

BETTER SERVICE FOR WR

The recent construction of an additional three megalitres per day module at the White River wastewater treatment works increased the size of the works to six megalitres per day, effectively doubling its previous capacity.

Some improvements have also been made in the existing plant by the Mbombela Local Municipality. The municipal works at Rocky Drift is additional to this capacity, also serving the greater White River area.

The previous limited capacity of the treatment plant has for some time inhibited the expansion of development in White River and

its surrounding areas. Since it couldn't sufficiently meet the demands of the growing area, it resulted in a moratorium on any new township developments.

This moratorium has now been lifted, allowing for further growth.

According to Adelaide Nxumalo, the treatment works utilise the activated sludge process and now incorporate a new head of works, fully automated with mechanical screens and degritters, an additional biological reactor, two further sedimentation tanks, and a new chlorine dosing facility with contact

channels to treat the final effluent before it is discharged to White River.

The treatment of the sludge has been upgraded by the construction of new drying beds, with disposal of the supernatant by irrigation.

An additional improvement to the works, is the installation of instrumentation systems to allow for automatic readout of quality parameters on a panel in the office building on the site.

Standby generators have also been installed to ensure that essential power is available to

the works in the event of a power supply failure.

The construction cost was R43 million, with Eigenbau (Pty) Ltd of Johannesburg being the main contractor. Norse Projects of Nelspruit carried out the civil works, electrical installations were done by Eb's Electrical and the consulting engineers were Arcus Gibb (Pty) Ltd.

The successful completion of these works will allow the Mbombela Local Municipality to improve further its recently reported-on Green Drop Score.