- Feasibility Study period). Assist stakeholder groups to nominate or elect a contact person through whom the PIC can operate and who should represent individual stakeholder groups at public gatherings, for example, Catchment Liaison Meetings.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public involvement will continue through to the completion of the TWP Feasibility Study in July 2000. Activities undertaken between March and July 2000 are described in Annexure 1.

- 
- Identify capacity constraints and, where necessary, address these through training and the provision of administrative, technical and logistical support to stakeholder groups to facilitate empowerment and participation in the PIP.
  - Act as facilitator, negotiator and mediator on behalf of the DWAF to identify and define the interests of all stakeholders. Where necessary, elicit technical support from the DWAF Project Manager, the Project Management Team (PMT) and individual study team members.
  - The arrangement, co-ordination, facilitation and documentation of all PIP activities, processes and results, including:
    - Catchment Liaison Meetings.
    - Working Group Meetings.
    - Individual contacts.
  - Facilitate field activities of professional and technical personnel involved in technical investigations as part of the Feasibility Study. In this regard, the PIC will act as a conduit for study teams working in the area.
  - Maintain public awareness of the proposed water project and Feasibility Study through a range of information dissemination activities, including:
    - Newsletters.
    - Internet Home Page and Web Site.
    - Technical Reports.
    - Public addresses to stakeholder interest groups.
    - Public relations.
    - Media relations (print, radio and television). In this aspect of the work, the PIC will be required to work in close co-operation with the Sub-Directorate Liaison Services of the DWAF.
  - Identification of opportunities for regional development within the Thukela Basin and contributions to the formation of strategies to stimulate the planning, design and implementation of projects/programmes.
  - Regular written reporting to the PMT (Appendix A).

### **3 BACKGROUND**

During 1994, DWAF initiated an investigation to determine the most suitable option of augmenting water supply to the Vaal River Supply Area following the completion of Phases 1A and 1B of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The Vaal Augmentation Planning Study involved the investigation of three primary (Upper Orange, Middle Orange and Thukela) and one secondary (Mzimvubu) sources. Comparable Reconnaissance and Pre-feasibility

Studies were conducted for each of the three primary catchments. The DWAF decided to continue with investigations of the Thukela and Middle Orange options. Considering the Thukela option only, an Interim Study was commissioned to better define development options in the Thukela River for investigation during a comprehensive Feasibility Study.

At the outset of the Reconnaissance Study, 73 potential dam sites in the Thukela Basin were investigated. Seventeen of these were selected for further evaluation during the Pre-feasibility Study. The balance of options was then narrowed down to that being investigated during the TWP Feasibility Study, namely, Klip or Jana (Thukela) and Mielietuin (Bushman's) Dams and associated linking aqueducts, as shown in Figure 1. Three aqueduct options, namely a canal, pipeline or combination canal/pipeline, were considered during the Feasibility Study. In addition, further investigation of the raising of Qedusizi Flood Attenuation Dam as well as the TWP's impact on future potential development of the northern tributaries of the Thukela River formed part of the Feasibility Study.

Importantly, public involvement activities commenced at the outset of the Reconnaissance Study, initially, with directly affected stakeholders and, later, with a wide range of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs). This demonstrates clearly the timeous involvement of I&APs as well as DWAF's commitment to inclusivity.

## **4 APPROACH AND DESCRIPTION OF THE THUKELA WATER PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME**

### **4.1 Principles**

As public participation is an integral part of Integrated Environmental Management, IEM principles relevant to public participation were adopted for the TWP Feasibility Study Public Involvement Programme. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (1998) has identified these as follows:

- Meaningful and timeous participation of I&APs.
- Focus on important (key) issues.
- Due consideration of alternatives.
- Accountability for information used for decision-making.
- Inclusivity (the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process).
- Encouragement of co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership.
- Dispute resolution.

