

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS:
PROPOSED KWANONKQUBELA / ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
ON ERF 623, ALEXANDRIA, NDLAMBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
EASTERN CAPE**

19 NOVEMBER 2014

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

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PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with additional information, the opportunity to register as Interested and Affected Parties in the environmental assessment process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed Kwanonkqubela / Alexandria Community Health Centre on Erf 623, Alexandria, Ndlambe Local Municipality Eastern Cape Province.

The Eastern Cape Department of Health (DOH) has applied for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the **Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)** for the **proposed Kwanonkqubela / Alexandria Community Health Centre**. To be considered for an EA, a Basic Assessment process (BA) must be undertaken. This BA is done in terms of Government Notice Regulations (GNR) No. 543, 544 and 546 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2010 published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA).

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the proposed Kwanonkqubela / Alexandria Community Health Centre and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and enhance beneficial or positive impacts.

If you would like to participate in the process please register yourself and/or your organization as an Interested and Affected Party. Submit issues that you feel need to be addressed in the assessment by completing the response form or in a letter or by email to:

**Dr Mike Cohen, CEN IEM Unit
36 River Road, Walmer
Port Elizabeth, 6070**

<mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za>

All comments must be submitted within 30 days (excluding public holidays and/or period between 15 December and 2 January) of the date of this notice.

Date of Notice: 19 November 2014

Closing Date: 8 January 2015

1. THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1.1. Proposed Project Description

The proposed project entails a new Community Health Clinic (CHC) in Alexandria on Erf 623, Ndlambe Local Municipality. It is proposed to construct a new CHC (4492 m²), accommodation (300 m²), parking bays, access roads and a drop-off zone.

Kwa-Nonkqubela and Wentzel Park clinics are situated 65km to the next referral hospital which is the Port Alfred Hospital. The Alexandria area is very vast, rural and a farm area and borders on the Nanaga area which is a high accident area where it crosses Port Alfred /Alexandria, Grahamstown, Cradock and Port Elizabeth routes. Both clinics provide a comprehensive primary health care service, and are 1km apart.

The intention is to integrate the two facilities (i.e. Kwa-Nonkqubela and Wentzel Park clinics) to one facility as the proposed Alexandria Community Health Centre (CHC) with a component of first level service (a clinic) and the CHC providing a comprehensive CHC Primary Health Care Core Package

1.2. Locality

The proposed Community Health Clinic (CHC) site is located on Erf 623, Alexandria in the Ndlambe Local Municipality, of the Eastern Cape. It is located approximately 105km from Port Elizabeth and 50km to Port Alfred. The geographic co-ordinates are: 33°39'17.65"S and 26°25'10.56"E (**Figure 1: Locality Map**).

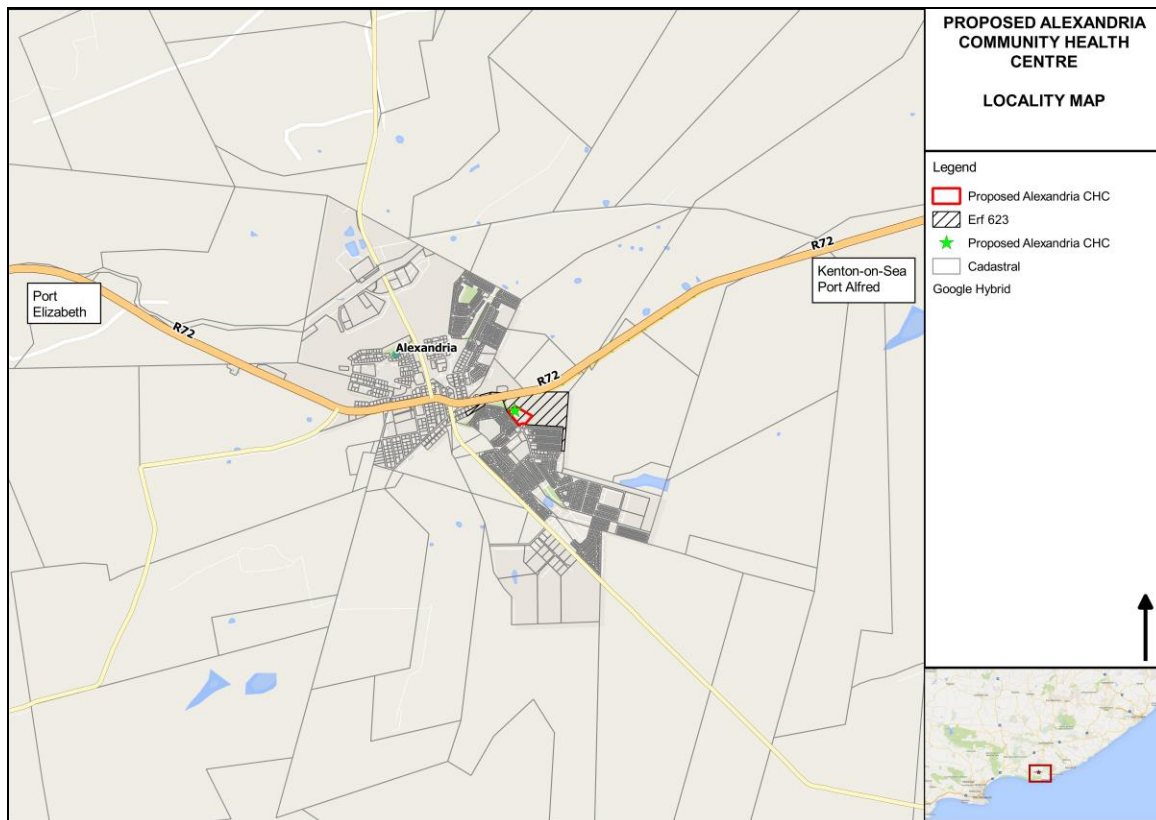


Figure 1: Locality Map

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Identified Listed Activities in terms of the EIA Regulations

