**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE SESSION REPORT: EXPLORING THE VALUE OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Summary**

This report presents the proceedings of a Community of Practice session, titled “Exploring the Value Social Impact Assessment: towards effective project implementation,” held on 23 November 2020. The session focussed on two projects: Olifants River Water Resource Development Project-2 (ORWRDP-2C), which is complete, and uMzimvubu Water Project (MWP), which is in the planning phase.

This Community of Practice (CoP) session was remarkably successful, with the vibrant participation of employees from various divisions, the Department of Water and Sanitation, and other water sector players. The session provided an opportunity for employees not only to reconnect with their colleagues but also to reimagine the future of work.

During the CoP session, several key issues related to project delays were raised. These included a) the project syndicate, b) unclear government policy, c) the legitimacy of business forums, d) signing of memorandums of understanding and communities disregarding them, and e) the political currency of local businesspeople. The participants felt that these issues have become violent and, in some instances, resulted in complete stoppage of projects.