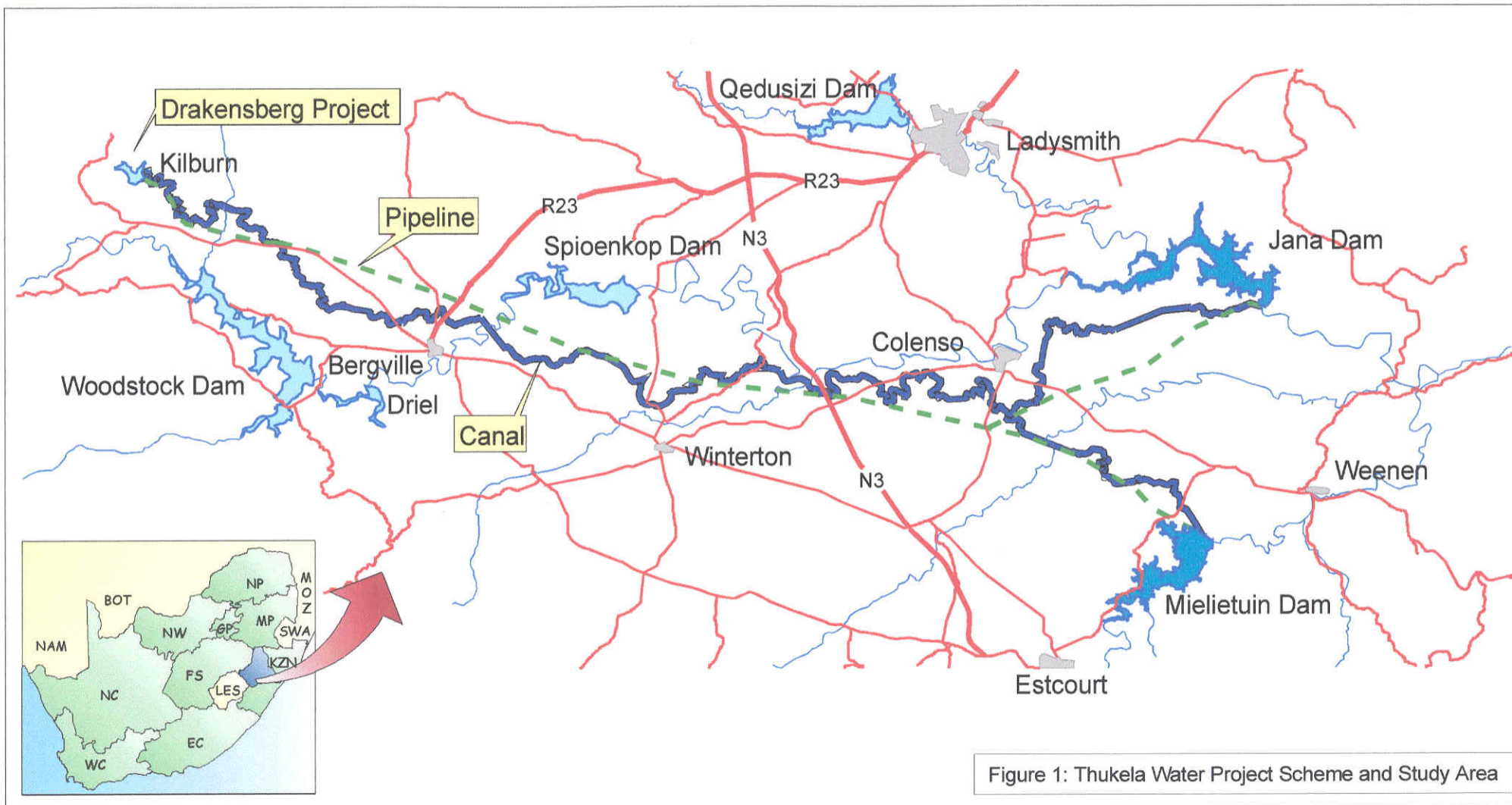


Figure 1: Thukela Water Project Scheme and Study Area

## **4.2 Description of Public Involvement Programme**

The internal and external communication functions provided during the Feasibility Study by the PIC, both proactive and reactive, and can be best described in terms of three categories:

- Meetings.
- Services.
- Products.

### **4.2.1 Meetings**

Three main kinds of stakeholder meetings were utilised during the Feasibility Study PIP, viz. Catchment Liaison Meetings, Working Group Meetings, and Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings.

#### *4.2.1.1 Catchment Liaison Meetings*

These meetings originated during the Reconnaissance Study when different river catchments were under investigation. During the Reconnaissance, Pre-feasibility and Interim Studies preceding the TWP Feasibility Study, four successful Catchment Liaison Meetings were held. However, despite advertising and personal invitations, attendance of the fifth Catchment Liaison Meeting in Ladysmith on 5 October 1999 was poor. It was scheduled to discuss general information with interested and affected parties regarding the outcome of Feasibility Study milestones. Examination of the poor attendance revealed that many of the original Catchment Liaison Meeting members had been incorporated into the Transfer Scheme Steering Committee or local Working Groups and, thus, were already sufficiently well informed of progress. Indeed, the Catchment Liaison Meeting had been preceded by a series of Working Group Meetings. Therefore, after deliberation between the PIC and the PMT, it was decided that there was no further need for Catchment Liaison Meetings during the TWP Feasibility Study.

However, there remained a need to reach a wider representation of the general public. This was achieved via the attendance by the PIC and the Project Co-ordinating Engineer of meetings of catchment institutions, organisations and forums (Section 4.2.1.4), the placing of advertisements in the national, regional and local media (as part of the IEM Module), placed and unsolicited media articles and the mobile display (Section 4.2.3.6).

Details and minutes of the Fifth Catchment Liaison Meeting are provided in Table 1 and Appendix B.1, respectively.

Table 1: Details of the Fifth Catchment Liaison Meeting.

Meeting	No of attendees*	Date	Purpose of Meeting
Catchment Liaison Meeting	3	October 1998	To inform the general public of progress with the TWP Feasibility Study and to provide an opportunity to I&APs to discuss the Jana/Klip milestone

\*Excluding members of the Study Team or Client



Plate 1 Members of the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee outside the community hall (under construction) funded by the uThukela Regional Council after submission of a business plan compiled by the Development Committee following training provided as part of the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study.

#### 4.2.1.2 Working Group Meetings

Working Group Meetings have been held with directly affected stakeholder groups in the Thukela Basin since November 1996<sup>2</sup>. Following on from the basis established during the Interim Study, for the duration of the TWP Feasibility Study, issues arising and project milestones have been discussed with the following Working Groups:

- Bergville.
- Winterton.
- Colenso/Jana/Klip.
- Mziyonke/Mankandane (Mthembu Tribal communities).
- Estcourt/Mielietuin<sup>3</sup>.
- Thukela Biosphere Reserve<sup>3</sup>.
- Ladysmith/Emnambithi.
- Capacity Building.

