



Att: to whom it may concern

Re: The construction and erection of telecommunications infrastructure at 865 Marine Drive, Bluff: Triggers a Basic Assessment under listing notice 3 (2014/7).

Dear Sir or Madam,

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and,
- Explain the aims and objectives of the Basic Assessment.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

Located in Treasure Beach (Bluff) the location of this proposed development is part of the EThekweni Municipality. The site is approximately 10 km south-west of Durban central. It is proposed to lease a portion of the property for the construction and erection of a telecommunications tower. The property is described as Portion 4 of ERF 528, Wentworth.

The total area of the project only covers approximately **36m²** located within the boundary of the property. The layout will include the tower and service provider containers. The entire site will be fenced off and locked at all times.

The proposed site does not form an important corridor or linkage to other open space areas.

In terms of the amendments to the EIA regulation promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, Government Gazette volume 594 published in 2014, certain listed activity(ies) will trigger a Basic Assessment report to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs KZN (edtea), for assessment. These regulations were updated in 2017 by government notice 324. According to government notice No. R985 of 04 December 2014, the listed activity triggered by the proposed development is as follows:

"...xiii. inside urban areas :(dd) Area within 1km from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA." – Bluff Nature Reserve.

Hence the vicinity of the proposed development to the Bluff Nature Reserve is the reason for requiring a Basic Environmental Assessment.



PROJECT SUMMARY

A project of this nature will have the following construction activities associated with it: (on Portion 4 of ERF528, Bluff).

- A small section of land needed for the construction will be cleared of obstructions.
- A area will be excavated to the desired depth for the pouring of a concrete foundation.
- Once foundations are in place a site will be leveled and a surface slab will be created - in most cases this is a concrete slab or a compacted gravel cover.
- A steel palisade fence will be erected around the site.
- A 21m monopole mast is proposed on the site.
- Electricity connection(s) will need to be installed.
- At least one service provider (e.g. MTN, Vodacom, CellC...) will install their instrument container and antennae.

If operational the expected result will be better, faster and higher capacity connectivity.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE PLACE?

The proposed development is located at 865 Marine Drive, Bluff, eThekweni Municipality, KZN.

Image 1: Location of the proposed development.

Latitude (S):	Longitude E):
29°56'39.96"S	30°59'41.74"E

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The Basic Assessment process aims to:

- Inform and involve all potentially interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts;
- Provide the department (edtea) with sufficient information to make an informed and transparent decision regarding the proposed development.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN EIA PROCESS FOR A BASIC ASSESSMENT?

1. Public Participation: The public and relevant Authorities will be notified of the proposed development through adverts, site posters and direct consultation.
2. Identification of impacts, environmental issues, concerns and development constraints will be identified using professional judgment, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.
3. Impact evaluation. The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.
4. Mitigation and management measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximize the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report.
5. Environmental reporting. The draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A final Basic Assessment Report will be compiled and will include comments received on the draft Basic Assessment Report.



6. Authority decision. The final Basic Assessment Report will be used as the basis for the decision, by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (edtea) on whether the project should be approved or not. The Department can refuse permission, grant unconditional permission, or grant permission with conditions.

WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The potential environmental impacts of this proposed development are expected to be limited, but possibly include:

- Visual and aesthetic impacts
- Potential impacts on flora in the development footprint
- Impacts during construction, including, noise, waste management, human resources management and storage of building materials
- Socio-economic impacts, both positive or negative

HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, interested individuals, authorities, organisations etc...) are invited to comment on the proposed development. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email:

T: 078 903 3930 (during working hours)

F: 086 762 1098

@: info@ecourb.co.za

PO Box 1500, Link Hills, 3652

If there are any questions and/or concerns that arise, please do not hesitate to ask clarification or more information.

Yours Sincerely,

Willem van den Brink

(B Art et Scien: Town Planning, Msc Env. Mngmnt, PRINCE2 PM)

