

# South African National Roads Agency Limited



## Background Information Document

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADES OF THE SCHOEMANSKLOOF ROUTE R539 AND REPLACING ITS T-JUNCTION WITH THE N4 TOLL ROUTE AT MONTROSE WITH AN INTERCHANGE, MPUMALANGA

#### Purpose of this Background Information Document:

- Provide all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed application for the environmental authorisation required for the proposed road upgrades.
- Introduce, explain and initiate the Public Participation Process as prescribed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014).

#### We invite all I&APs to comment on:

- The ecological (bio-physical) and socio-economical and/or environmental considerations.
- The proposed Public Participation Process to be followed.
- The proposed Basic Assessment process being followed.
- Any other suggestions, comments or recommendations.

Date of Publication: 15 November 2019

Applicant: South African National Roads Agency

Prism Project Number: TracN4-P191113-Montr-R539 EIA-WULA

Environmental Authority: Dept. of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

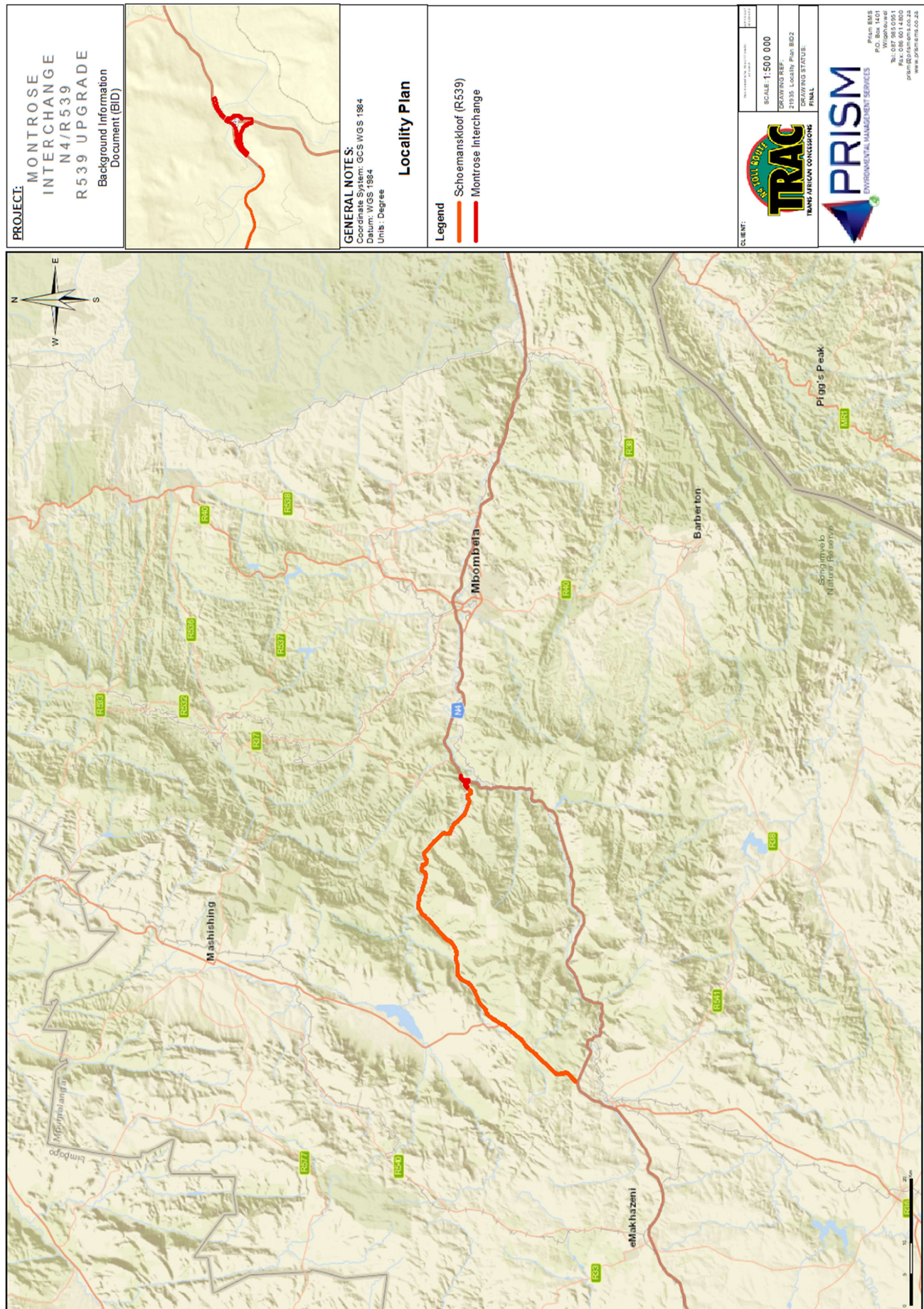
#### Project Description and Location

The South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) is proposing to upgrade the Schoemanskloof R539 Route with additional passing lanes and lengthening of some existing ones and introducing a road interchange at the existing T-junction of the National N4 Toll Route between eMgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Mbombela (Nelspruit) with the alternative R539 Route, Mpumalanga. As part of continual upgrading of this road corridor between Pretoria in the west and Maputo, Mozambique in the east; a need has arisen to introduce such improvements to:

- Improve traffic flow speeds

- Safety of motorists. Currently, a high number of road accidents are experienced at (and in close proximity) to this existing T-junction which can be attributed to a few factors such as confusion at the right turn made (east to west flow) by motorists to the Schoemanskloof Road, vehicles colliding with stationary vehicles waiting to turn right (east to west flow), blind rise just before the T-junction for motorists travelling on the N4 from west to east and a blind rise and sharp corner currently posing a hazard to motorists travelling on the Schoemanskloof Road R539 after taking the T-junction right turn (east – west flow).

SANRAL has appointed an implementing agent and concessionaire for the National N4 Toll Route existing between Pretoria and Maputo known as “Trans African Concessions” (TracN4) – a concessionaire established during the mid-90’s specifically for the management of the N4 corridor between South Africa and Mozambique. TracN4, as SANRAL’s implementing agent ultimately needs to ensure compliance with all conditions of environmental licenses, permits and similar authorisations as custodians of the N4 road on behalf of SANRAL.





## Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Prism EMS

Prism Environmental Management Services is a multi-disciplinary Environmental Management consulting firm. With a vision encompassing a holistic understanding of integrated environmental management in combination with sustainability, the company prides itself on excellent service and value-added solutions to a range of clients.

EAP contact: Mr Ryan Nawn

Highest Qualification: M.Sc. (RAU)

Experience: 19 Years

### **Possible Listed Activities (The activities listed below may apply to the project. The list will be refined at EIA Phase) National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 & EIA Regulations promulgated in 2004:**

#### Listing Notice 1: GN R 983 of December 2014 include:

Activity 9: *The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 m in length for the bulk transportation of storm water...*

Activity 12: *The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m<sup>2</sup> or more; where such development occurs.. within 32 m of a watercourse...*

Activity 19: *The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m<sup>3</sup> into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 m<sup>3</sup> from a watercourse...*

Activity 56: *The widening of a road by more than 6 m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km...*

#### Listing Notice 2: GN R 984 of December 2014 include:

Activity 27: *The development of a road with a reserve wider than 30 m...*

#### Listing Notice 3: GN R 985 of December 2014 include:

Activity 4: *The development of a road wider than 4 m with a reserve less than 13,5 m...*

Activity 12: *The clearance of an area of 300 m<sup>2</sup> or more of indigenous vegetation...*

Activity 14: *The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m<sup>2</sup> or more; where such development occurs within a watercourse... within 32 m of a watercourse... or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour....*

Activity 18: *The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre, outside urban areas in a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA... and sensitive areas...*

Activity 23: *The expansion of... a bridge where the bridge is expanded by 10 m<sup>2</sup> or more in size...; infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more... where such development occurs within a watercourse... within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse... outside urban areas in a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA... and sensitive areas...*

### **National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999).**

for Heritage Impact Assessments as required in Section 38(8)

### **National Water Act (NWA), Act No. 36 of 1998, as amended, Section 21 (a), (c) and (i).**

Section 21 water uses of the NWA include: (a) taking water from a water resource; (c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristic of a watercourse.

