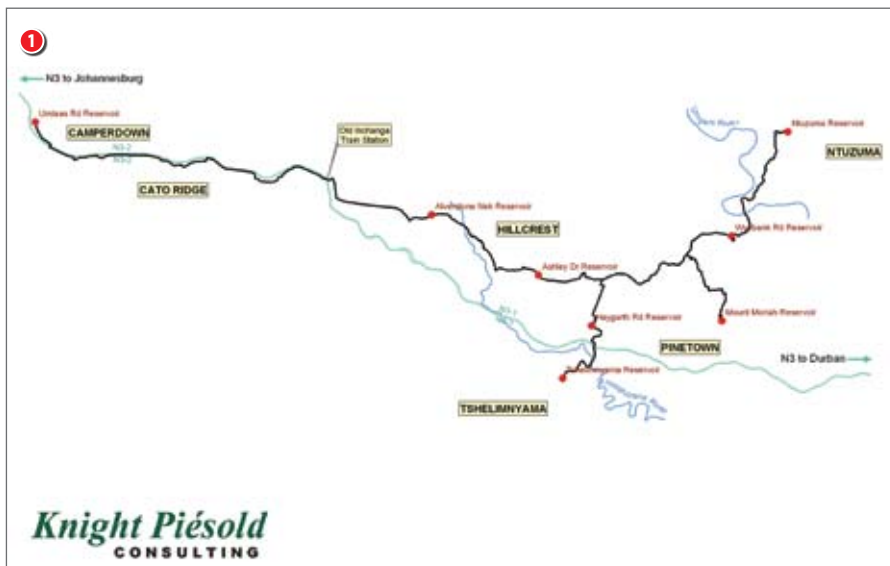




# Western Aqueduct progressing steadily



eThekweni Water and Sanitation's Western Aqueduct Project – the largest water project of this nature ever commissioned in South Africa, with a value of R950 million, is progressing on schedule, despite challenges such as a shortage of skilled labourers (welders in particular), inclement weather, and a lack of building sand.

Phase One of the project, which employs around 150 people, is nearing the end of construction in Cato Ridge, and construction for Phase Two is expected to commence in early 2011. Plans are therefore proceeding without any major setbacks.

Currently, Newmark Road in Cato Ridge is being reinstated after the road surface had been dug up to accommodate the laying of a 1 600 mm diameter steel pipe in a 30 m wide working corridor, with large excavators and cranes lining the pavement. Some residents had limited access to their properties because of the magnitude of these construction activities, which essentially occupied the whole road corridor.

Residents of Cato Ridge were very accommodating during construction and they should be thanked for their tolerance and support. The inevitable impact of construction had no doubt inconvenienced them, but thanks



1 Schematic drawing of the Western Aqueduct pipeline route

2 The photo shows a 1,6 m diameter steel pipe being laid in Newmark Road, Cato Ridge



to their collaboration, the period of inconvenience could be kept to a minimum. In completing the work in Newmark Road, the road surface will be totally reinstated to a brand new road condition. One of the sub-contractors, Extreme Turf Systems, is responsible for the rehabilitation of vegetation along the route.

Residents of Alverstone Nek near Stoneford Estate would also have noticed large trucks transporting steel pipes in the area over the past months. This is as a result of construction of the Western Aqueduct that traverses Stoneford Estate.

This section of the pipeline is being constructed ahead of schedule in order

- ③ A 3 m wide and 4 m deep trench is required for laying the Western Aqueduct steel pipeline
- ④ An aerial image showing the progress of construction in the vicinity of Inchange Station, part of Phase One of the Western Aqueduct Project which is almost 80% complete
- ⑤ An aerial view of one of ten pipe yards in the region of the Western Aqueduct Project. This pipe yard is located within a residential area of New Germany/Pinetown



to avoid a clash of the pipeline construction activities with the construction of new housing within Stoneford Estate, which is expected to commence soon. This decision was taken by eThek-wini Water and Sanitation in the spirit of mitigating, where practically possible, the impact that the construction of the Western Aqueduct will have along its route. For all construction activities within the work corridor, access is gained mainly from the Alverstone Nek Reservoir side. Access to the section of the work through Clement Stott Road is being kept to a minimum, once again to lessen the impact on local residents.

While construction of Phase One of the Western Aqueduct Project, valued at R150 million, readily progresses to its final destination at Inchanga Station, Phase Two, valued at R800 million, is just a few months from commencement.

Currently the final stages of the adjudication process for Phase Two of the Western Aqueduct Project are in progress, and the announcement of the successful contractor is expected

in a few weeks' time. Once the award of this tender has been finalised, construction of Phase Two will begin. Affected residents of Kloof, Hillcrest, Pinetown, Tshelimnyama, Wyebank

and surrounding areas will be notified prior to construction commencing in their respective suburbs. There will also be regular updates via the media as construction progresses. □

