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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ROYPOINT
HOUSING UNITS WITHIN THE NEWCASTLE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, AMAJUBA DISTRICT, KWAZULU-
NATAL.**

November 2019

Prepared by:

**Emvelo Quality and Environmental
Consultant (PTY) Ltd**

On Behalf of



Newcastle local municipality

INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Local Municipality intends to construct low income housing units for the Roypoint community. Therefore, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has commenced, assisting the developer in identifying all potential adverse environmental consequences of the project, their extent, significance and to ensure that the environmental management requirements are adequately implemented.

The purpose of this Background information document is to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with a brief description of the EIA process to be undertaken and to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regards to the potential impacts to the environment by the proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Newcastle Local Municipality proposes to construct 800 - 900 housing units. Each unit is estimated to be approximately 40m² and the yard is estimated to be approximately 250 m² to 300 m². The total development footprint is approximately 38 hectares.

STUDY AREA

The site co-ordinates are as follows; 27°48'28.01"S; 29°59'41.86"E.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential adverse environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 as amended in 2017, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA), prior to the commencement of any of the listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. Thus, an environmental impact assessment is required. A full EIA process includes the Application, Scoping, and Environmental Impact Assessment phase and the public participation process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

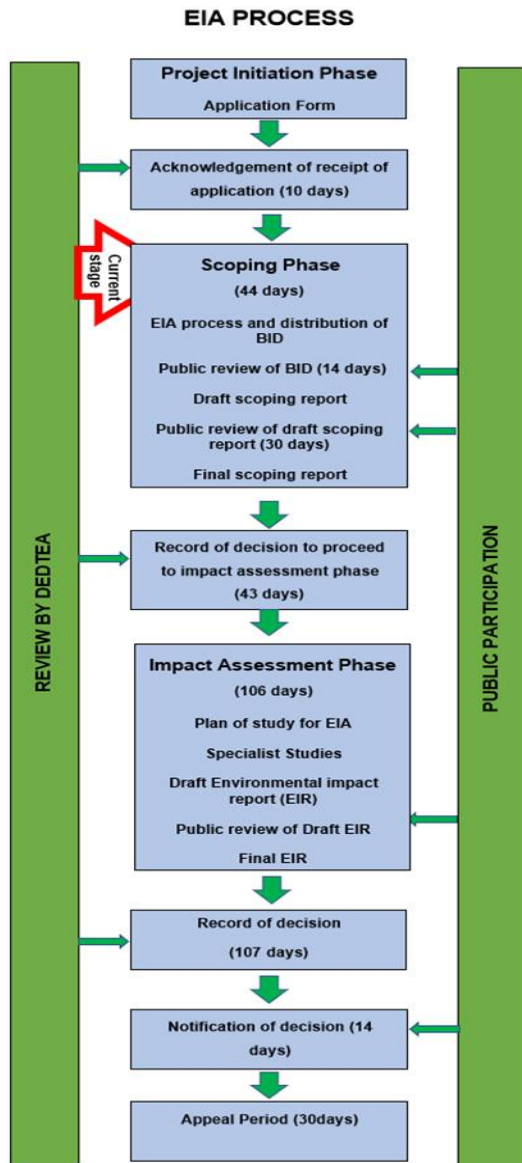


Figure 1: EIA process

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the EIA. Therefore, Emvelo Consultant has been appointed to conduct the EIA. Emvelo

will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent EIA in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). In this way, an informed decision-making process can take place.

LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY THIS PROJECT

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in Listing Notices;

Table 1: Listed Activities

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
2	Activity 15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) The undertaking of linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan

WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Public participation is the process that promotes information sharing, consultation and active involvement amongst stakeholders and all interested and affected parties.

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 thus ensuring informed decision-making throughout the process.

REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed development and to make suggestions for mitigations. These comments will be included as part of the Scoping report which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) for consideration.

I&APs may forward their written comments along with their contact details within 14 days from receiving the document to Phumzile Lembede. Postal address; P. O. Box 101672, Meerensee, Tel: 035 789 0632, Fax: 086 577 5220, email: info@emveloconsultants.co.za.

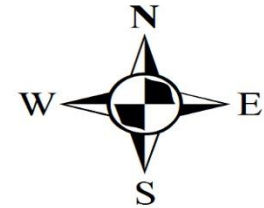
APPENDIX A
(LOCALITY MAP)



**ROYPOINT
LOCALITY MAP**

Legend

 Roy point



Datum : WGS 84
Date : 21/11/2019
Drawn by : Selby Mabuza





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Richards Bay, 3900.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

EIA Process For The Proposed Development Of Roypoint Housing Units Within The Newcastle Local Municipality

I wish to register as an interested and affected party and/ or bring to the attention Emvelo Consultant the following information.

<u>Personal Information</u>	
Name and Surname	
Company /organization	
Physical Address	
Postal address	
Telephone:	Cell:
Email:	
<u>Comments</u>	

Signature

Date