

PROPOSED REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGES AND CULVERT STRUCTURES ON TRUNK ROADS 3305, 3501, 5801, DIVISIONAL ROAD 2307 AND MAIN ROAD 584

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

MARCH 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform the public of the intention of the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works to undertake repairs or replacements on a combined total of 41 bridge and culvert structures in the Western Cape Province. A Basic Assessment will be undertaken for the proposed activity and environmental authorisation sought. 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.

Chameleon Environmental was appointed by BVi Engineering to facilitate the Basic Assessment and public participation process on behalf of the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project entails the repair or replacement of a combined total of 41 bridge and culvert structures located on the following roads:

- TR3305 (N12) – 24 major culverts and 10 bridges,
- DR2307 – 2 major culverts,
- MR584 – 1 major culverts,
- TR3501 (R61) – 2 major culverts, and
- TR5801 (R381) – 2 major culverts.

The roads will also be resurfaced and areas next to the road will be investigated for possible crushing and screening sites.

The water uses (crossing streams/rivers or within 500m of a wetland) will be applied for at the Department of Water and Sanitation in accordance with the National Water Act, (Act No. 36 of 1998).

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.

3. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be guided by the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and environmental management principles and objectives of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, 2014 came into effect on 8 December 2014 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Activities identified in terms of Regulation R. 983 and 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 Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEADP) will be the final decision making authority with regard to this project.

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 DEADP;
- 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 assessment;
- Paleontological assessment.

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

The DEADP 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 DEADP will be distributed to I&APs as part of the appeal period. 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 DEADP. 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 20th of April 2021. The contact details are:

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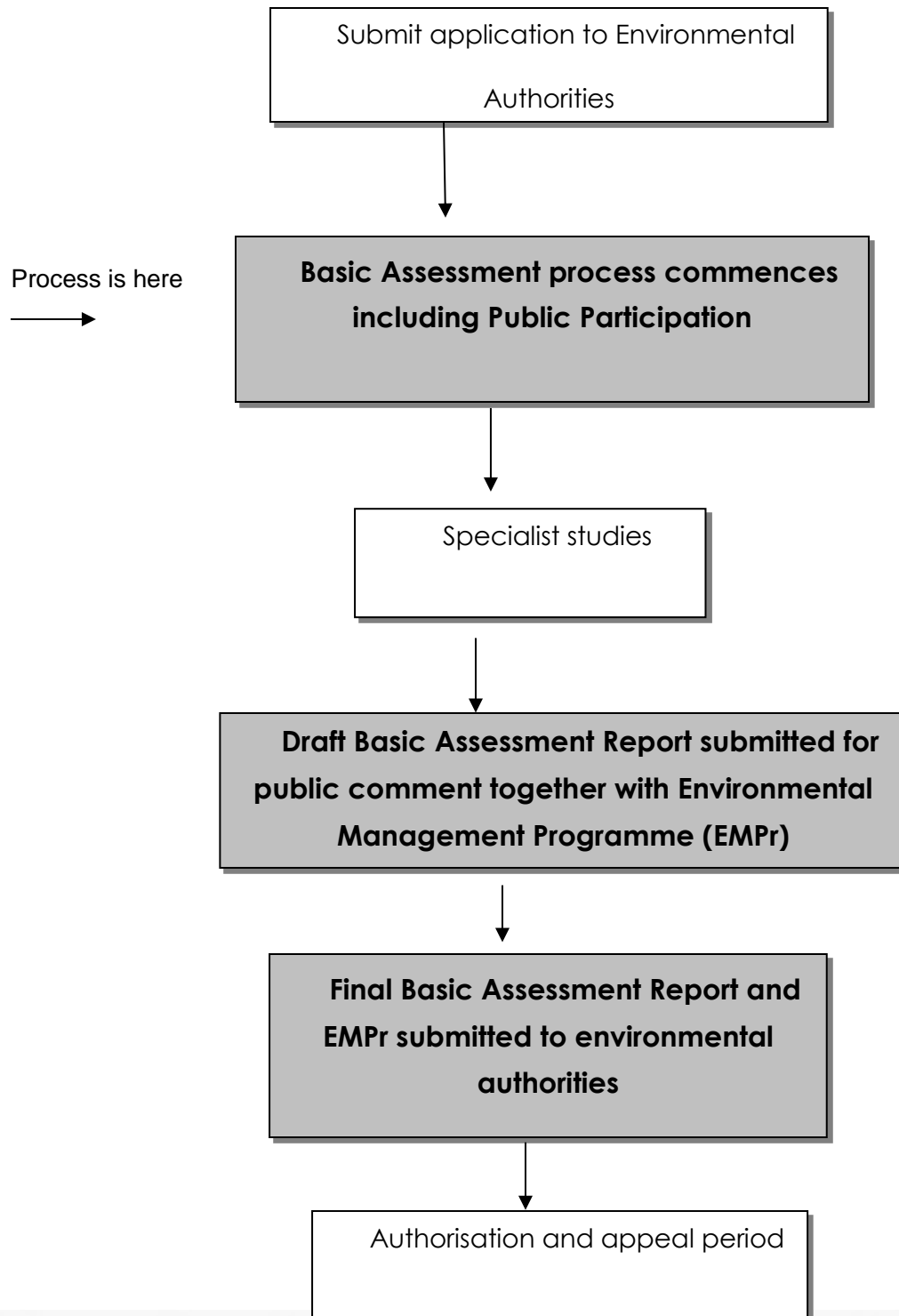


Figure 1: PROPOSED BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS