

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND REHABILITATION OF THE N10 SECTION 4 BETWEEN CRADOCK AND KNUTSFORD

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



GARR/artt

BID No: 443824/1

April 2012

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

A Basic Assessment (BA) process has commenced to assist the South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) in determining the extent and significance of the environmental consequences associated with the proposed upgrade of the N10 Section 4 between Cradock (Km 1.6) and Knutsford (Km 29).

Notice of a Basic Assessment Process is given in terms of regulation 54(3) of the regulations published in Government Gazette No. R543 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 Basic Assessment 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 BA, including concerns raised by IAPs, will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration.

IAPs are hereby invited to comment on the environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed upgrading of the N10/4 road. 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 Tammy Arthur 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 4 May 2011**.

Tammy Arthur

SRK Consulting

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed project includes the upgrade and rehabilitation of the N10 Section 4 between Cradock and Knutsford, in the Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape.

The project commences at km 1.6 (S 32° 09' 52.61706" E 25° 36' 24.75382") of the road, in the Cradock Industrial Area and extends to km 29 (S 31° 56' 57.11963" E 25° 28' 12.53584") at Farm Heffortuin 66.

The existing N10 consists of a surfaced carriageway 7.4 m wide flanked by surfaced shoulders, each 2.2 m wide, making the road prism width about 11.8 m. The existing in-situ base of the road prism will be re-worked and stabilized and a new 150 mm thick base layer will be added followed by a Cape Seal surfacing premix. Widening of the road shoulders is not anticipated.

The existing base layer and surfacing will be crushed and new material added to provide a rehabilitated cement stabilised sub-base layer. The base layers will be added over the sub-base layer using crushed stone material imported from a commercial source, probably at Cradock.

Two intersections along the road will be widened to accommodate a refuge lane and slip lane. This widening will however remain within the existing road reserve (which is generally about 25 m wide).

An agricultural underpass is proposed at Km 24.9, requiring elevation of the road by approximately 2 m. For this, a substantial volume of sub-base material, and therefore a borrow-pit, will be required. An application will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources for the development of this borrow pit.

No widening or reconstruction of bridges is proposed, however two culverts along the road may require upgrading.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The BA process for this assessment will be conducted in accordance with Government Gazette No. R543 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment regulations.

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA regulations list activities that may have a significant

impact on the environment, and which consequently require authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The regulations further specify the assessment process, and the information, that is required to enable DEA to make a decision regarding the activity.

Activity 47, listed under the NEMA EIA regulations (GNR 544) is the main activity associated with the proposed road upgrade that requires that a BA process is conducted.

WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT?

A Basic Assessment is a planning and decision-making tool used to identify the environmental and social consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place.

The BA needs to show the environmental authorities (DEA) and the proponent (SANRAL) what potential environmental, economic and social impacts can be expected from the proposed activity. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified so that these can be evaluated. If required, the authorities will request that a full EIA be done to determine the extent of those impacts. In the case where an activity will have minimal impact on the environment, the authorities may grant authorisation based on the Basic Assessment Report.

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 Basic Assessments, 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 BA process is for IAPs to raise issues of concern and suggestions that need to be addressed in the BA.

IAPs will be provided with a 30-day comment period in which to raise issues and / or concerns in response to the Background Information Document. A draft Basic Assessment Report will be compiled and will also be available for public comment for a period of 40 days. The Final Basic Assessment Report including Comments and Responses from the public will be submitted to DEA following the second public comment period. IAPs will be notified in writing of any decisions made by DEA after submission of the final Basic Assessment Report.

Please note that communications regarding the process and the availability of reports will only be sent to registered IAPs. To register for the process, and thus receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the signed registration sheet at the back of this document, together

with your contact details and nature of interest, to SRK Consulting.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Who is doing the Basic Assessment?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK Consulting has been appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent Basic Assessment in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In this way an informed decision-making process can take place.

