

Background Information Document

Notice of application for environmental authorisation, water use license and heritage permit for the proposed nodal development situated on Dwarsloop township in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

March 2022

Appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

GKM Consulting PTY LTD is a fully registered consulting company that specializes in conducting environmental, water and earth science impact assessments. GKM Consulting provides a team of registered, qualified professionals on all their projects to undertake the required assessment in line with promulgated regulation.

Invitation to Comment:

You are invited to comment on the above-mentioned proposed development. Please send your comments to:

Contact Person:	Grace Magaya Registered EAP Mobile: +27 81 494 1611 Email: grace@gkmenvironmental.co.za
Postal Address	74 Third Street Northmead Benoni, 1501

Documents for review will be made available at a local library or an electronic copy can be emailed to you at your request.



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information in respect of the applications for an Environmental Authorisation, Water Use Licence and Heritage permit.

In addition, the BID aims to:

- Introduce and explain the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process, as well as other related parallel environmental processes.
- Introduce and explain how I&APs can participate in the process as prescribed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).
- Invite all I&APs to comment on:
 - The potential for negative and positive biophysical and socio-economic impacts of the project, as well as any other issues of concern,
 - The proposed public participation and environmental assessment process, and
 - Any other comments or suggestions which might be of relevance.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Dwarsloop is in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality jurisdiction as shown in Figure 1 below. Dwarsloop is a suburb in Mpumalanga and has an elevation of 554 meters and is situated south of Orinoco. Dwarsloop is accessed via R40, which is the central spine of Primary Road Transportation Corridor. Coordinates: S24.797373, E31.085721 and the total area is 154 hectares.

The Applicant, i.e., Bushbuckridge Local Municipality intends to convert the currently open space in the above-mentioned location into a township establishment with a total of eighty-seven dwelling houses, shops, business units, offices, church facilities and open spaces. To proceed, the applicant must obtain an Environmental Authorisation, Heritage Permit as well as a Water Use License.

