

# Background Information Document

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF KHUBA SECONDARY SCHOOL ON FARM NO. 19 RESERVE RE/15839 IN THE NKANDLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION VIA BASIC ASSESSMENT

## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) aims to provide:

- A brief background and introduction to the project
- A brief motivation and description of the project
- A brief description of the project activities
- A description of the regulatory process
- Details on how to participate in the process

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Coega Development Corporation (Pty) Ltd (CDC) is assisting the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (KZN-DoE) in implementing projects within the province of KwaZulu-Natal under the DoE's School Building Programme. Within the context of the programme the KZN-DoE is proposing to develop Khuba Secondary School on the remainder of farm no. 19 Reserve RE/15839 in ward 1 situated within the jurisdictional boundary of the Nkandla Local Municipality, King Cetshwayo District, KZN.

## ROLE PLAYERS

### APPLICANT

The applicant is the KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER (EAP)

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC), an independent environmental consultancy, has been appointed to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated Public Participation Process (PPP).

## PROJECT MOTIVATION

The project aligns with the School Building Programme which aims to provide quality teaching facilities and improve the quality of life of previously disadvantaged communities through enhanced education. The project will also create local employment, develop and transfer skills and reduce poverty. The project aims to provide adequate schooling in the area to accommodate 600 new learners and provide them with formal infrastructure that supports and improves both the teaching and learning environment.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed site for the school is a greenfield site located along District Road 2238 adjacent to the existing Nkungamathe Primary School in the Nkungamathe area of Nkandla. There are no existing buildings on the site footprint. Construction activities will comprise of bulk earthworks to construct level platforms, school buildings, an internal paved driveway and parking area, a stormwater soak away / sewer retention area and the installation of a potable water supply and electrical infrastructure to service the school. Municipal water and sewerage infrastructure does not currently service the site.

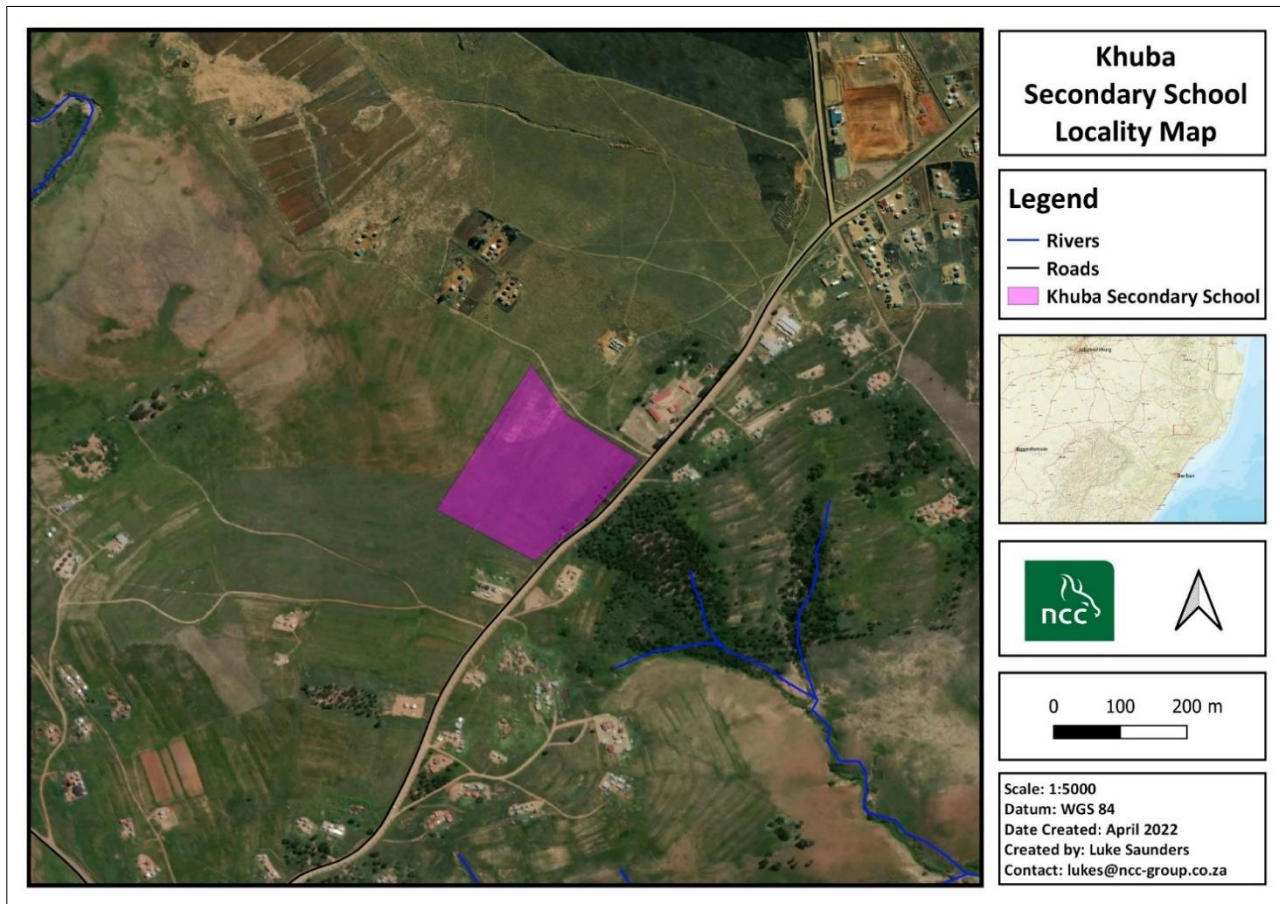
The scope of work proposes ten blocks, Block A to Block J, which will include an administration block, classrooms, a computer room, a media centre, a multi-purpose room, a kitchen and ablutions. Also included will be a school hall, staff accommodation, a block-paved assembly area, a reading garden, covered walkways, a covered eating area, a combi court, a netball court, a soccer field, steel spectator seats, a guard house, a perimeter fence and loffelstein retaining walls.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Refer to the map below showing the proposed Khuba School footprint. The GPS co-ordinates for the existing entrance to access the site are:

**Latitude:** 28°31'17.83"S

**Longitude:** 31° 5'20.18"E



The directions from the Nkandla Municipal Office building (Lot 292, Maree Road, Nkandla) are:

From the municipal office building travel 60m north, turn right at the T-junction and proceed for a further 60m. Then turn left and travel approximately 11.2km north on the main tar road (P50-3). At the district road turn off (D2238), take a right turn off the tar road and travel approximately 1km to the site on the gravel road.

## WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT

A Basic Assessment (BA) is a process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant for the consideration of a particular environmental application. BAs are undertaken where the impacts are less likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment. BAs are used by planning authorities and developers to obtain an independent and objective view of the potential environmental (biophysical, ecological and social) impacts that could arise during the construction and operation of a proposed development. This information needs to provide the Competent Authority (CA) with a sound basis for their decision-making. Environmental management and mitigation measures are also identified through the BA process.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

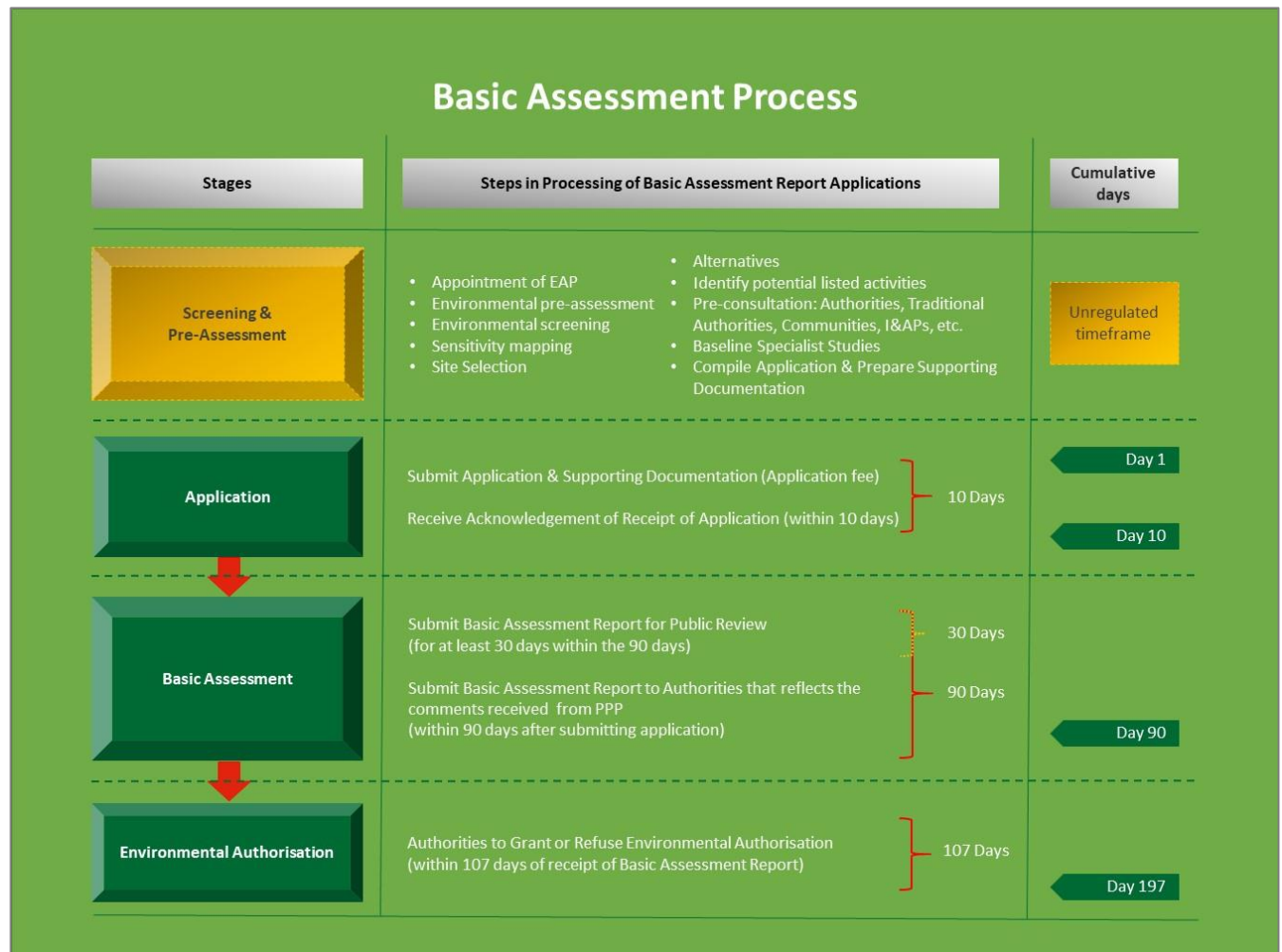
During the construction of the proposed new school infrastructure, more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation will need to be cleared.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

An Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of Section 24(2)(a) of National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA) will be submitted to the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) under the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017) promulgated under Sections 24 and 24D of NEMA. The listed activity triggered by the proposed development which requires assessment is included in the table below.

Government Notice R.327 Activity Number	Details of activity requiring environmental impact assessment and environmental authorisation
27	<b>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation</b> , 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.

A summary of the regulated BA process and timeframe is outlined in the diagram below:



## POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The proposed school development will have potential impacts on the natural environment as it will result in more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation being cleared during construction of the infrastructure. A screening environmental assessment and a number of specialist assessments have been undertaken to confirm the sensitivity of the site and surrounding area and to provide appropriate mitigation measures, where applicable, to minimise negative environmental impacts posed by the development.

## OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register their interest as I&APs and/or submit comment with regards to the proposed development. To register and/or submit comment, I&APs must reference the project title, full name and contact details and should indicate any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest they may have in the project. A hardcopy of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be made available for public review at the Nkungumathe public library and made electronically available on the NCC website <https://ncc-group.co.za> under 'Public Documents'.

If you would like to register and/or provide comment as an interested and affected party, please complete the attached Registration and Comment form and return to the contact person below by no later than **10 February 2023**.

**Mr Craig Burne**

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

26 Bell Close, Westlake Business Park, Westlake, Cape Town

**Tel:** 021 702 2884

**Fax:** 086 555 0693

**Email:** [ppp@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:ppp@ncc-group.co.za)



# Registration and Comment form

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF KHUBA SECONDARY SCHOOL ON FARM NO. 19 RESERVE RE/15839 IN THE NKANDLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM VIA POST, FAX OR EMAIL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) BY NO LATER THAN 10 FEBRUARY 2023:

Craig Burne

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

Address: 26 Bell Close, Westlake Business Park, Westlake, Cape Town

Tel: 021 702 2884

Fax: 086 555 0693

Email: [ppp@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:ppp@ncc-group.co.za)

NAME & SURNAME

CONTACT NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS

(Postal or Physical)

What is your main area of interest regarding the proposed development project?

Please provide any comments, interests, concerns, objections, and/or benefits of the proposed project

Any other I&APs that should be contacted with regards to this project?

Name

Name

Contact Number

Contact Number

Email Address

Email Address

*If the spaces provided in this form are not enough, add additional sheets to complete comments and return with this form*