

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED SEAVIEW LOW COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, PORT ELIZABETH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



RUMP/SPET

BID No: 373512

6 March 2014

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has commenced to assist Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) in determining the extent and significance of the environmental and social consequences associated with the proposed low cost housing development in Seaview, Port Elizabeth.

Notice of an EIA process is given in terms of regulation 54(3) of the regulations published in Government Gazette No. R. 543 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998), of intent to carry out the proposed activity.

Issues of concern and potential environmental and social impacts will be evaluated during the EIA process.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the project and process that will be followed and to obtain initial comments and contributions from Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on the issues relating to the proposed development.

Findings of the EIA, including concerns raised by IAPs, will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) for consideration.

IAPs are hereby invited to comment on the environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed Seaview Low Cost Housing Development. Your comments will ensure that relevant issues are evaluated and will form part of the Assessment. Kindly complete the registration form at the end of this document and send (either via email, post or fax) to Wanda Marais at SRK Consulting, to register your interest in the proposed activity and provide your input.

Your comment on this document must reach SRK Consulting by **12:00 on 7 April 2014**.

Wanda Marais
SRK Consulting
P O Box 21842, Humerail, 6001
Fax: (041) 509 4850
E-mail: wmarais@srk.co.za

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed project includes the construction of approximately 600 residential units and associated infrastructure. The development will provide housing and facilities for communities currently living in Zweledinga and New Rest informal settlements.

PROJECT LOCALITY

The proposed development is planned for the Seaview area in Port Elizabeth. The following five site alternatives in Seaview (the locations of which are indicated on Figure 2) will be investigated for environmental and social suitability via the EIA:

- Eft 590;
- Erf 238;
- Erf 240;
- Portion 1 of erf 28; and
- Portion 1 of erf 28.

Two of these alternatives are located on municipal land and the remaining three are on privately owned land.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for this assessment will be conducted in accordance with Government Gazette No.R545 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment regulations. The following activity is triggered by the proposed development:

No. 15 – Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An EIA is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place.

The purpose of the EIA is to demonstrate to the authorities and the proponent what the potential consequences of their choices will be in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be evaluated and incorporated into the final design if necessary.

The EIA consists of two phases. The first phase is a Scoping Study, which identifies potential issues requiring more detailed investigation via specialist studies. A complete list of specialist studies and the issues they should address will be provided for comment in the Draft Scoping Report. The second phase is the Impact Assessment phase, during which detailed investigations of the issues identified during scoping, will be undertaken, and the environmentally preferred site alternative will be proposed for authorisation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of EIA's, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process.

The key objective of public participation during the EIA process is for IAPs to raise issues of concern and suggestions that need to be addressed in the EIA Report.

The key objective of public participation during the Scoping phase of this project is to provide IAPs with an opportunity to provide comment and input in the planning phase of the project. Issues of concern and suggestions raised by IAPs will be addressed and responded to as required in the Scoping Report, and IAPs will also be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of both the Scoping and EIA Reports, and findings of the Specialist studies during the specified comment periods.

IAPs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

THE EIA PROCESS

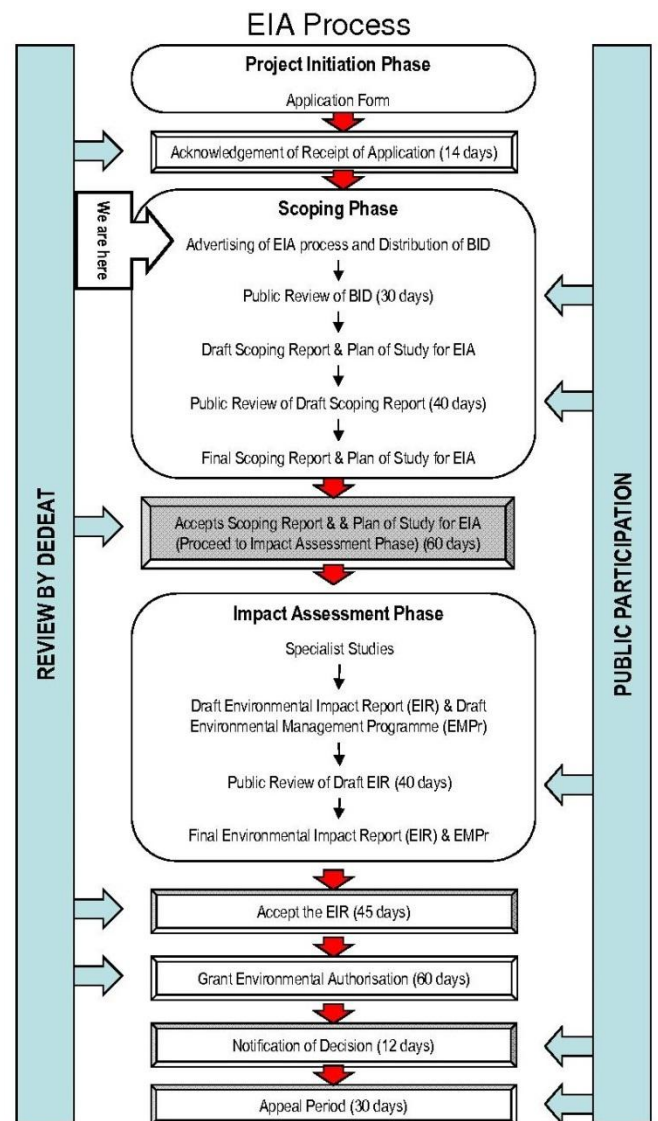


Figure 1: The EIA Process and stages where public comment will be invited

Who is doing the EIA

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct the EIA. SRK Consulting has been appointed to conduct the EIA for the proposed Seaview Low Cost Housing development. SRK will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent EIA in which the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism. In this way an informed decision-making process can take place.



- Legend**
- Informal Settlements
 - Site Alternatives

Scale: 1:12 500		A3
Projection: TM	Datum: HH94	
Central Meridian/Zone: Lo25		
Date: 17/10/2013	Compiled by: VERJ	
Project No. 373512	Fig No. 001	



**NMBM Seaview Housing
Site Locality Map**

Figure 2: Site locality showing proposed site alternatives to be assessed via the EIA



REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED SEAVIEW LOW
COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, PORT ELIZABETH

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party and/or bring to the attention of SRK Consulting the following comments (please use additional sheets of paper if required).

Attention: **Wanda Marais**

Fax no: **041 509 4800**

(In order for your contact details to be captured on our database - Please fill out the sheet below)

Name of Respondent:	Title:
Organisation / Company:	
Nature of Interest:	
Postal Address:	
Postal Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Facsimile Number:	
Mobile Number:	
Email:	

Signed: _____

Date: _____