



18 August 2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**For the proposed development of a Toboggan entertainment facility
on Portion 126 of the Farm Springrove No 2169, near Nottingham Road,
Umngeni Local Municipality, uMgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal**

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to –

- Inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) of the proposed development of a toboggan entertainment facility that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken;
- Inform IAPs of the EIA process;
- Provide a brief background of the proposed project; and
- Invite IAPs to participate in the EIA process.

Notification

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 41 of GNR 324 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No. 107 of 1998), EIA Regulations (2017), of an application to the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) for Environmental Authorization. Details as follows:

Table 1: Relevant information pertaining to involved parties and location of project.

Proponent	Peter Greene
Location	<p>Portion 126 of the Farm Springrove No 2169, Lower Loteni Road, near Nottingham Road.</p> <p>From Pietermaritzburg Central head northeast on Prince Edward Street towards Otto Street, turn left onto Otto Street, in 77meters(m) turn left onto Pietermaritz Street. Turn right at the first cross street onto Chief Albert Luthuli Street/R103 for 3.5km, at the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Howick Rd/Peter Brown Drive. Merge onto the N3 via the ramp to Harrismith then in 350m merge onto N3 for 45.2km and take the exit 132 towards Nottingham Rd. In 210m turn right for 7.4km then turn right onto R103 for 1.2km, turn left onto Lower Loteni Rd and in 2.5km the proposed site will be on the left.</p> <p>GPS co-ordinates for the site: 29°21'20.85"S; 29°57'56.51"E.</p> <p>See the locality map attached.</p>
Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP)	<p>Susan Machpesh & Swazi Kubheka, NatureStamp (Pty) Ltd PO Box 949, Hilton, 3245 Tel 033 343 1352, Cell 083 289 4912 & 073 825 5770 respectively Email susan@naturestamp.com & swazi@naturestamp.com</p>

Project information

A tobogganing entertainment facility is proposed to be developed in Loteni. The proposed development would include an access road, car-park, restaurant and viewing facility, manager's cottage and the toboggan tracks – which would consist of top and bottom cable braces, rail footings and a bottom landing platform.

To better understand the concept, you can see an existing tobogganing entertainment facility at this link: <http://longtomtoboggan.co.za/>. Figure 1 below gives an example of the proposed development and figure 2 shows the layout.



Figure 1: An example of a tobogganing structures



Figure 2: Draft layout plan for the proposed Toboggan development

The site would be of low density with infrastructure sensitively placed within the natural environment. The following issues have been identified by the EAP as potential impacts and would, amongst other issues, be investigated during the EIA process:

- Potential impacts on watercourse (dam within 32m) of infrastructure;
- Potential impacts on fauna and flora (biodiversity); and
- Noise disturbances to surrounding area.

Watercourse and vegetation studies will be conducted at an early stage in the EIA to inform the toboggan track route, especially with regards to potential impacts on wetland areas and vegetation of conservation significance.