Stakeholders from Ladysmith and, in particular, those from local government and business, were invited to participate in the Ladysmith/Emnambithi and Capacity Building Working Groups that were initiated at the start of 1998. Stakeholders affected by the proposed Klip Dam were consulted during various community and committee meetings. After the decision to proceed only with investigation of the Jana Dam in the Thukela River, Klip stakeholders were informed of the decision and kept informed of project progress through newsletters, i.e. no further meetings were held with these stakeholders.

The aim of Working Group Meetings was to provide a forum at which I&APs and study team members could engage directly on issues of local interest and concern. This form of interaction with directly affected stakeholders proved very successful and contributed significantly to a sense of co-ownership of the different development alternatives proposed. For example, based on the consideration of numerous alternatives, the final alignments of aqueducts are the products of intensive stakeholder inputs married with technical, environmental (social and biophysical) and economic feasibility, and bear testimony to the

<sup>2</sup> The exception is the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee which was formed only in early 1998 following intensive efforts, over eight months, by the PIC, firstly, to gain access for project team members to tribal land and, secondly, to create a vehicle through which the people of Mziyonke and Mankandane could participate in the TWP Feasibility Study. It is important to note that the formation of the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee separate to the Jana/Klip Working Group was purely for logistical reasons, the driving time from one side of the Thukela River to the other being of the order of three hours. In addition, at the request of Nkosi Mthembu, the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee, although established under the aegis of the TWP Feasibility Study, has a wider operational focus and responsibility, particularly as relates to the development of the two communities.

<sup>3</sup> Including Weenen.

---

pivotal role played by stakeholders during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study. Information on Working Group Meetings held during the course of the Feasibility Study is provided in Table 2. Minutes of meetings are provided in Appendix B.2.

#### 4.2.1.3 *Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings*

The Transfer Scheme Steering Committee was established as an important advisory body to the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry. A wide range of organisations, including national, provincial and local government, and the private sector, were represented on the Transfer Scheme Steering Committee. The inaugural meeting was held in May 1997 and the committee continued into the Feasibility Study where it received regular interim progress reports and provided guidance to the study team. The committee met biannually (Table 3) and all members were given an opportunity to participate in a site visit. The PIC was responsible for the organisation of meetings, assistance with the setting of agendas and the preparation of meeting material, and the production and distribution of minutes. A complete set of minutes is provided in Appendix B.3.

#### 4.2.1.4 *Other*

Apart from formal meetings organised under the auspices of the Thukela Water Project, the Public Involvement Consultant and the Project Co-ordinating Engineer held enumerable meetings with various institutions, organisations and forums in the Thukela Catchment. Examples include:

- The uThukela Regional Council.
- The uThukela Regional Council's Service Providers' Forum<sup>4</sup>.
- Local Tribal Authorities, primarily the Mthembu Tribal Authority.
- The Emnambithi Regional Authority.
- Transitional Local Councils, most notably, Weenen, Estcourt, Bergville, Winterton, Colenso and Ladysmith.
- Development Forums, for example, Bethany.
- Environmental Forums, for example, Mandeni.
- Service organisations, for example, Ladysmith Rotary Club, Nambithi Rotary Club and the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

---

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, the Project Co-ordinating Engineer played a lead role in the successful establishment and operation of the Service Provider's Forum.

These meetings proved valuable for the dissemination of pertinent project information to enable meaningful participation by I&APs in an effort to strive for co-ownership of the proposed project as different project elements unfolded during the Feasibility Study process.

Table 2: Details of Working Group Meetings held during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study.

Working Group Meeting	No. of attendees*	Date	Purpose of Meeting
Ladysmith/ Emnambithi	6	January 1998	Introduction to the study and a description and discussion of aims and objectives
Ladysmith/ Emnambithi	6	February 1998	Presentation of the Inception Report and a discussion of preliminary options
Capacity Building	4	February 1998	Background and discussion on different capacity building strategies
Ladysmith/ Emnambithi	6	April 1998	A detailed presentation of options
Bergville	17	May 1998	General introduction of Feasibility Study and Study Team members. Discussion of concerns and anticipated Feasibility Study programme
Winterton	16		
Colenso/Jana/Klip	9		
Estcourt/Mielietuin	9		
Thukela Biosphere Reserve	23		
Mziyonke/ Mankandane	13		
Ladysmith/ Emnambithi	2	June 1998	Broad overview of the study, a discussion on a proposed presentation to the L/E TLC, and a description of the way forward
Capacity Building	4	June 1998	Capacity building opportunities and a discussion on the way forward
Colenso/Jana/Klip	5	October 1998	Presentation of first Feasibility Study milestone - Jana/Klip Decision
Bergville	13	December 1998	Alternative aqueduct route alignments. Meetings were held to discuss the alternative aqueduct routes investigated
Winterton	12		
Colenso/Jana	12		
Thukela Biosphere Reserve	5		

\*Excluding members of the Study Team or Client

Table 2: (continued.)

Working Group Meeting	No. of attendees*	Date	Purpose of Meeting
Estcourt/Mielietuin	9	May 1999	Confirmation of environmental issues particularly in regard to Mielietuin Dam
Bergville/Winterton	69	October 1999	General project update and information regarding the IEM Module re-alignment and way forward
Colenso/Jana	6		
Thukela Biosphere Reserve/ Estcourt/Mielietuin	11		
Mziyonke/ Mankandane	22		

\*Excluding members of the Study Team or Client



Plate 2 Resource users from Mziyonke and Mankandane.

