



**KSEMS**  
environmental consulting

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to serve as a background information document intended to inform I & APs of the project as well as to provide information on the roles and responsibilities of registered I & APs. This document does not serve to provide detailed information on the potential impacts of the proposal which will be described in the basic assessment report. Please note that comments on the BID are not required, however should you have any initial comments or queries please submit to the contact person listed on the last page.

<b>Project Title:</b>	The construction of community ablution blocks (CABs) and associated infrastructure in informal settlements in the Dakota Beach Informal Settlement, Isipingo.
<b>Application Type:</b>	Basic Assessment
<b>Competent Authority:</b>	KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental, Environmental Affairs (DAEA)
<b>Location of Activity:</b>	Dakota Beach Informal Settlement, Isipingo Beach which falls within eThekweni Municipality.
<b>Public Participation Commencement date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2014
<b>Contact in Order to Register as an I &amp; AP:</b>	Trisha Gounden Fax: 086 535 5281 Tel: 031 769 1578 ksems@ksems.co.za
<b>Environmental Consultants for Project:</b>	Kerry Stanton and Trisha Gounden
<b>Applicant:</b>	eThekweni Water and Sanitation
<b>Release Date:</b>	

### The Proposal

In Durban, eThekweni Water and Sanitation (EWS) is the authority responsible for providing water and sanitation to the city's population. As such EWS has undertaken an ongoing, full-scale project which has the fundamental purpose of upgrading or installing structures for community based water and sanitation.

This proposed development entails the construction of Communal Ablution Blocks (CABs) and associated infrastructure which will service the informal settlements in the Dakota Beach Informal Settlement situated in Isipingo Beach. EWS propose to construct six (6) Communal Ablution Blocks (CAB's) within the informal settlement, in addition, the development will include new pipelines which will link the various CAB toilet platforms to existing main pipelines.

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## Need and Desirability

According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 and the Water Services Act 108 of 1997, Local Government must ensure that all their residents have access to safe water and sanitation. This project forms part of eThekweni Municipality's Provision of Water and Sanitation to Informal Settlements programme.

The Dakota Informal Settlement within the suburb of Isipingo Beach of the eThekweni Municipality consists largely of high density informal settlements. The households in this area do not have access to formal sanitation infrastructure and are exposed to unsanitary conditions thus they have a high risk of infection with excreta-related diseases. There is a significant need for formal sanitation in the community as it will increase the living standards of the residents and reduced the amount of water borne diseases in the area. Surface and ground water contamination will be significantly reduced as residents will have formal sanitation and will not have to depend on pit latrines or watercourses for sanitation and ablution requirements.

The eThekweni Water and Sanitation Department, as part of the eThekweni Sanitation Program, proposes to formalize the ablution facilities by constructing communal ablution blocks (CAB's) in the Dakota Beach informal settlement to provide for basic sanitation services in the area. The CAB's are temporary modified containers comprising toilets, urinals, showers, basins, a store room, an external wash trough and a standpipe. The proposed sanitation infrastructure is expected to improve hygienic conditions within Dakota Beach.

Since the informal houses which the proposed toilets intend to supply, are built in proximity to the Isipingo Beach, sections of the proposed sanitation facilities will lie within a 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea thereby triggering a Basic Assessment.

## Site Description

The approximate co-ordinates for the six (6) CAB sites are:

<b>CAB Site 1</b>	30° 0' 23.324" S 30° 56' 16.393" E
<b>CAB Site 2</b>	30° 0' 20.834" S 30° 56' 18.783" E
<b>CAB Site 3</b>	30° 0' 19.512" S 30° 56' 20.534" E
<b>CAB Site 4</b>	30° 0' 18.524" S 30° 56' 23.345" E
<b>CAB Site 5</b>	30° 0' 15.569" S 30° 56' 27.485" E
<b>CAB Site 6</b>	30° 0' 14.145" S 30° 56' 25.34" E

The Dakota Beach Informal Settlement is situated along Ernest Clokie Road in Isipingo Beach, eThekweni Municipality. The informal settlement is a small holding however it is concentrated with a large population, as such the land is degraded. There is a large amount of waste and pollution contained in the stormwater drains and nearby watercourses. Due to the lack of formal sanitation facilities within the community, sewerage overflow drains directly into the watercourse. The Dakota Beach Informal Settlement is located in close proximity to the Isipingo Beach. There are a number of light industry warehouses situated in close proximity to the informal settlement.