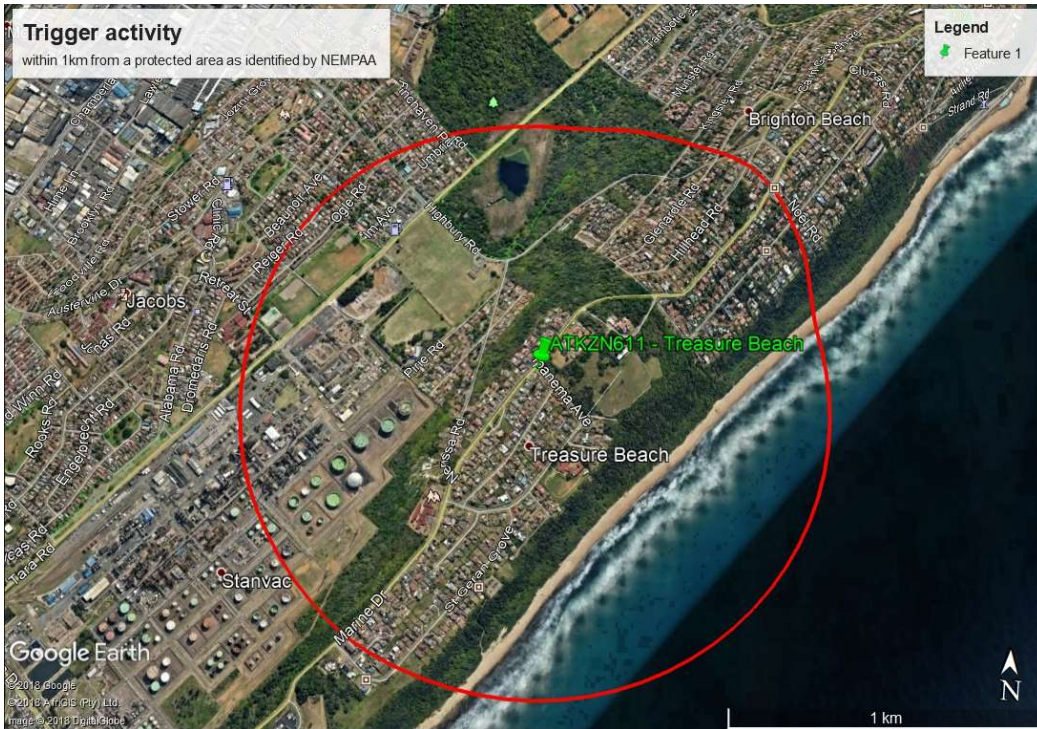
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Notes & comments:



Image 1:



— Bluff Nature Reserve boundary

Image 2:





Image 3:

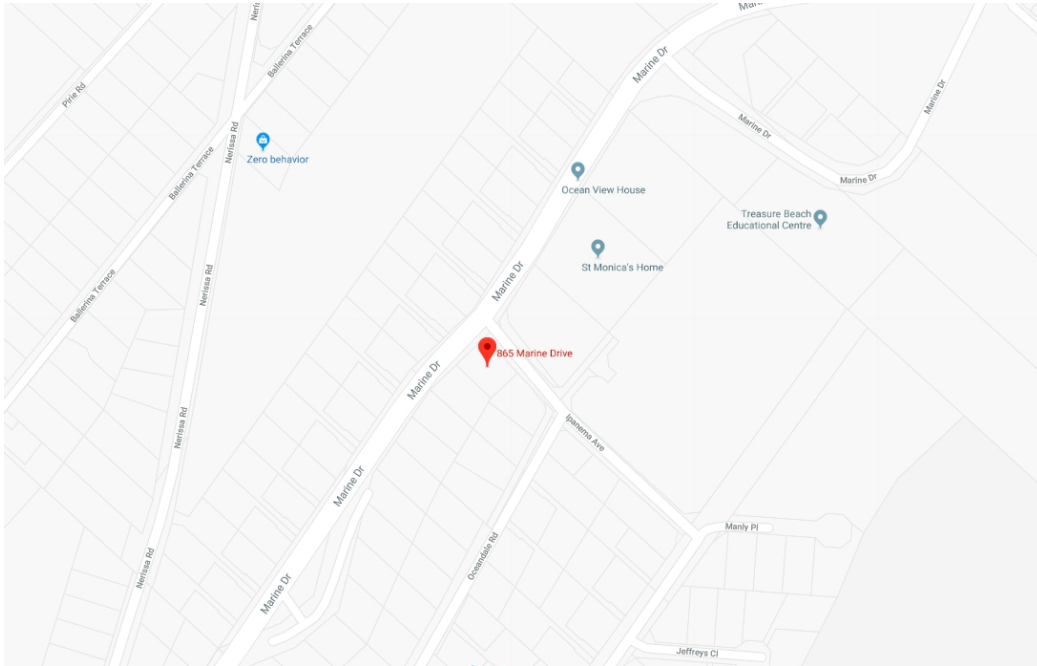


Image 4:

