

# THE SPECIAL MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL ROUTE R56 SECTIONS 6 AND 7 BETWEEN INDWE AND MACLEAR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

JANUARY 2015

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform the public of the intention of the South African National Roads Agency (Soc) Ltd to undertake special maintenance on National Route R56 Section 6 and 7 between Indwe and Maclear. A Basic Assessment will be undertaken for the proposed activity and environmental authorisation sought. The reference number for the project is 14/12/16/3/3/1/1334. Public consultation is an essential part of the process. You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP). All comments from you will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

Chameleon Environmental was appointed by KBK Engineers (Pty) Ltd to facilitate the Basic Assessment and public participation process.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The scope of works will comprise the following:

This project is situated on National Road R56 Sections 6 and 7 between Indwe and Maclear. The length of the project is the following:

R56 Section 6 = 58.14km and  
R56 Section 7 = 68.36km.

The total length of the project is 126.50 km.

The following is included in the scope of works:

- Strengthening of portions of the existing pavement,
- Patching and repair of the existing pavement,
- Resurfacing of the road,
- Installation of subsurface drainage in certain cuttings,
- Clearing and shaping of existing open drains,
- Replacing of the existing road reserve fencing,
- Replacing of existing guardrails.

### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled and distributed for the following purposes:

- To notify Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed new development;
- To provide a brief project description;
- To describe the Basic Assessment process.

a. Culverts

Drainage forms an integral part of the rehabilitation of the road. Approximately 6 existing pipe and/or box culverts to be constructed along this section of road.

b. Bridges

No bridges will be widened on this project.

c. Mining Areas

There are no borrow pits or quarries associated with the project. Commercial gravel sources will be utilised on this project.

### 3. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be guided by the EIA Regulations, 2010 and environmental management principles and objectives of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, 2010 were promulgated on 18 June 2010 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and came into effect on 2 August 2010. Activities identified in terms of Regulation R. 544 may not commence without environmental authorization from the competent authority and in respect of which the investigation, assessment and communication of potential impacts of activities must follow the Basic Assessment procedure as prescribed.

A Basic Assessment is a process involving consultation with regulatory authorities and other I&APs that serve to inform a decision on whether or not a development is environmentally acceptable.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will be the final decision making authority with regard to this project with the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism as the commenting authority.

### 4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of the Basic Assessment is to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts (biophysical and social) associated with the proposed development.

The following tasks are included as part of this process:

- Submit application form to DEA;
- Site visit and desk study of available information and identification of key issues;
- Identify and compile a list of I&APs;
- Compile and distribute a Background Information Document (BID) to I&APs;
- Advertise in the local newspaper notifying the public of the project;
- Synthesis issues for preliminary investigation.
- Compile a Draft Basic Assessment Report and make it available for public comment.
- Submit Final Basic Assessment Report to environmental authorities for approval.

## 5. SPECIALIST STUDIES

It is anticipated that the following specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment process:

- Aquatic and vegetation study;
- Heritage study.

Specialist consultants will be appointed to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

The aim of this specialist studies are for the specialist to assess the impact of the project actions on the environment. The specialists will analyse the current situation and will assess the potential impacts of the project actions (and feasible alternatives) on various aspects of the particular issue during the construction and operation phases of the proposed project.

The impacts will be assessed in terms of various criteria such as extent, duration, intensity and whether the impact is positive or negative. The significance of the impact will then be determined through a synthesis of the various criteria used. The specialist will also recommend mitigation actions that they believe can materially affect the significance rating of impacts.

## 6. AUTHORISATION

DEA will consider the final Basic Assessment and will either issue an authorisation with or without conditions, or reject the proposed project. The authorisation issued by the DEA will be distributed to I&APs as part of the appeal period. An appeal period of 30 days will be provided by DEA. Formal, motivated appeals should be lodged with the Department. The results of the appeal process will then be made known to the public through the distribution of a final feedback letter.

## 7. COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

It is proposed that the project will be put out to tender once the authorisation is received from DEA. Construction cannot commence without authorisation from the environmental authorities. Any enquiries regarding the tender or employment opportunities should be directed to the applicant.

