

# Pipeline projects increase bulk water supply from Midmar dam

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**T**he first phase of the bulk water supply pipeline Western Aqueduct project, which will augment the water supply from Midmar dam, at Umlaas road, in Pietermaritzburg, to Durban, is currently under way with the second and final phase of the project going to tender in July.

The Western Aqueduct is one of two bulk water supply pipeline projects that will increase the supply from the Midmar, with the second pipeline serving Umlaas Road from the dam.

The Western Aqueduct is the biggest single capital expenditure project that the eThekweni Water and Sanitation (EWS) unit has undertaken, with R550-million already spent on the first phase of the project.

The project involves the installation of 46 km of 1 200-mm-, 1 000-mm-, 800-mm- and 600 mm-diameter steel piping and two break pressure tanks of 5 Mℓ to 10 Mℓ each.

The Western Aqueduct will run between Inchanga and Ntuzuma, with large offtakes to Tshlimnyama, near Marianhill, in southern Pinetown, and Mount Moriah, in Pinetown.

EWS is also investigating the possibility of harvesting electricity from residual energy in the pipes of the Western Aqueduct.

The second pipeline project, valued at R200-million, will increase the water supply from Midmar dam for Umgeni Water, KwaZulu-Natal's water management and bulk water supplier.