The Minister of Environmental Affairs has in terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998, NEMA), as amended, listed the activities that require an environmental assessment. The following activities are subject to a **Basic Assessment** process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010, made under Section 24(5) of NEMA and published in Government Notice R.543, 544, 546 of 18 June 2010, as amended. The competent authority is the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

GN R. 544 Item 11: *The construction of: ... (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures; (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.*

Description: Stormwater bulk outlets may be located within 32m of the watercourse. The sewer pipeline may tie in with the existing sewerage line, which may be located within 32m of the watercourse.

GN R. 544 Item 13: *The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.*

Description: The proposed facilities may include storage of dangerous goods (fuel and gas) and may exceed a combined capacity of 80m³ but less than 500m³

GN R. 544 Item 23: *The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to... (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares;...*

Description: The footprint area of the proposed Community Health Centre and associated facilities will be bigger than 1 hectare.

GN R. 544 Item 24: *The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Schedule or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.*

Description: The proposed Community Health Centre and associated facilities will transform an area bigger than 1 hectare to institutional use from open space.

GN R. 546 Item 2: *The construction of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres. a) In Eastern Cape, ... iii. Outside urban areas, in:... (dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; ... (ff) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve...*

Description: An elevated water tank may be required for the Community Health Centre. The site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan. The site is located within 10km of the Addo Elephant National Park.

GN R. 546 Item 4: *The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. (a) In Eastern Cape ... ii. Outside urban areas, in:... (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans...(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve...*

Description: Internal access roads will be approximately 4.5m wide. The site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan. The site is located within 10km of the Addo Elephant National Park.

GN R. 546 Item 10: *The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. (a) In Eastern Cape ... ii. Outside urban areas, in:.. (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans...(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve...*

Description: The proposed facilities may include storage of dangerous goods (fuel and gas) and may exceed a combined capacity of 30m³ but less than 80m³. The site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan. The site is located within 10km of the Addo Elephant National Park.

GN R. 546 Item 13: *The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation. (a) Critical biodiversity areas and ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority. ...(c) In Eastern Cape... ii. Outside urban areas, the following: ... (ff) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve...*

Description: An area larger than 1 hectare will be cleared of vegetation. The site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan. The site is located within 10km of the Addo Elephant National Park.

GN R. 546 Item 16: *The construction of: ... (iv) infrastructure covering 10 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line. (a) In Eastern Cape, ... ii. Outside urban areas, in: ... (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; ...(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; ...*

Description: Stormwater bulk outlets may be located within 32m of the watercourse. The sewer pipeline may tie in with the existing sewerage line, which may be located within 32m of the watercourse. The site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan. The site is located within 10km of the Addo Elephant National Park.

2.2. Basic Assessment Process

The Basic Assessment Process identifies and assesses potential impacts, then provides mitigation measures to reduce the anticipated negative impacts. Appropriate public participation process is undertaken as part of this process. The Basic Assessment ends with recommendations for authorisation and under what conditions.

2.3. Some Identified Issues / Impacts

As we progress with the environmental investigations we will identify potentially beneficial and adverse impacts. All identified issues will be subjected to an assessment to determine if they are significant and if they require additional investigation. Possible mitigation measures will also be provided to reduce the anticipated adverse impacts. Based on our preliminary investigations we have identified the following issues:

- ✿ Pollution impacts: noise, air, soil, surface and groundwater
- ✿ Socio-economic impacts
- ✿ Ecological impacts

2.4. Description of Tasks within the Basic Assessment Process

- ✱ An application for Environmental Authorisation has been submitted to the competent authority, namely the DEDEAT for this project.
- ✱ Public participation starts announcing the proposed project, and registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Newspaper advertisements and site notices are placed, and notifications are also sent to identified stakeholders. – We are here in the process.
- ✱ A Basic Assessment Report is compiled that considers inputs from stakeholders, I&APs and specialists, in terms of:
 - potential impacts of the activity on the environment;
 - whether the impacts can be mitigated, and if so to what extent; and,
 - whether there are any other significant issues / impacts to be investigated.
- ✱ Once the Basic Assessment Report is compiled, it is then submitted for a 40 day review period to registered I&APs and stakeholders. This enables you to comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report and accompanying draft Environmental Management Programme.
- ✱ Your comments are incorporated and the reports are then finalised.
- ✱ These final reports are submitted to the DEDEAT for consideration.
- ✱ The DEDEAT reviews the documents and decides whether the project can proceed or not, their decision is known as an Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- ✱ A copy of the EA is made available to you to consider, along with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal.

3. HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE

Every proposed project and/or development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed development site. While some of the impacts will have an adverse impact on the environment others will have a beneficial impact.

For this reason it is imperative that you as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) comment on the proposed development and raise issues or concerns that you feel needs to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process.

This can be done by completing the attached registration form and submitting it to the contact details as reflected.

Upon submission of the registration form to CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive future project information and notifications regarding reports available for public comment.

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward comments regarding the proposed development, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by 8 January 2015.