Figure 1 – Locality Map

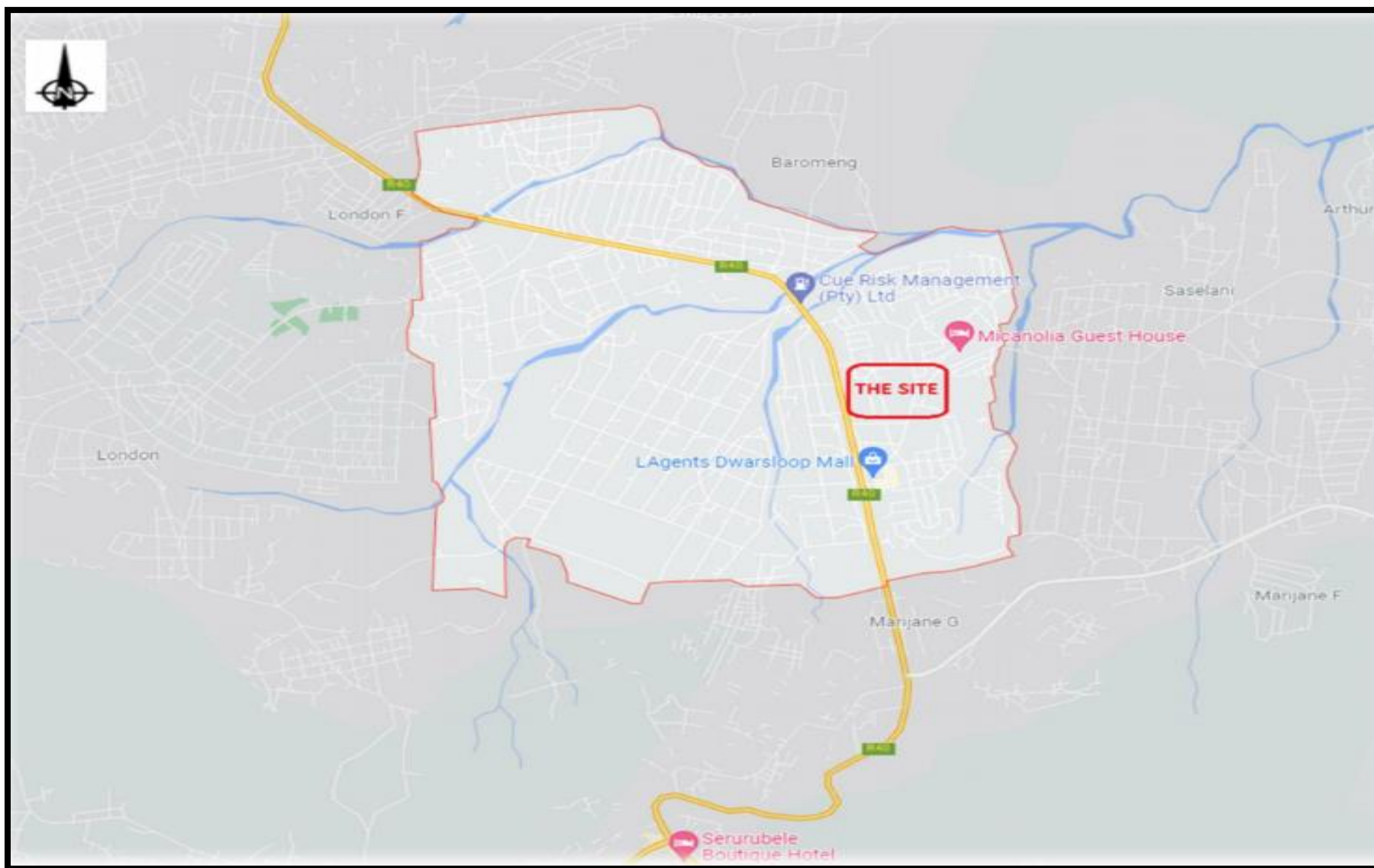
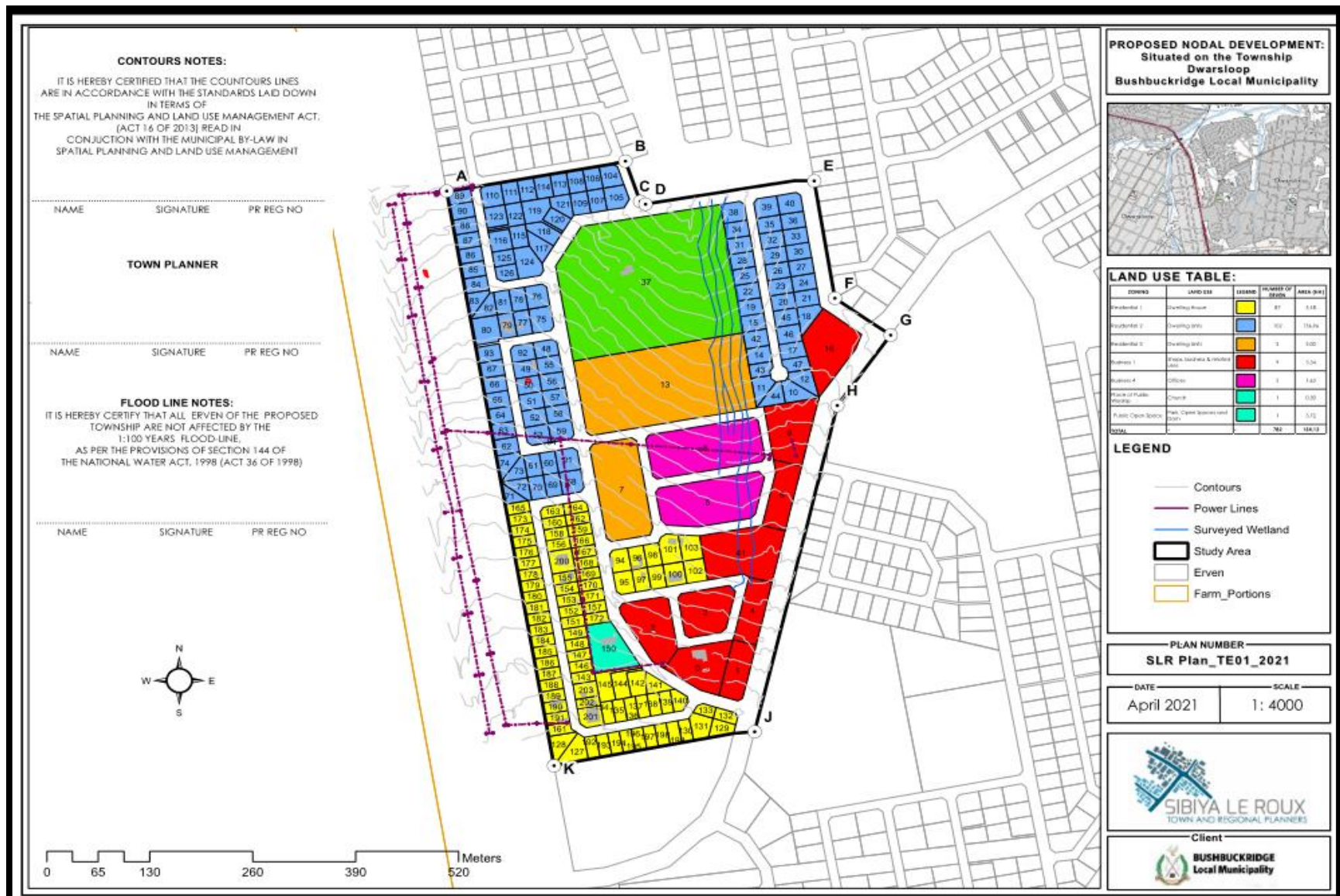


