

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALALANE RING ROAD, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

### Background Information

The **South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL)** is proposing to construct the Malalane Ring Road of approximately 6km in length, within the Mpumalanga Province. The N4 highway is the main route between Maputo in Mozambique and Gauteng and at present, the only town which is still affected by the N4-highway, is Malalane. The proposed Malalane Ring Road aims to bypass Malalane Town by means of constructing a new highway to the south of the town. The proposed project also entails the provision of access roads to Malalane for all farms located to the south of Malalane.

In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA 107, 1998), an Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required prior to the commencement of the proposed construction activities. In accordance with General Notice R982, 2014 (as amended in 2017), a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process must be followed to apply for EA. The proposed project also entails the construction of a bridge crossing the Buffelspruit and in accordance with Section 21 of the National Water Act 36, 1998, a Water Use License (WUL) is also required when any activity takes place within a watercourse.

**Core Environmental Services** was subsequently appointed to apply for the EA by means of conducting a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process as regulated within General Notice Regulation 982, 2014 (as amended in 2017). The applicant is also applying in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 (NWA 36, 1998), for Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted, is ultimately submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) for consideration.

### Location of the activity

The proposed starting point for the Malalane ring road is approximately 400 meters west of Riverview Preparatory School, bypassing the town of Malalane to the south and ending approximately 1km east of the Eskom sub-station. The alignment of the Malalane Ring Road is proposed between the coordinates provided below:

Start Coordinates:

25° 30'24.51"S  
31° 29'18.76"E

End Coordinates:

25° 29'08.29"S  
31° 32'20.84"E

The proposed alignment of the Malelane Ring Road, inclusive of its servitude being investigated, as well as the proposed access roads to Malelane, will affect the following properties:

- Portion 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18, 39, 48, 53, 66, 88, 94, 95, 99, 116, 157, 176, 177 of farm Malelane 389-JU

## **Legal Requirements**

As per the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA 107, 1998), GNR 983, GNR 984 and GN 985 of 2014 (as amended in 2017), the following listed activity is being applied for:

General Notice R983, 2014 (as amended in 2017), Activity 12:

*The development of (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more where such development occurs within (a) a watercourse.*

General Notice R983, 2014 (as amended in 2017), Activity 19:

*The infilling or depositing of any material or more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse*

General Notice R983, 2014 (as amended in 2017), Activity 27:

*The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except 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.*

General Notice R984, 2014 (as amended in 2017), Activity 27:

*The development of a road*

- (i) A national road as defined in section 40 of the South African National Roads Agency Limited and National Roads Act, 1998 (Act No. 7 of 1998);*
- (ii) A road administered by a provincial authority;*
- (iii) A road with a reserve wider than 30 metres;*
- (iv) A road catering for more than one lane of traffic in both lanes*

General Notice R985, 2014 (as amended in 2017), Activity 14(f):

*(xii) The infilling or depositing of any material or more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres or more; where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse;*

*(f) Areas within 10 kilometers from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometers from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;*

## **Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

A Scoping Environmental Impact Assessment is a process used to assess the negative and positive consequences of the proposed activities on the immediate and surrounding environment and propose recommendations to enhance positive impacts and reduce negative impacts.

The Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process will include:

- a) Stakeholder engagement;
- b) Environmental assessment of current site conditions;
- c) A description of the activities commenced with;
- d) Description of the environment that was affected;
- e) Description of need and desirability of the activities;
- f) Identification of possible alternatives;
- g) Aquatic Assessment, Wetland Delineation, Ecological - and Heritage Impact Assessment: and
- h) Description and assessment of the significance of environmental impacts.

Consideration of comments received from various authorities, stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties, forms an intrinsic part of this process. Authority decision-making and a public appeal opportunity will occur after the submission of the final Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report to MDARDLEA.

## **Public Participation Process (PPP)**

During the public participation phase, consultation with the following parties will take place:

- Relevant authorities at various levels;
- Relevant stakeholders;
- The proponent; and
- The public at large.

The following activities will take place as part of public participation:

- Advertising: On-site and in a local newspaper;
- Supplying people with an opportunity to comment and register as interested and affected parties; and
- The Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be made available for public review. I&APs will be notified when the documents will be available for review and will then have a 30-day opportunity to comment on it, prior to submission to the MDARDLEA for consideration.

# COMMENT AND REGISTRATION SHEET

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALALANE RING ROAD, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

If you would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the project and you would like to receive all documentation that will be made available for public review, and/or should you have any comments, please complete the registration form and send it to the address as indicated at the end of the page.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner/Lessee: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS;

**Return to:**

Core Environmental Services

Cell: 060 878 1591

Email: [edmari@coreenviro.co.za](mailto:edmari@coreenviro.co.za)

# Locality and Layout Map