## 8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Please contact Chameleon Environmental if you require further information on the application and or activity. Please submit your name, contact information, interest and relevant issue in writing before or on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2015. The contact details are:

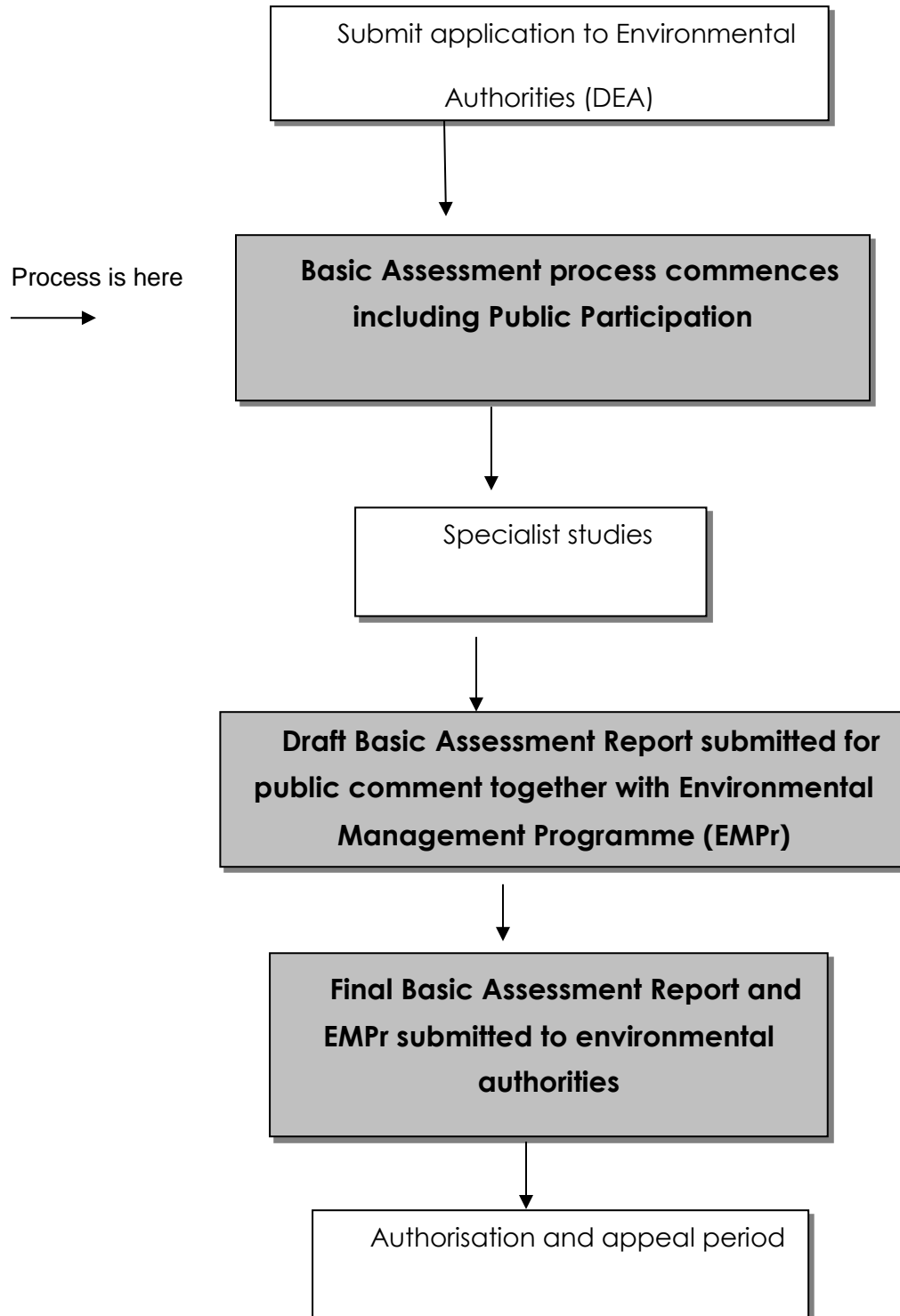
Postal Address: P O Box 11788, Silver Lakes, 0054

E-mail: [bothmaj@tiscali.co.za](mailto:bothmaj@tiscali.co.za)

Tel: 012 8091704 or 082 571 6920

Fax number: 086 6855 080

Written representations can be submitted to DR J BOTHMA



**Figure 1: PROPOSED BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**