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Figure 1: Location of the proposed CAB sites (yellow) in the Dakota Beach Informal Settlement, Google Earth 2014.

### Specialist Studies

An Estuarine Specialist studies will be carried out and commissioned as part of Basic Assessment Report (BAR) to help identify impacts that may be presented.

### Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

A number of potential environmental issues have already been identified and are listed in Table 1 below in order to assist I&APs to better understand the investigations to be undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process. Where mitigation measures have already been identified, these have also been provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE
<b>Planning and Design Phase</b>	
Non-compliance with legislative requirements	During the planning and design phase of the proposed development, compliance with legal requirements is carefully considered and integrated into the design and location of the CABs in order to avoid non-compliance and delays in the Basic Assessment Process. Foreseen issues are planned for and dealt with at this phase and contingency plans are developed for unforeseen impacts and delays.
<b>Construction Phase</b>	
Generation of dust, solid waste and noise pollution affecting the neighbouring industries.	These impacts can be fully mitigated against provided suitable control systems are implemented during construction of the ablution facilities. These impacts will be further assessed in the BAR and control measures identified. A site specific Environmental Management Program (EMPr) attached to the BAR will ensure adequate control of these impacts during construction. An independent ECO must be employed to monitor compliance with the EMPr.
Damage and removal of existing vegetation.	Vegetation at the site is degraded in nature and no species of significance were identified during the initial site visit. Weeds were abundant around the informal settlement which will be removed during construction and indigenous vegetation utilised during the rehabilitation process thereby resulting in a positive impact.
Contamination by cement and other hazardous materials.	All cement mixing is to be carried out on an impermeable surface away to ensure no soil contamination takes place. This impact can be fully mitigated against provided designated concrete mixing areas and storage areas for hazardous materials are set up. This impact will be further assessed in the BAR and control measures identified in the BAR and EMPr. An independent ECO must be employed to monitor compliance with the EMPr.
Impacts on the Isipingo Beach	Waste water from the construction of the platforms on which the CABS will be placed could channel into the Isipingo Beach. An Estuarine Specialist Study will be conducted to determine the impacts on the Isipingo Beach.

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	Storm water precautions must be taken into consideration to prevent contaminated water filling the beach and all grey water must be collected and disposed of in to proper facility. Wastewater management will be addressed in the BAR and EMPt.
Nuisance to industries and businesses adjacent to the construction site.	Contractors must keep within normal working hours on a Monday to Friday from 7:00 to 17:00 and Saturdays until 13:30. The contractors are to ensure any machinery used is well maintained and calibrated. Silencers should be used on machinery were applicable to reduce noise and disturbance to neighbours.
Transportation of construction equipment impacting on the roads and surrounding residents.	The transportation of construction equipment and materials must use a predetermined route that will have minimal impact on the roads and surrounding industries.
<b>Operational Phase</b>	
Positive impact on local residents living conditions.	This will be beneficial to the local residents who have established informal settlements in the area. Living conditions will be improved with the construction of formal sanitation facilities.
Increase pressure on existing sewerage facilities where the proposed ablution facilities will drain.	Confirmation must be obtained to ensure that the associated sewer infrastructure has adequate capacity to transport the sewage and wastewater treatment works where the sewage will flow into.
Impacts on groundwater, surface water, soil and vegetation.	The CABs will have a positive impact on ground and surface water. The establishment of proper sanitation facilities and infrastructure will reduce the overall impact on the physical environment. The reduction in infections and waterborne diseases will result in reduced contaminants being leached into the ground thereby uplifting the overall living conditions of the residents in Dakota Beach.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

To determine the overall environmental feasibility of the proposal, a Basic Assessment is required as per the National Environmental Management Act EIA regulations, (Regulations in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as amended). A Basic Assessment is an assessment carried out to determine the environmental impacts of a development project. It is a planning and management tool for sustainable development and aims to inform decision-makers about the potential environmental, physical, biological and socio-economic effects of the proposed project. This allows relevant authorities and decision-makers to make an informed decision on whether to authorise or reject the proposed construction of the ablution facilities i.e. whether to grant Environmental Authorisation.