## Be an Integral Part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process

Public involvement is an essential part of any environmental assessment process. 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. You will further receive updates on the status of the project.

### How to Register and get involved?

Parties wishing to register as Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") and who wish to participate by contributing comments, concerns or require additional information; should register or submit their correspondence in writing to the EAP no later than thirty (30) days after the issue of this notice (on or before 14 December 2019). All registrations and comments received within this time will be incorporated into the Environmental Authorisation Process which will be made available to all registered I&APs for comment.

## Public Participation Process

The key objective of Public Participation is to assist stakeholders to identify issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits, and to comment at various phases of the application process. The Public Participation Process is an integral part of the impact assessment and is undertaken in the following systematic approach by the Proponent/ EAP:

### ➤ Application Phase

- Identify and notify potential I&APs of the proposed development and provide an opportunity to register.
- Submit application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to DEA after the notification period.
- DEA to acknowledge receipt of application within 10 days of submission of the EA application.
- Means of sharing available information to I&APs: Newspaper Advertisements; Site Notices; Written Notifications and/or BID.
- An I&AP Register will be opened and maintained to record I&APs parties that wish to be involved.
- Any comments, responses, and/or enquiries from the notification phase will be recorded in the comments and response report and maintained throughout the process.

### ➤ Scoping Phase

- Applicant/EAP to submit Scoping Report to DEA within 44 days (inclusive of 30-day comment period) of acceptance of the application for Environmental Authorisation.
- DEA to acknowledge receipt within 10 days of submission of the Scoping Report.
- DEA to accept/refuse the scoping report and plan of study within 43 days of receipt of the Scoping Report.
- Public will receive 30 days to give Comment on scoping report.
- Any comments, responses, and/or enquiries from the notification phase will be recorded in the comments and response report and maintained throughout the process.

### ➤ Environmental Impact Assessment Phase

- EAP to submit the EIA Report within **106 days** (inclusive of 30-day comment period) of acceptance of the Scoping Report.
- DEA to acknowledge receipt within **10 days** of submission of the EIA Report.
- Public will receive 30 days to give Comment on EIA report

### ➤ Environmental Authorisation Decision and Appeal Phase

- DEA to decide to refuse/grant authorisation within 107 days of receipt of the EIA Report.
- DEA to notify Applicant/EAP of the decision within 5 days of deciding.
- EAP/Applicant to notify I&APs within 14 days receipt of the decision from the DEA.
- I&APs may appeal the decision within 20 days of the notification of the decision from the EAP/Applicant.

**PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADES OF THE SCHOEMANSKLOOF ROAD R539 AND REPLACING EXISTING T-JUNCTION WITH THE N4 NATIONAL TOLL ROUTE AT MONTROSE, MPUMALANGA: Integrated Environmental Authorisation**

**I&AP Comment and Registration Form**

Environmental Assessment Practitioner Ref No:

TracN4-P191113-Montr-R539 EIA-WULA

Environmental Authority Ref No: Pending application



Name:				Surname:			
Title:				Initials:			
Organisation / interest:				Capacity (e.g. Chairperson):			
Postal / Residential address							
	Area:					Code:	
Contact details	Tel:	(    )					
	Fax:	(    )					
	Mobile:	(    )					
	Email:						
Please mark with an X to indicate whether you would like to participate in the process:							Yes
							No
Preferred method of communication	Email		Fax		Post		
Date commented	( DD / MM / YYYY )						
<b>What is your main area of interest with regard to the proposed project?</b>							
<b>What are your points of concern or support for this project?</b>							
<b>Please indicate in which aspects you would require more information</b>							
<b>Please indicate the contact details of any I&amp;APs whom you think should be contacted</b>							
Name:				Surname:			
Tel:	(    )			Fax:	(    )		
Mobile:	(    )			Email:			
<p>In order to be registered as an I&amp;AP for this project, fax, mail, or e-mail the completed registration form on or before <b>14 December 2019</b> to Prism EMS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">             Contact Person: Mr Ryan Nawn              Tel: (012) 342 2974              Fax: (086) 601 4800              Email: <a href="mailto:ryan@prismems.co.za">ryan@prismems.co.za</a>              Post: 89 Burns street, Colbyn, Pretoria, 0083         </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank you for your participation</b></p>							