

WATER SUPPLY: MSUNDUZI STANDS TO LOSE IF UMGENI OPTS FOR ITS OWN PIPELINE

THE Msunduzi Municipality will lose a significant amount of revenue if it fails to convince Umgeni Water to halt proposed plans to build its own water pipeline.

A report presented to the executive committee last week states that a recent study by Umgeni Water shows that in the long run, it will be more economically viable for it to transport its own water rather than pay the municipality for this service.

The study suggests Umgeni Water should stop using municipal pipes to carry potable water, which results in transportation tariffs, and put down its own piping alongside the municipal mains.

“... it would be more beneficial to Umgeni Water to construct their own pipeline, and in fact it would break even after only four years,” states the report.

Although the report does not disclose how much the municipality stands to lose if Umgeni Water decides to proceed with its plan, it says that a negotiation team made up of senior managers and councillors will meet the bulk water supplier to present possible amendments to the transportation tariff and water transportation agreement.

It is hoped that the team will be able to convince Umgeni Water to continue drawing from municipal mains.

However, should they decide not to stay with the municipality, Umgeni Water will have to get permission to pass through other owners' properties and give the municipality proper notice. — WR.

