



1. INTRODUCTION

The applicant Msunduzi Local Municipality has identified the need to provide low cost subsidised housing on a portion of Ward 14. This process was initiated as a means to address the municipality's predominantly traditional/informal housing profile, and in doing so improve the living conditions and quality of life of its communities.

The project area comprises of 286ha and entails the construction of 1 000 new top structures (in-situ). The housing project involves the formalisation of an existing informal settlement, giving the occupants legal tenure as well as formalising and improving the basic services such as sanitation through the installation of VIPs.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the regulations published in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 (R983 of 4 December 2014), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the developer is required to carry out a Basic Assessment for the following activity:

Listing Notice 1

Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-

- (i) a watercourse;

but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-

- (a) will occur behind a development setback;
(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; or
(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies.

Background:

The construction of roads within the project area will trigger activity 19 as there will be infilling and depositing of materials within a watercourse.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

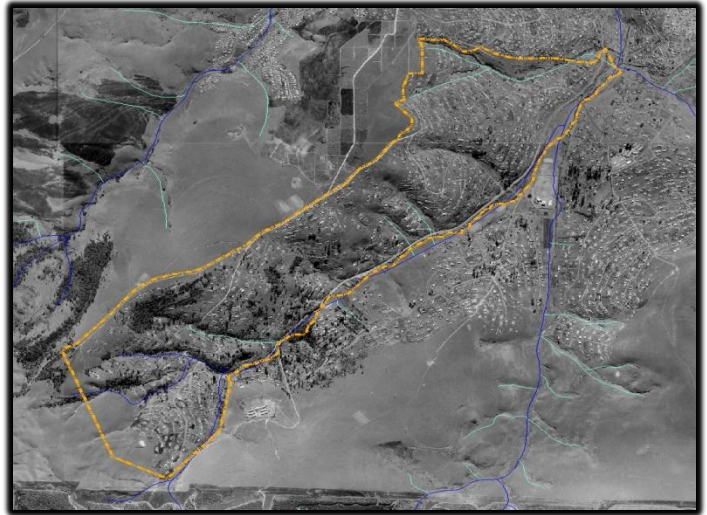
K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 Location and demographics

The project area falls on the Remaining Portion of Farm Willow No. 16454 within a portion of Ward 14 of the Msunduzi Local Municipality. The total extent of the project area is approximately 286Ha. The overall population for the project area is approximately 15 318 persons which resides in approximately 3 039 households.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



4.2 Project Co-ordinates

Latitudinal Extent: 29° 42' 37.60" S

Longitudinal Extent: 30° 18' 51.12" E

5. CURRENT AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

The land of the proposed project area is not zoned however an informal settlement has been established on the land. The current land use includes low dense households. The surrounding land use constitutes low dense households to the North and East of the project area and vacant land to the West and South.

6. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed housing development will consist of the construction of approximately 1 000 new top structures within the project area, and will therefore benefit approximately 1 000 beneficiaries and their associated families.

7. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Geophysical and biophysical (including biodiversity) issues include:

- a. The proposed development will have limited environmental impacts, and any environmental impacts which do occur as a

result of the proposed development will be limited to the construction phase of the proposed development. These may include site clearance (where necessary), and the excavation and digging of foundations, bulk earthworks and structural works, which pose risks with regards to soil erosion and storm water management.

b. Environmental impacts associated with the proposed development are expected to be limited as a result of development activities being restricted to occurring within the project area.

c. An Environmental Management Plan will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development

Socio-economic issues:

a. The increased traffic volumes along the road networks during the construction phase of the proposed development may impact on other road users.

b. The provision of adequate housing within rural areas will greatly improve the lives of residents, resulting in increased standards of living and general well-being.

c. The construction phase of development will result in a number of temporary employment opportunities for unemployed members of the surrounding community

Cultural-historic issues

a. The developer is unaware of any archaeological sites on the property. Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (KZN Heritage) will however be contacted to clarify this. The procedure to be followed in the occurrence of any cultural, historical or archeological artifacts (including graves) will be provided for within the developments Environmental Management Plan and will be enforced during the construction and operational phases of development

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and will include the following components:

Initial Consultation:

The primary purpose of this phase is to present the motivation for the proposed project and elicit issues, concerns and comments from Interested and/or Affected Parties.

Information Sharing Meeting:

Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be invited to an information sharing meeting.

Comment on the Environmental Impact Assessment:

The Basic Assessment Report will be made available to all registered I&AP's, to provide them an opportunity to comment in writing on these documents when concluded before it is submitted to the competent authority. All comments received will be included in a comments and response report compiled by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner. This report will describe the issue raised, the date it was raised, by whom and how the issue will be, or has been dealt with.

Your participation is important for the Environmental Impact Assessment. If you would like us to add you to our database of stakeholders who wish to participate in this process, or should you have any queries regarding the process or comments about the proposed development, please contact Miss Simitha Bechan (details below)

before the
8th June 2015.

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