Table 3: Details of Transfer Scheme Steering Committee Meetings held during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>No of attendees*</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>
Transfer Scheme Steering Committee	11	February 1998	General introduction of Feasibility Study and Study Team members. Discussion of concerns and anticipated Feasibility Study programme
	27	October 1998	Presentation of first Feasibility Study milestone - Jana/Klip information and recommendations
	23	February 1999	Presentation of aqueduct route selection process and proposed IEM Module realignment
	12	August 1999	General project progress
	22	February 2000	Presentation of preliminary findings and way forward for the remainder of the Feasibility Study

\*Excluding members of the Study Team or Client



Plate 3: Bergville/Ladysmith Marathon (1999) watering table.

#### **4.2.2 Services**

The PIC provided a range of services during the course of the Feasibility Study. These are described below.

##### **4.2.2.1 Trail Blazing**

Since 1996, work in identifying affected landowners has been ongoing. Apart from extensive trail blazing over a vast geographic area for the duration of the feasibility study, this work was particularly important in obtaining access to Mthembu tribal land, during the investigation of alternative aqueducts and aqueduct alignments, and during the identification of I&APs downstream of the proposed Jana and Mielietuin Dams. Stakeholder lists were compiled and distributed to study team members working in the area.

A breakdown of work which required trail blazing is as follows:

- North bank of the Jana and Klip Dams.
- Aqueduct alternatives.
  - Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) pipeline route.
  - Steel pipeline route, including three alternative routes through the Bergville/Bethany district.
  - Alternative canal alignment through the Winterton district.
  - Alternative canal alignment through the Thukela Biosphere Reserve.
  - Other minor alternatives at Jana Dam, Colenso and Kilburn.
- Pump stations and access roads.
- Road re-alignment at Mielietuin Dam.
- Stakeholders downstream of Jana Dam.
  - Regional Councils.
  - Tribal Authorities.
  - Town Councils.
  - Commercial business and agricultural water users.
  - Recreational and conservation water users.

A key feature of trail blazing was the early identification of affected stakeholders, firstly, to advise them of the proposed project and its affect on them, and, secondly, to facilitate their early involvement in the public involvement process. A complete list of stakeholders identified during trail blazing is provided in Appendix C.1.

#### 4.2.2.2 Introduction and Guide

The PIC has fulfilled the function of introducing study team members to catchment and local stakeholders. This function has proved to be valuable in that stakeholders are made aware of specialists requiring access to their land and consultants save valuable time whilst undertaking field work.

The PIC provided assistance to all team members, in particular:

- IEM Module and Environmental Specialist Teams:
  - KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Services.
  - Resource Economics Team.
  - Tourism Study Team.
  - Resource Utilisation Team.

- 
- Historical and Archaeological Study Teams.
  - Palaeontology Study Team.
  - Flora and Fauna Study Teams.
  - Social Impact Assessment Team.
  - PMT members, including representatives of the client.
  - Drilling Teams during investigations of:
    - Foundation conditions at Jana, Klip and Mielietuin Dam sites.
    - Quarry materials in Mziyonke.
    - Quarry materials in the Mielietuin Dam basin.
    - Geological foundation conditions of both canal and pipeline aqueducts.

#### 4.2.2.3 Training

The PIC met with stakeholder groups on the north bank of Jana Dam on numerous occasions to explain the purpose of the various study modules and to update them on progress. Furthermore, after assessing the need for additional training, the Mziyonke/Mankandane Development Committee participated in two training sessions conducted by an independent training consultant, viz. Babah Kamanga & Associates. Training focussed on the following:

- Functions of a committee.
- Roles, functions and responsibilities of committee members.
- Organising community meetings.
- Reporting committee meeting discussions back to community members and stimulating debate.
- How to prepare a motivation to the correct authorities for funding of a development project.

Training reports are provided in Appendix C.2.

Training proved to be valuable in assisting committee members to understand the project and their role within it as well as to stimulate development in their area. As a direct result of training received, the committee prepared successful proposals to the uThukela Regional Council to build community halls for the Mziyonke and Mankandane areas. In addition, the committee has submitted a business plan to the uThukela Regional Council for assistance with planning a secure domestic water supply system for both communities.

Lastly, committee members were also taken on a site visit to the existing Tugela-Vaal Transfer Scheme, Spioenkop Dam and the Qedusizi Flood Attenuation Dam.

#### *4.2.2.4 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution*

Although much of the PIC's work with stakeholders should be regarded as facilitation rather than negotiation, negotiation and conflict resolution services were required on some occasions, in particular, when attempting to gain access to the north side of Jana Dam. This area is AmaThembu tribal land and has been wracked with internal faction fighting for a number of years. The PIC was involved in lengthy negotiations with Nkosi Mthembu and senior tribal authority members to gain access to this area for study team members.

Furthermore, for the duration of the Feasibility Study, negotiation was required for occasional problems arising from drilling work, access and resulting disturbance to game hunting and river rafting clients.

Apart from complying with IEM public participation principles, negotiation and conflict resolution proved valuable to individual study team members, study teams, and the study as a whole, firstly, by resolving disputes before they reached unmanageable proportions and thereby enabling work to continue, secondly, by assisting conflicting parties to understand and respect other points of view, and, thirdly, by capacitating stakeholders and study team members alike.

