5.4 South Coast System

5.4.1 Description

The South Coast System comprises three sub-regions, viz.

- The Upper South Coast, which extends from Amanzimtoti to the Mkomazi River;
- The Middle South Coast, which extends from the Mkomazi River to the Mtwalume River (just north of Hibberdene); and
- The Lower South Coast, which extends from the Mtwalume River to the Mtamvuna River (Port Edward).

Umgeni Water currently only operates in the Upper and Middle South Coast sub-regions, and supplies bulk treated water to the southern parts of eThekwini Municipality and to the northern parts of Ugu District Municipality. Bulk water infrastructure is located primarily within the coastal strip, with some pipelines extending into adjacent rural areas, as shown in Figure 5.35 and 5.36. The bulk infrastructure is either owned by Umgeni Water, eThekwini Municipality, Ugu District Municipality, or is privately owned by Sappi Saiccor.

In terms of water resources, the Upper and Middle South Coast sub-regions rely heavily on the Lower Mgeni System (Section 5.2.2), which is already stressed. Water from Inanda Dam is treated at Wiggins WTP and potable water is supplied via the South Coast Augmentation (SCA) Pipeline to the Amanzimtoti WTP.

Phase 1 of the SCA Pipeline was constructed by Umgeni Water in 1994 and transferred to eThekwini Municipality in 1997. The Phase 2 upgrade of the SCA pipeline was carried out by eThekwini Municipality in 2005. The SCA Pipeline is now wholly owned and operated by EWS. Treated water is sold by Umgeni Water “at the fence” at Wiggins WTP, and there is a “buy-back” arrangement at Amanzimtoti WTP for the water required by Umgeni Water for the South Coast areas.
Figure 5.35 General layout of the South Coast System
Figure 5.36 Schematic of the South Coast System (including Ugu DM bulk supply infrastructure).
Figure 5.37 General layout of Ugu’s infrastructure in the Middle South Coast Sub-Region.