

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT:

## Proposed development of the Amathole District Municipality Office Park at Stutterheim, in the Eastern Cape.

### AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this Background Information Document is to provide people affected by and interested in the proposed project with information about this project, the process being followed and to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the EIA process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may raise issues of concern. These will be examined and included in the Reports.

The findings of the EIA will be provided to DEDEAT (Provincial, East London) for final decision making, as to whether or not the project should go ahead and if so under what conditions.

Return address for comments:

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Your involvement in this process is critical, and will help ensure that all relevant issues are raised and assessed in the EIA process



### BACKGROUND

Amathole District Municipality is proposing to develop an approximately 3ha Office Park situated on Erf 1874 and surrounding commonage at Stutterheim, in the Eastern Cape.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 54(2) published in Government Notice No. R543 under Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), of the intent to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) application to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

Coastal & Environmental Services has been commissioned by Amathole District Municipality to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment. You are hereby invited to register as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP). Please submit your name, contact information and any comments to the contact person below.

### RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Government Notice R.543 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) identifies activities in terms of 24(2) (a) and (d) which may not commence without an authorisation from the competent authority Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT). In order to apply for authorisation for the investigation, assessment and communication of potential impacts of the activities must follow the procedure as described in regulations 27 to 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, (2010), promulgated in terms of section 24(5) of the Act.

The proposed project is subject to a **Basic Impact Assessment** in terms of the following listed activities:

GN R 544: 23 (ii)	The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, inside an urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares.
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The following specialist studies will be conducted as part of the Basic Assessment Report:

- **Heritage/Archaeological Impact Assessment**
- **Ecological Impact Assessment**

### HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the environmental process. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- Advertisement in the local newspaper
- Notice board on site
- Circulation of the BID (this document) to all identified I&APs
- Comments period
- Review of the report by all registered I&APs and DEDEAT (Provincial)
- A public meeting

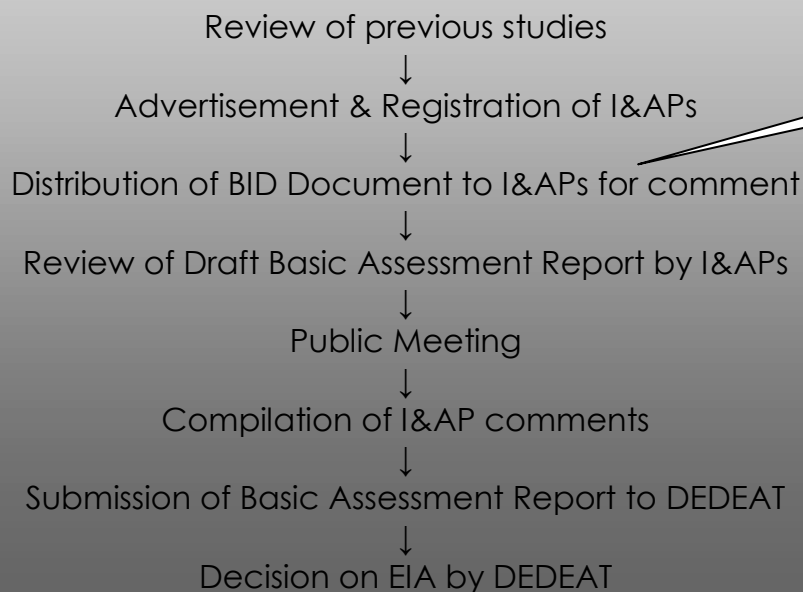


Figure 1. Google image of the site proposed for development of Office Park in Stutterheim. The yellow outline represents the affected area.

### APPROACH TO THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The process required for the proposed project is a Basic Environmental Assessment. This process serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts. Should all impacts and issues be adequately addressed in the report, it will serve as the final document. However, if not, the process will proceed into the next stage which is a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### Basic Assessment Process



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