#### *4.2.2.5 Visual Aid Material*

The PIC assisted study teams to standardise all presentation material. This entailed producing a slide template which was distributed to all teams, as well as assisting the Project Co-ordinating Engineer to produce an electronic presentation of the entire TWP Feasibility Study.

Furthermore, in support of accountability for information used during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study, a record of presentation slides used at meetings by various study modules was compiled and maintained. The record contains slides from Transfer Scheme Steering Committee, Working Group and Integration meetings (Appendix C.3) as well as copies of all Public Involvement Programme, Social Impact Assessment and Integrated Environmental Management Module slides (Appendix C.4).

#### 4.2.2.6 Database Management

A database, on which all stakeholders have been registered, was established. There are over 1 000 individual stakeholders registered and, importantly, all stakeholder contact has been recorded (Section 4.2.2.8).

Stakeholders have been classified in the following manner:

■	Affected stakeholders.....	361
■	Natural environment/conservation.....	98
■	Historical/archeological/social/cultural.....	19
■	Local government.....	179
■	National and provincial government.....	96
■	Organised business.....	77
■	Organised agriculture.....	13
■	General interest.....	169
■	Political parties.....	7
■	Media.....	9
■	Contractors/service providers.....	30
■	Key study team members.....	35 <sup>5</sup>
■	No longer affected.....	14

A detailed breakdown of the database is provided in Appendix C.5 (including an electronic version in Microsoft Access 97).

#### 4.2.2.7 Public Relations

Public relations undertaken by ACER during the course of the Feasibility Study were as follows:

- Arrangements for study teams to sponsor and operate a watering table for the 1999 Bergville/Ladysmith Marathon.
- Arrangements for study team members to raft the Thukela River with a commercial rafting operation directly affected by the proposed Jana Dam.
- Regular presentation of the TWP Feasibility Study during meetings of various

<sup>5</sup> For onward distribution to an additional 240 study team members.

---

institutions, organisations and forums in the Thukela Catchment, viz. the uThukela Regional Council, the uThukela Regional Council's Service Providers' Forum, local Tribal Authorities, the Emnambithi Regional Authority, Thukela Catchment Transitional Local Councils, Development Forums, Environmental Forums and service organisations (Section 4.2.1.4).

#### *4.2.2.8 Stakeholder Correspondence*

Stakeholder correspondence has been ongoing since the commencement of the TWP Feasibility Study PIP, primarily via information dissemination, in response to concerns, or for purposes of communicating with Working Group members in between scheduled meetings. All correspondence undertaken during the Feasibility Study is recorded on the TWP Database (Appendix C.5).

### **4.2.3 Products**

As part of the PIP, the PIC produced a range of products for information dissemination to a wide audience of interest groups. Each was prepared according to set schedules primarily to maintain a steady flow of information to I&APs, as well as to provide details and stimulate debate over major milestones in the study. These products are described below.

#### *4.2.3.1 Web Site and Intranet*

ACER produced the TWP Home Page and Web Site ([www-dwaf.pwv.gov.za/thukela](http://www-dwaf.pwv.gov.za/thukela)) as part of the DWAF Internet Site (Appendix D.1). This site provided background to the project and also hosted two finalised reports, viz. Evaluation of Alternative Sources of Water for the Ladysmith/Emnambithi Area, and the IEM Background Document and Environmental Issues Report. By the end of February 2000 there had been 274 visitors to the site.

Given its value, into the future, the intention is to update the web site, primarily to provide the results of the TWP Feasibility Study. This is expected to occur in May/June 2000.

In addition to the external web site, ACER, with assistance from the Project Co-ordinating Engineer, also produced a TWP Intranet site. Material hosted on this site included Internal News Sheets, minutes of intermodule meetings, PMT perspectives, for example, Abstractions from aqueducts, and draft reports as they became available. The Intranet can be regarded as a relatively unique service for a project of this nature. However, its value was great, particularly as related to assistance with the integration of material as it became available from the various study modules.

#### *4.2.3.2 Pamphlet*

A general background and introductory pamphlet (Appendix D.2) was produced and distributed to office reception areas around the study area, study team consulting offices in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Pretoria. In total, 2 000 pamphlets were distributed, 1 000 in English and 1 000 in Zulu. Importantly, the pamphlet served a useful purpose in providing timeous and accurate project information with which I&APs could commence their participation in the TWP Public Involvement Programme.

#### *4.2.3.3 Newsletters*

Regular newsletters, in English and Zulu, were produced from the commencement of Feasibility Study investigations. These were distributed by post to all registered individuals on the database and forwarded to update those new to the study. Six newsletters were produced during the course of the TWP Feasibility Study (Appendix D.3), usually 1 000 in English and 500 in Zulu. However, numbers printed in each language did vary occasionally.

The theme of each newsletter was selected to inform I&APs of recent project progress and milestones, as well as to provide general information, such as the details of the new Water Act. Judging by I&AP responses to newsletters (and their eagerness to receive them), a fair assessment is that newsletters served well the purposes of broad information dissemination and project progress updates, and, indeed, were well worth the production effort and cost. Details of the newsletters are provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Newsletters published during the TWP Feasibility Study.