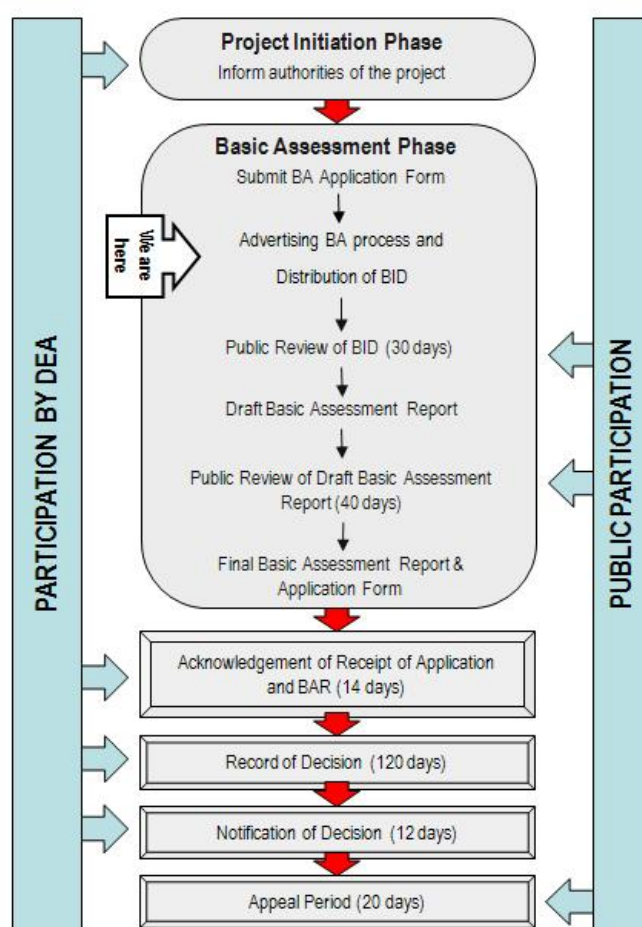
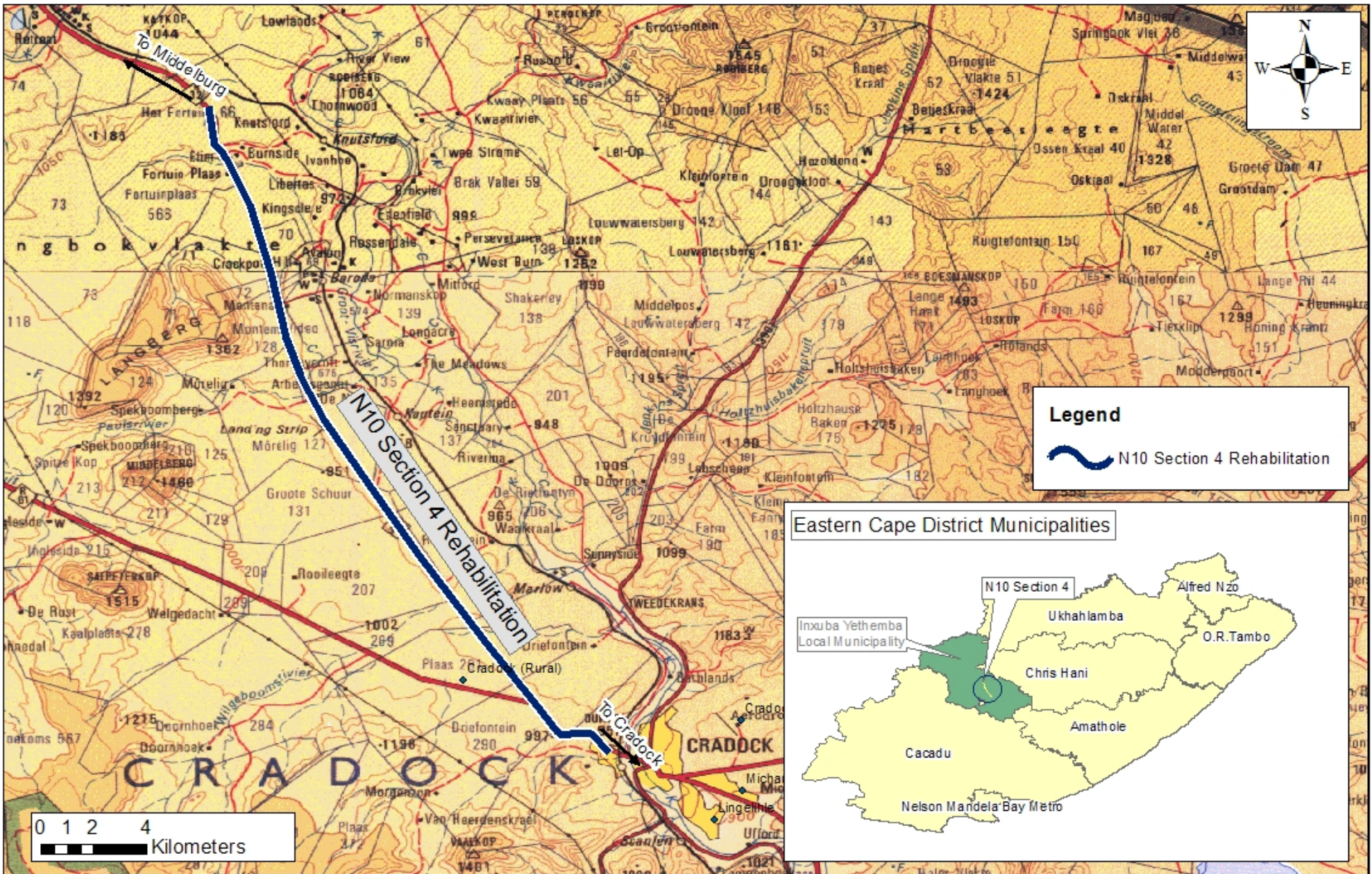


Figure 1: The Basic Assessment Process and stages where public comment will be invited



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| Project No: | Datum: |
| 443824 | HH1994 |
| | Projection: |
| | DD |
| | Central Meridian/Zone: |
| | N/A |

N10 SECTION 4 REHABILITATION LOCALITY

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Date: | Scale: |
| 09/03/2012 | 1:180,000 |
| Compiled by: | Fig No: |
| THOR | 001 |