The following activities contained in GNR 544 of the new NEMA regulations, 2010, will be applied for:

<b>Number and date of the relevant notice:</b>	<b>Activity No (s) (in terms of notice):</b>	<b>Listed activity triggered as per the project description:</b>
<i>As per LN 1_ GNR 544_ 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010 promulgated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2010:</i>	<b>11. The construction of: (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more, where such construction occurs within a watercourse, OR WITHIN 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</b>	<i>The Applicant proposes to construct six (6) communal ablution facilities in the Dakota Informal Settlement along Ernest Clokie Road in Isipingo Beach in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality triggering activity 11 of GNR 544, construction of CABS within 32 metres of a water course.</i>
<i>As per LN 1_ GNR 544_ 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010 promulgated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2010:</i>	<b>16. Construction or earth moving activities in the sea, an estuary, or within the littoral active zone or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high water mark of the sea or</b>	<i>The proposed CABS are being constructed in close proximity of the 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the Isipingo Beach.</i>

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	<i>an estuary whichever is the greater in respect of-</i> <b>(V) infrastructure covering 50 square metres or more</b>	
<i>As per LN 1_ GNR 544_ 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010 promulgated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2010:</i>	<b>18.</b> <i>The infilling or deposition of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from</i> <b>(i)</b> <i>a watercourse.</i> <b>(iv)</b> <i>the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater.</i>	<i>The proposed CABS are being constructed in close proximity of the 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the Isipingo Beach.</i>

### **Public Participation**

Public participation is an essential phase of the EIA process. It is an opportunity for interested and affected parties (I&APs) to raise concerns, queries and suggestions regarding the proposal as well as to gather information from the consultants about the proposal. The public participation phase requires that the proposal be advertised in a local and regional newspaper, and the community notified about the development. Relevant authorities and interest groups are also required to be notified.

The Basic Assessment process includes various steps that have been followed as well as those that are still to be carried out (Figure 2).

### **BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The current application is undergoing a Basic Assessment and as such the following steps have or will be followed:

**An application form will be submitted to the provincial environmental authority, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA).**

## **About KSEMS**

Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Specialists cc (KSEMS) is an established environmental consultancy which has been based in KwaZulu-Natal since 1998. KSEMS is the independent party and is responsible for assessing the impacts of the proposal. All people that may be interested or affected by this development can help KSEMS by providing us with questions, comments or feedback for this proposal. You can do this by registering as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) for this project with the contact person below.

### **Any Persons Interested in this Project Should Register as an Interested and Affected Party in Order to Receive Information and Comment on the Proposal**

You are invited to register with:

Trisha Gounden

**Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Specialists cc**

Phone 031 769 1578

Fax 086 535 5281

E-mail: [kerry.seppings@telkomsa.net](mailto:kerry.seppings@telkomsa.net)

By registering for the process, your name will be included in the register of I & APs and you will be notified of meetings and availability of reports for comment. You will be able to offer comments or queries on any written submission or information provided which will be included in the reports that will be distributed to the authorities.

**EXCERPT TAKEN FROM NEMA EIA REGULATIONS DESIGNATING RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGISTERED INTERESTED AND**  
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## AFFECTED PARTIES

### ***Registered interested and affected parties entitled to comment on submissions***

**56.** (1) *A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority by the applicant or the EAP managing an application, and to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that –*

*(a) comments are submitted within –*

- (i) the timeframes that have been approved or set by the competent authority; or*
- (ii) any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or EAP;*

*(b) a copy of comments submitted directly to the competent authority is served on the applicant or EAP; and*

*(c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.*

***The lead consultant on this project is Kerry Stanton.***

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