Newsletter	Date of Publication	Major Theme
Newsletter 4 (English & Zulu)	October 1997	Background and TWP Feasibility Study Modules
Newsletter 5 (English & Zulu)	April 1998	Reporting Structures and In-basin Development
Newsletter 6 (English & Zulu)	August 1998	Working Group Meetings and Aqueduct Routes
Newsletter 7 (English)	December 1998	Integrated Environmental Management and National Water Act
Newsletter 8 (English)	April 1999	Regional Development and Scheme Layout
Newsletter 9 (English & Zulu)	September 1999	Capacity Building and River Protection
Newsletter 10 (English & Zulu)	December 1999	Environmental Issues and Technical Data on Pump stations and Aqueducts



Plate 4: Mobile Display in the Ladysmith Library.

#### 4.2.3.4 Internal News Sheets

To improve team interaction an internal news sheet was produced and sent via email to all study team members (Appendix D.4) (also, latterly hosted on the TWP Intranet site). These News Sheets dealt with background information relating to project decisions and aspects of a social nature. Dates of release were as follows:

■	News Sheet 1	August 1998.
■	News Sheet 2	November 1998.
■	News Sheet 3	December 1998.
■	News Sheet 4	March 1999.
■	News Sheet 5	May 1999.

#### 4.2.3.5 Technical Bulletins

Technical Bulletins (Appendix D.5.) were initially produced separately for distribution but were later provided as an insert in newsletters. This information was targeted at those stakeholders who desire information on the technical specifications of certain project components, such as dam heights, servitude widths and component costs. As with newsletters, a fair assessment is that Technical Bulletins served well the purposes of providing specific technical information to I&APs, and, indeed, were well worth the production effort and cost. Furthermore, the Technical Bulletins fulfilled a number of the requirements of IEM public participation principles.

#### 4.2.3.6 Mobile Display

Two Mobile Display presentations were produced during the TWP Feasibility Study.

- The first display, comprising 17 posters, was arranged in two parts:
  - An explanation of the background to the study and study modules.
  - Technical specifications and environmental impacts of proposed infrastructure.

This presentation was displayed for approximately two weeks in the libraries of Ladysmith, Bergville, Estcourt, Durban, Pietermaritzburg. It was also set up at the DWAF Residensie Building, Pretoria, as well as in Ladysmith during a Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce and Industry function at which the French Ambassador to South Africa was a guest.

- A second poster series showing a generic planning and integration process was produced for the DWAF and presented at the Steering Committee meeting in February 2000. This display illustrated the relationship and integration of the engineering, environmental and public involvement components of a project from inception to commissioning.

An A4 version of both Mobile Displays is included in Appendix D.6.

#### *4.2.3.7 Media Releases*

Media releases from the project team were prepared and sent to local, provincial and national newspapers at appropriate times during the Feasibility Study. Also, the PIC assisted the IEM Module with the national media advertisements of the project (Appendix D.7). These advertisements were placed in accordance with Regulation R 1183 of the Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989, and served the purpose of nationally advertising the TWP Feasibility Study.

At a local level, in March 1998 ACER placed an article in local papers circulated in the Thukela Catchment, namely, the Estcourt and Midlands News, and Ladysmith Gazette, on progress with drilling investigations. In November 1998 a general information article on the TWP Feasibility Study was placed in the same newspapers. A general information article with a map was prepared for the provincial paper, the Daily News, and was published in June 1999 (Appendix D.8).

All articles provided contact details so that interested and affected parties could contact ACER, the PIC. Furthermore, an advertisement inviting the general public to the Catchment Liaison Meeting (Section 4.2.1.1) was placed in the Estcourt and Midlands News, and Ladysmith Gazette (Appendix D.9).

Lastly, apart from placed media releases, there were a number of unsolicited media articles to which the PIC contributed. Examples include articles in the Engineering News, The Natal Witness and the Ladysmith Gazette.

#### **4.2.4 General**

During the course of the Feasibility Study, ACER prepared a range of documents to assist the PMT and other study teams. A list of general activities undertaken is described below.

#### 4.2.4.1 Social Impact Assessment Terms of Reference

Dr R-D Heinsohn, Team Leader for the PIP and member of the PMT, prepared the first draft of the Terms of Reference for the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix E.1) and assisted in the adjudication of proposals. This responsibility lapsed when the Social Impact Assessment component was taken over by the IEM Module Team Leader.

#### 4.2.4.2 Regional Development Initiatives

The following activities were undertaken by the PIC, mostly in close conjunction with the Project Co-ordinating Engineer, as part of its assistance to the Regional Development Module of the Feasibility Study:

- Thukela Estates Irrigation Scheme Proposal.  
ACER conducted a detailed *status quo* assessment and prepared a proposal for the rehabilitation of the Thukela Estates Irrigation Scheme for the purpose of stimulating regional development initiatives. This proposal was submitted to the KZN Department of Agriculture (Appendix E.2).
- Capacity Building Document.  
Following the Capacity Building Working Group meetings, ACER prepared a document to report on the proceedings and to stimulate further input and action (Appendix E.3). This report was submitted to the PMT and the Regional Development Task Team.
- Mziyonke/Mankandane Water Supply Proposal.  
On request of the Project Co-ordinating Engineer, ACER completed a comprehensive survey of the Mziyonke and Mankandane communities detailing individual houses, number of occupants and domestic water sources, to record the current primary water supply status (Appendix E.4). This information was used by the Project Co-ordinating Engineer and ACER to compile a proposal for the upgrading of the communities' water supply service. The proposal has been submitted to the uThukela Regional Council for its consideration.
- Regional Development Workshop.  
ACER arranged and facilitated a workshop on behalf of the Regional Development Module to discuss and workshop potential developmental spin-offs with regional stakeholders. The meeting was attended by 38 key stakeholders from the region.
- Weather Stations Capacity Building Motivation.  
The Project Co-ordinating Engineer identified Weather Stations as a potential capacity building opportunity, and requested ACER to assist with the compilation

---

of a motivation for consideration by the DWAF (Appendix E.5). This opportunity arose as the DWAF requires local climatological data for dam construction purposes and this data collection requirement could be used as a capacity building opportunity for one or more local community members.

