

Project

Dredging of a critical section of the Campsdrift Canal

Location

Pietermaritzburg  
KwaZulu-Natal  
South Africa

Client

KwaZulu-Natal Canoe Union

Project Manager

David Still

Contractor

T&T Marine

Project Value

R 1.1 million (pilot for larger project approx. R45 million using the same technology at Harmony Gold Mine)

Date Completed

December 2011

Brief Description

Camps Drift is a 2.5 km long by 70 metre wide canal which is located in the heart of Pietermaritzburg. It is bounded on the upper and lower ends by 3 metre high weirs. Prior to the construction of the canal the river meandered over a wide floodplain. The canalisation of the river enabled the land on the flood plain either side of the river to be developed for industrial purposes. Furthermore it provided a venue for fishing, rowing and canoeing, all of which are popular community activities.

Due to the high silt load in the Msunduzi river the canal requires desilting approximately once every ten years. However with time the canal has accumulated a large amount of solid waste and this has rendered conventional dredging methods ineffective. Working in association with the company T&T Marine, PID developed a novel dredging method which was successfully piloted at Camps Drift. 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> of silt was removed in one month. This same method was subsequently used at scale at Harmony Gold Mine (which had similar dredging challenges due to reed growth) where with several rigs operating in concert up to 3 000 m<sup>3</sup> was removed per day.

## Dredging of the Camps Drift Canal