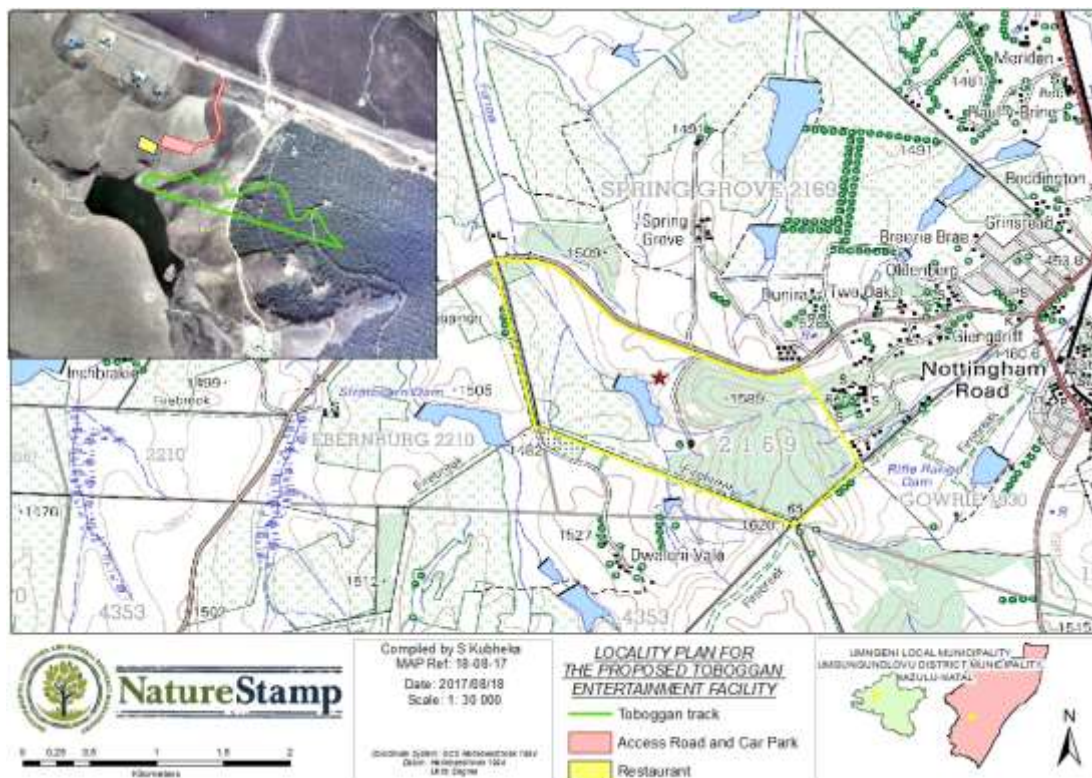


Figure 3: Locality map of the proposed development

Further project information will be provided in the draft BAR which is circulated to all registered IAPs.

The EIA process

The National Environmental Management (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) EIA Regulations 2017 list activities which have the potential to cause a detrimental impact on the environment. If one is to undertake these activities, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be undertaken in application for Environmental Authorization from the DEDTEA before commencement of the activity.

As the proposed toboggan entertainment facility is within 5km of the Bill Barnes Conservancy Protected Area, it triggers the following activities under the NEMA, EIA Regulations 2017-

Table 2: Relevant Listed Activity under NEMA EIA Regulations 2017

Number of Govt notice	Activity No.	Description of listed activity	Relevance to project
GNR 324	4.	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. (d) In KwaZulu-Natal: xii. Outside urban areas: (aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve...	The development of the access road may trigger this activity.
GNR 324	8.	The development and related operation of above ground cableways and funiculars. (d) In KwaZulu-Natal: i. All areas outside urban areas...	The toboggan track would trigger this activity.

GNR 324	9.	The development and related operation of zip-lines or foefieslides exceeding 100 metres in length. (d) In KwaZulu-Natal: i. All areas outside urban areas...	The overhead cable for pulling carts to top of hill may trigger this activity.
GNR 324	14.	The development of- (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; d) In KwaZulu-Natal: x) Outside urban areas: (aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve...	The developments within 32m from dam would trigger this activity.

Accordingly, an EIA, in the form of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) must be undertaken in application for Environmental Authorization before commencement of the development of the entertainment facility.

The EIA would identify the potential environmental impacts, assess their significance, and offer mitigatory measures to render impacts acceptable and sustainable. The BAR serves as an application to the DEDTEA for the Environmental Authorization.

The EIA is transparent and open. It includes a public participation process that allows any member of the public interested or affected in the project to register as an IAP with the EAP conducting the EIA.

In becoming a registered IAP, you will receive all information relating to the project and can provide your input for the EAP and proponent to consider. IAPs must take note of legislated timeframes wherein comments can be made.

Where to from here?

All IAPs, neighbouring landowners and other stakeholders are invited to register and submit their matter of interest in the project with the EAP (see comment sheet attached). Comments received before 18th September 2017 will be included in the draft BAR. Further opportunity to comment will be provided later in the process.

Should it be required, a public meeting describing all details of the project will be held to further inform IAPs. This will be dependent on the interest shown in the project and at the discretion of the EAP.

Registered IAPs will be kept informed of all progress on the project.

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EIA PROCESS - For the proposed development of a Toboggan entertainment facility on Portion 126 of the Farm Springrove No 2169, near Nottingham Road, Umngeni Local Municipality, uMgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal.



COMMENT SHEET

Name	
Department / Title / Property	
Address	
Tel	
Cell	
Email	

Please state any comments / concerns you may have regarding the proposed development, including issues you would like to be addressed in the Basic Assessment Report.

The following other potential IAP should be contacted –

Name:	
Organization:	
Contact details:	
Name:	
Organization:	
Contact details:	

Signature		Date	
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Thank you!