

***BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT  
AND INVITATION TO REGISTER***

**A component of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use License  
Application (WULA) process for the**

**PROPOSED ROAD BRIDGE CROSSING THE INDAKA (SUNDAYS) RIVER TO  
PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE ZIMBA COMMUNITY, INDAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**MARCH 2016**

**INTRODUCTION**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Endecon Ubuntu (Pty) Ltd Consulting Engineers have been appointed as implementing agents to design, obtain consent for and supervise construction of this bridge by the Indaka Local Municipality.

Hornby Smyly Glavovic Inc (HSG) has been appointed by Endecon to undertake an Environmental Basic Assessment, in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN R983) promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and

Obtain the necessary Water Use License from the Department of Water and Sanitation, under the Water Act of 1998.

## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on the proposed project and both the Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) process being undertaken. Furthermore this document serves to enable interested and/or affected parties (I&AP) to have the opportunity to register as stakeholders in the public participation process and provide comment on the proposed development.

## PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION

### LOCATION

The proposed site for this bridge crossing the Indaka or Sundays river is some 20 kilometres north west of Tugela Ferry on the border of the Indaka and Msinga municipalities. The bridge will serve the Zimba community and allow them safe and reliable access to the surrounding area and services. Currently the only such access is a temporary one constructed across the river by the community during times of low flow. It is regularly swept away leaving the community with no other access

The closest road is the P281

The coordinates for the proposed bridge site are: 28 38 45 S and 30 15 09 E

### TOPOGRAPHY

The site is in the valley bottom and the surrounding topography is rugged, hence the lack of any other alternative routes to serve the community. The Indaka river is a tributary of the Tugela, the site being some 6 kilometres above the confluence.

### VEGETATION

Most of the original vegetation in the area remains and it comprises Thukela Valley Bushveld according to Mucina and Rutherford

### EXISTING LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The existing land use in the area is rural settlement and associated farming activities.

### GEOLOGY

The site (according to the geotech report) is underlain by Vryheid Formation sandstone. The site has deep alluvial sediments including large boulders up to 4 metres deep.

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

### COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal comprises a single lane concrete structure. From the end of the existing gravel Zimba road, it will be approximately 36 metres of drift (ie overtopped during floods) followed by approximately 45 metres of bridge.

A temporary construction camp will be erected for the duration of the construction period. At the end of the contract the camp will be removed and the site rehabilitated.

### EXISTING SERVICES

There are no existing services in the area, with the exception of local roads with culverts.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

The proposed development triggers several activities in need of a Basic Assessment process (BA) as detailed in the EIA Regulations (Government Notices R983, R984 and R985 as amended on 8 December 2014) promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and requiring authorisation from the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

An EIA is a public process, which is used to identify, predict and assess the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project on the environment (i.e. biophysical, social and economic environments) during the construction and operational phases. The EIA is used to inform the decision-making process undertaken by the EDTEA.

## WATER USE LICENSING APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposed development triggers several activities which require a Water Use License to be applied for from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) including a development within 500 metres of a wetland as well as impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course and altering the bed, banks or character of a water course (in terms of the National Water Act of 1998 and GN number 1199 of 2009)

In this regard an application must be made to the Department of Water and Sanitation, together with a public participation process. This process can be undertaken in conjunction with the Environmental Authorisation process discussed above

The WULA process does not have legislated timeframes as the EIA process above, but the DWS office in Durban has agreed to acknowledge the application within 30 days and comment within a further 30 days. Once they are happy with the submission, they forward it to the national office in Pretoria for approval (this can take anything up to 6 months).

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### STEPS TAKEN TO INFORM I&AP

Interested and affected parties (I&AP) are being notified of the proposed development by means of written correspondence, newspaper advertisements and notices placed on site.

A public meeting may be held if and when required to discuss the proposed development with identified I&AP and obtain any comments or issues that need to be addressed in the Impact Assessment process. A public meeting is not deemed necessary in this case.


HSG will prepare a draft Basic Assessment Report incorporating input received from I&AP and specialists, where necessary. This report will be made available to

all registered I&AP for comment. All comments will be recorded in the Comments and Responses Report to be addressed in the Final Basic Assessment Report to be submitted to the EDTEA for authorisation.

All registered I&AP will be notified of the Environmental Authorisation once it has been issued.

### I&AP REGISTRATION

Should you wish to register as an interested and Affected Party, or simply to receive any future reports and correspondence, please complete the attached form and forward it to the Environmental Consultants, HSG, at the contact details hereunder.

<p><b><u>Applicant:</u></b> Indaka Local Municipality</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Mr. N S W Sithole  <u>Postal Address:</u> Private Bag X70113, Wasbank, 2920  <u>Tel:</u> 034 261000  <u>Fax:</u> 034 2612035</p>	<p><b><u>Environmental Assessment Practitioner:</u></b></p> <p>Hornby Smyly Glavovic Inc  <u>Contact:</u> Mike Webster  <u>Postal Address:</u> PO Box 1429, Westville 3630  <u>Tel:</u> 031 2667751 <u>Fax:</u> 031 2667790  <u>E-mail:</u> <a href="mailto:mikew@hsginc.co.za">mikew@hsginc.co.za</a></p> 
---	---

## KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The development could have a number of impacts on the area both positive and negative. These significant impacts can be effectively mitigated through the methods and specifications that will be outlined in the Environmental Management Programme.

The following have been identified through preliminary assessment:

### Geophysical and biophysical

- Potential water pollution during construction as the work will be in and adjacent to the river bed of the Indaka river.
- However this should be for a short duration only and once the bridge is completed the water quality to revert to it's former status.
- Erosion and sedimentation of the stream during construction.

### Socio-economic

- Provision of safe and efficient crossing of the river during all but the most severe rainfall periods will be a boon to the local community. Social hindrances to this development are unlikely as there is community support for the project.
- Additional employment opportunities will be created in the construction phase.