■ Practical contribution to capacity building.

As part of its contribution to capacity building in the uThukela Regional Council, ACER sponsored the course fees for a representative of the Council to attend a course on Integrated Environmental Management. The three-day course was held under the aegis of the CSIR Environmentek, and positive feedback was received from the beneficiary.

In evaluation of the above efforts, it can be fairly stated that the efforts of the Project Co-ordinating Engineer and the PIC have contributed substantially to regional planning initiatives.

#### *4.2.4.3 Press and Information Kits*

ACER compiled Press and Information Kits for the purpose of providing, in one document, a comprehensive, yet brief, background of the TWP Feasibility Study. The kits comprised the past newsletters and the pamphlet (Appendix E.6).

#### *4.2.4.4 Position Statement on Abstractions from Aqueducts*

During the Pre-feasibility Study, the possibility that communities along aqueduct routes would be able to receive RDP water supply requirements out of canals was documented as one of the positive development spin-offs possible from the scheme. However, during the Feasibility Study it became necessary for the DWAF to clarify its position on abstractions from aqueducts. The essence is that, despite constraints, abstractions from aqueducts for domestic water supply remains an opportunity to be investigated on a case by case basis. In this regard, the DWAF is committed to finding the best solution for each scheme. This requires that the merits and demerits of all options be investigated to determine practicality, feasibility and viability. It is possible that aqueducts will not prove to be feasible and, therefore, it is the position of the DWAF that the TWP, through its Regional Development Task, should dovetail its intentions with those of Local and Provincial Government in support of Local and Regional Water Supply Schemes where ever these are established within the TWP's sphere of influence within the Thukela Catchment. Indeed, in order to maximise assurance of availability, existing and new storage units should be considered as priority sources of bulk water for primary water supply schemes. However, given that water treatment is expensive, preference should be given to using such sources of raw water for

---

regional or, at least, sub-regional water supply schemes. On a cautionary note in the light of uncertain timing of the TWP, the DWAF advises that such water supply schemes should not be premised on the TWP. Nevertheless, in the interest of responsible and sustainable development within the Thukela Catchment of KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere, wherever possible, DWAF will optimise its bulk water infrastructure in support of domestic water supply schemes.

This position statement was prepared by ACER on behalf of the PMT and DWAF (Appendix E.7).

#### *4.2.4.5 DWAF Code of Conduct*

As study team members, and in particular DWAF drillers, were to be working on private land, ACER drafted a TWP Code of Conduct to which team members were obliged to abide (Appendix E.8). This was distributed to all affected stakeholders.

In the case of landowners at the dam wall sites where lengthy drilling investigations were required, a landscape architect was contracted to ensure compliance to the Code of Conduct and the rehabilitation of the site on completion of the drilling assignments.

#### *4.2.4.6 Thukela River Park Conceptual Considerations*

During discussions at Working Groups meetings, and in particular, with the stakeholders opposed to Jana Dam, mention was often made of establishing a River Park to conserve this "wild and scenic" stretch of the Thukela River. To test the concept of a River Park and facilitate further discussion on this subject, ACER drafted a document to more clearly represent the idea behind a River Park, its purpose, and the effect of the Thukela Water Project on the establishment of a Thukela River Park (Appendix E.9).

#### *4.2.4.7 Migration Perspective*

During discussions to integrate specialist environmental information arising from the baseline studies, it became apparent that the migration of people, although referred to in other baseline studies, had not been considered in its own regard. ACER drafted a brief specialist perspective on the potential impacts of the proposed Thukela Water Project on migration (Appendix E.10).

#### 4.2.4.8 Decision Register and Record of Decisions

Given ACER's involvement from the commencement of investigations into the proposed Thukela Water Project, ACER was well placed to compile the draft format for the Decision Register and four Records of Decision for finalisation by the PMT and relevant study team leaders. These documents will form part of the TWP Record of Decision Report.

The Decision Register (Appendix E.11) is a proposed list of all significant decisions made during the Feasibility Study requiring a Record of Decision. The draft Records of Decision (Appendix E.11) that have been produced thus far are:

- The TWP Scheme Layout which documented alternatives investigated during the Reconnaissance and Pre-feasibility Studies, and decisions made in finalising a scheme layout leading up to Feasibility Study investigations.
- The Jana/Klip Decision which documented the selection process between the Jana and Klip Dam sites in the Thukela River.
- Aqueduct routes which documented the selection process between canal and pipeline alternative alignments.
- The realignment of the IEM Module which documented the change in focus undertaken by the IEM Module during the Feasibility Study.

Other Records of Decision, for example, dam type selection and aqueduct alignments, are presently in preparation.

