

# Basic Assessment Process for the Proposed Establishment of a 20 ha Cemetery, Located on Portion 43 of Honig Krantz No. 945, within the Mkhambathini Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

November 2021



### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Basic Assessment Process.



### WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS PROJECT?

The Applicant, Timbali Memorial Park (Pty) Ltd, wishes to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed establishment of a 20 ha cemetery, located on Portion 43 of Honig Krantz No.945, within the Mkhambathini Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended – 2017), published in Government Notices No. R. (GNR) 324, 325 and 327 of 2017, certain Listed Activities require either a Basic Assessment Process (GNR 324 and GNR 327) or a Scoping and EIA Process (GNR 325) to be undertaken for Environmental Authorisation. The proposed project triggers the following Listed Activities, thus a Basic Assessment Process is required to be undertaken.

Listing Notice	Part	Description
GNR 327	Part 23	<i>“The development of cemeteries of 2500 square metres or more in size”.</i> <b>Applicable as the proposed cemetery site will be more than 2500 m<sup>2</sup> in extent.</b>
GNR 327	Part 27	<i>“The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – ...”</i> <b>Potentially applicable as the proposed cemetery site will require the clearance of less than 20 ha of indigenous</b>

		<b>vegetation.</b>
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In addition, in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA, Act No. 36 of 1998), a Water Use License Application (WULA) from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is also required. The Listed Water Uses applicable to the proposed project will be confirmed during the Basic Assessment Process.

The Applicant, Timbali Memorial Park (Pty) Ltd, has appointed Green Door Environmental to undertake the Basic Assessment Process and the WULA.



## **WHAT IS PROPOSED?**

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The Applicant, Timbali Memorial Park (Pty) Ltd, wishes to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed establishment of a 20 ha cemetery, located on Portion 43 of Honig Krantz No. 945, within the Mkhambathini Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal.

The proposed cemetery will occupy an area of 20 ha in extent and will be surrounded by a security fence with manned security. Based on the 'market catchment area' between Hilton and Pinetown, there will be approximately 564 burials / month. The proposed cemetery site will allow for approximately 2200 graves / ha. The grounds will be designed by a professional landscaper.

The proposed cemetery will comprise the following components:

- ◆ Wake facility;
- ◆ Wake kitchen;
- ◆ Chapel / Church;
- ◆ Coffee shop;
- ◆ Florist;
- ◆ Memorial garden;
- ◆ Reception;
- ◆ Mortuary;
- ◆ Labour accommodation;
- ◆ Clubhouse;
- ◆ Various rooms (consulting, training and board);
- ◆ Cold room;
- ◆ Car wash;
- ◆ Prep room;
- ◆ Ablution facilities;
- ◆ Parking; and
- ◆ Access road;
- ◆ Access points; and
- ◆ Service infrastructure.

Eskom will be used to power the proposed cemetery, and connection will be made to the Umgeni Water pipeline for water provision.

The following Specialist Studies will be compiled for the proposed project:

- ◆ Wetland Assessment;
- ◆ Biodiversity Assessment;
- ◆ Heritage Impact Assessment;
- ◆ Desktop Paleontological Impact Assessment;
- ◆ Geotechnical and Percolation Assessment;
- ◆ Agricultural Potential Assessment;
- ◆ Geohydrological Assessment;
- ◆ Traffic Impact Assessment;
- ◆ Engineering Report and Designs; and
- ◆ Stormwater Management Plan.

Refer to Figure 1 and 2 below for maps of the proposed project.



## WHERE IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT?



**Figure 1:** Locality map showing the proposed cemetery site and surrounding area, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Google Earth).



**Figure 2:** Map showing the proposed cemetery site, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Google Earth).



## **WHAT IS THE AIM OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?**

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The Basic Assessment Process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially I&APs of the proposed project;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed project may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Competent Authority with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?**

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### 1. Application Form:

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This form provides information on the property, a description of the activities and lists the relevant Listed Activities which are triggered.

### 2. Public Participation:

The general public and relevant authorities are notified of the proposed project through newspaper adverts, site posters and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in the proposed project, but have not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background Information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the newspaper adverts and site posters.

### 3. Identification of Impacts and Alternatives

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

### 4. Impact Evaluation

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

### 5. Mitigation and Management Measures

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the proposed project, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures, if the proposed project is approved.

### 6. Reporting

The Draft Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Draft Basic Assessment Report.

## 7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by the Competent Authority as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed project must be approved or not. All I&APs will be informed of the decision.



### **WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?**

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The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Potential contamination of water resources;
- ◆ Potential impacts on wetland systems; and
- ◆ Potential impacts on fauna and flora.



### **HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT?**

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The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed project. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **17 December 2021**.



**Postal:** PO Box 1170 Hilton, 3245  
**Physical:** Block H, Quarry Office Park,  
400 Old Howick Road, Hilton, 3245  
**Phone:** 033 343 4176 **Fax:** 033 343 4201  
**Email:** kerryn@greendoorgroup.co.za  
**Website:** www.greendoorgroup.co.za

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organisation / Property Name:			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:			
		Post Code:	
Tel Number:		Cell Number:	
Fax Number:		Email:	

1. The following issues must be noted regarding the proposed establishment of a 20 ha cemetery, located on Portion 43 of Honig Krantz No. 945, within the Mkhambathini Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal

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2. The following potential I&APs should also be contacted:

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	
Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Additional comments?

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**Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental.**

*Thank you*