Figure 2 – Facility Illustration



APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

The National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 listed activities for the Environmental Authorisation applied for:

Table 1 – National Environmental Management Act Listed Activity

Notice No	Activity Number	Description
Listing No 1	19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from (i) watercourse.
Listing No 2	15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

The National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 listed activities applied for the Water Use License required:

Table 2 – National Water Act Listed Activity

Regulation	Activity Number	Description
Section 21	C	impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
Section 21	i	altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse;

Table 3 – National Heritage Act, 1999 Listed Activity

Regulation	Activity Number	Description
38	1(c)	Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site (i) exceeding 5000 square meters in extent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential part of any environmental assessment process. As an interested and affected member (IAP) you will be given the opportunity to provide your input into the environmental assessment process and to receive information. All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been considered and the outcome of the assessment.

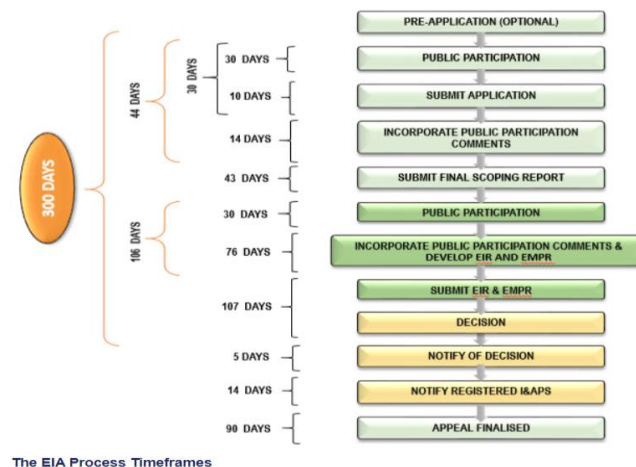
IAPs include any person who will be directly or indirectly affected by the project. To be recognized as an IAP one must register with GKM Environmental to be added to the stakeholder database for the project. You may communicate via email or telephone to obtain further information or comment on the proposed project. All registered I&APs will be kept informed of the decision taken by the competent authority.

Table 4 – Public Participation Process Followed:

Notification Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Site Notices in strategic places close to the proposed site • Publish the notice in a newspaper • Circulate written notices to all potential IAPs
Commenting Period	<p>There will be two 30 days commenting periods, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circulate draft Scoping Report with Plan of Study 2. Circulate draft Environmental Impact Report
Appeal Process	<p>Notify all registered and interested and affected parties of the competent authority decision and allow an opportunity to appeal the decision.</p>

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PROCESS FLOW CHART

Figure 3 – Flow Chart



INVITATION TO COMMENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Notice of application for environmental authorisation for the proposed nodal development situated on Dwarsloop township in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

As an Interested and Affected Party, I, _____ (full name), owner / tenant of property _____ (name of property), agree with the following (**kindly mark the applicable option/s**):

<input type="checkbox"/>	I have received information regarding the application for Environmental Authorisation for the project on the property mentioned above.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not have any objections regarding the proposed project, and I therefore wish to express my consent or no-objection for the proposed project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not agree with the proposed project, and I therefore wish to express my objection to the proposed application for environmental authorisation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to register as an I&AP and be kept informed of the process and of local open day sessions (please use attached form to fill in your contact details).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I want to attend an information session of the proposed project.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____