#### 4.2.4.9 Media Scanning

On a continuous basis throughout the TWP Feasibility Study, various forms of media were scanned for articles of interest and relevance to the TWP Feasibility Study and DWAF. Copies of articles of interest brought to the attention of the PMT are provided in Appendix E.12.

## 5 DISCUSSION

It is the considered opinion of the PIC that the Public Involvement Programme for the Thukela Water Project Feasibility Study has achieved its aims and objectives. Equally important, it is the opinion of the PIC that the principles of public participation as elucidated by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism have been successfully applied.

---

This is evidenced by key aspects such as:

- A continuation of public involvement from the Pre-feasibility Study, through the Interim Study, to the Feasibility Study, with an ever increasing number of stakeholders participating as development proposals were formulated and elucidated. Wherever possible, I&APs were identified at an early stage, and were provided with timeous and accurate information to facilitate their meaningful participation in the Feasibility Study. Also of importance, stakeholders were informed when they were no longer directly affected by the development proposals.
- Throughout the Feasibility Study, I&APs were provided with sufficient project information in an easily assimilable and understandable manner to enable their participation, particularly as related to the formulation of project alternatives, for example, the alignment of aqueducts.
- Although feasibility studies are iterative in nature, for the duration of the TWP Feasibility Study there was an attempt at a clear and unambiguous focus on matters that were important at any given time during the study, for example, the Jana/Klip debate, aqueduct alignments and regional development, as described and discussed in information dissemination media at the time, for example, newsletters.
- At a site specific level significant resources were expended during the consideration of alternatives, particularly as relates to aqueduct types and alignments.
- Particular attention was paid to the detail of information used during decision-making in support of co-regulation, shared responsibility and sense of ownership, for example, the production of Technical Bulletins. Also, assistance was rendered to stakeholders in the preparation of material in support of stakeholder perspectives, for example, a perspective paper on Thukela River Park Conceptual Considerations.
- As and when disputes and conflicts arose, these were dealt with by the Public Involvement Consultant and the Project Co-ordinating Engineer.

## 6 WAY FORWARD

For a variety of reasons, for example, a changing legislative environment during the course of the different studies and study phases, it became apparent that the TWP Feasibility Study would not deliver definitive results, in particular from an environmental perspective, necessitating additional investigations prior to the commissioning of Detailed Designs and Project Implementation. This has led to the definition of a Decision Support Phase comprising a number of activities to be undertaken prior to a final Ministerial decision (in about 30 months time) whether or not to implement the TWP:

- 
- Environmental Reserve Determination.
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment.
  - Scoping and an Environmental Impact Assessment.
  - Technical and Economic Optimisation.
  - Institutional and Financing Arrangements.
  - Legal Framework.
  - Authorisation and permitting.

A significant proportion of the activities to be undertaken during the Decision Support Phase are environmentally focussed. As public involvement is an integral part of Integrated Environmental Management, the principles and practice of which have been adopted and embraced by the DWAF (Section 4.1), will need to be applied during the Decision Support Phase.

The two main aims of the Public Involvement Programme for the Thukela Water Project Decision Support Phase can be described as follows:

- To provide a structured framework and process to enable I&APs to participate in all aspects of the TWP Decision Support Phase and to make contributions to study activities and resultant reports.
- To provide for the integration of public input into Decision Support Phase tasks and study management decisions.

The appointment of a PIC for the Decision Support Phase, to follow immediately the closure of the TWP Feasibility Study, is recommended in order that a seamless interface between study phases can be attained.

However, should the DWAF take a decision at the end of the TWP Feasibility Study not to proceed with a Decision Support Phase (*circa* July 2000), it will be necessary to decommission the current Public Involvement Programme in a structured manner, involving the decommissioning of I&APs, some of whom have been involved in the proposed Thukela Water Project since its inception.

## **7 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

After a lengthy and inclusive PIP, ACER believes that I&APs have been afforded the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the TWP Feasibility Study. In addition, stakeholders from further afield have also participated, but to a lesser degree of intensity. Furthermore, measures are in place for I&APs to continue to have input into any additional phases of the investigation in terms of future environmental investigations, design, construction, the management of impacts, and monitoring the effectiveness of management programmes.

Immediate steps into the future relate directly to a DWAF decision whether or not to continue with investigations into the proposed Thukela Water Project. If the decision is positive, public involvement will continue for the duration of the Decision Support Phase. However, if the decision is negative, public involvement activities will be decommissioned, with stakeholders being thanked sincerely for their valuable contributions over the past few years.

## **8 REFERENCES**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM. 1998. *Environmental Impact Management*. Newsletter No. 3, April 1998. Pretoria, South Africa.

---

## ANNEXURE 1

### Schedule of key public involvement activities undertaken between March and July 2000

- Meetings.
  - Project Management Team meeting, 16 May 2000, Pretoria.
  - A RDM/EIA Workshop, 19 May 2000, Pretoria.
  
- Services.
  - A site inspection on 20 June 2000 of the Jana Dam drilling site to document rehabilitation measures still outstanding. These were recorded and forwarded to the Project Co-ordinating Engineer for attention.
  - On-going media monitoring.
  - On-going stakeholder correspondence and data base maintenance.
  
- Products.
  - Updating of the TWP Web Site, primarily to include module reports as they became available.
  - Production of a poster for the Thukela Biosphere's display at the Weenen Nature Reserve.
  
- General.
  - Review of various reports at the request of the Project Co-ordinating Engineer.
  - Additional work on Decision Registers and the Record of Decisions.