

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT COFFEE BAY AND HOLE IN THE WALL, EASTERN CAPE

Date : 03 March 2021

Time : 10h00 – 12h00

Venue : Microsoft Teams

AGENDA:

1. Opening/ Introduction/ Purpose of meeting.
2. Apologies.
3. Project Description.
4. Need and desirability of the proposed development.
5. Listed Activities triggered.
6. Public Participation Process.
7. DEFF Screening Tool and proposed specialist assessments.
8. Proposed BA programme.
9. General discussion.
10. Meeting Closure

Attendance:

No.	Name	Acronym	Designation
1	Onemiso Notobela	ON	Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
2	Khaya Gqwabasa	KG	
3	Nosinodi Ntola	NN	
4	Anele Tshosho	AT	
5	Lusizo Ndobeni	LN	
6	Ntombizethu Duze	ND	
7	Nolitha Tshaka	NT	
8	Avela Somkala	AS	
9	Musa Ngalwa	MN	
10	Philasande Makhubu	PM	
11	Yongama Mbangezeli	YM	
12	Zizipho Siyeka	ZS	
13	Loyiso Gabada	LG	
14	Vuyokazi Silo	VS	
15	Sinesipho Mabaleka	SM	
16	Singatwa Qongqo	SQ	
17	Bongani Figlan	BF	
18	Qondile Paliso	QP	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
19	Giles Churchill	GC	ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants
20	Cameron Singh	CS	ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

1. **Opening/ Introduction/ Purpose of the meeting**

- CS introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a pre-application meeting for the proposed developments at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall and to inform the Eastern Cape: Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) of ACER's plan of study and project approach..
- QP requested everyone introduce themselves prior to the meeting proceeding.

2. **Apologies**

- CS thanked everyone for their introductions and conveyed apologies from the following individuals who could not attend the meeting:
 - Nandipha Mkhengcele
- ON indicated that a few individuals from the Department could not stay for the duration of the meeting, however, they will take any questions and respond when required.

3. **Project description**

- CS outlined the proposed development. The proposed development involves the upgrade and construction of coastal infrastructure at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- CS discussed the project components and referred to the site layout plan compiled by MBB Consulting Engineers.
- The proposed upgrade and construction of infrastructure at Coffee Bay will include the following infrastructure components:
 - Provision of a formalised parking area.
 - Lifeguard tower.
 - Rehabilitation of the existing ablution facility adjacent to the Nenga River.
 - Raised walkways from the parking area to access the ablution facility and access points to the beach.
 - A viewing deck on the coastal dune cordon (approximately 85 m² in size).
 - Formalisation of the picnic area adjacent to the Nenga River.
 - Provision of a playground for young children visiting the picnic site.
- The proposed upgrade and construction of infrastructure at Hole in the Wall will include the following infrastructure components:
 - Formalisation of a boat launch site near the Hole in the Wall Hotel and paving of the access road to the launch site.
 - Walkway.
 - Beach view picnic area.
 - Walkway rest area.
 - Viewing decks near Hole in the Wall and the Boiling Pot.
 - Beachfront picnic area.
 - Parking area.
- CS went on to discuss the alternatives considered for the proposed developments. CS stated that there were no site alternatives, however, the positioning of the proposed infrastructure (route alternatives) will be finalized upon specialist confirmation. These findings will be included in the Basic Assessment (BA) for each development.
- QP enquired if the current development undertaken by the Department of Transport will be linked to the proposed developments associated with Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall. GC confirmed that the work undertaken by the Department of Transport (upgrading of the roads at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall) does not fall within the existing scope of works. Given the historical sensitivity of the areas, the proposed development aims at minimizing impacts on the receiving environment. Therefore, the upgrade and construction will be limited to the development nodes at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- QP acknowledged the project description outlined by CS and GC.
- CS outlined the activities undertaken to date:
 - MBB Consulting Engineers (MBB) held a community meeting in December 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to community leaders and traditional authorities.

- MBB has drafted a Zoning Layout Plan, outlining the infrastructure components and its positioning.
- ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) have drafted the Public Participation documents in January/ February 2021.
- ACER has appointed specialists to undertake investigations at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.

4. Need and desirability of the proposed development

- CS handed the platform to ON to elaborate on the need/ desirability of the proposed development.
- ON outlined the need/desirability/ motivation for the proposed development:
 - The updated IDP for the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality aims at declaring Coffee Bay as a town in the Eastern Cape. This development will assist the municipality in declaring Coffee Bay a town.
 - Presently, the access roads and infrastructure to Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall are predominantly informal. Informal access promotes degradation of the receiving environment. The proposed development at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall aim at reducing/ removing informal access to beach and coastal infrastructure. The introduction of formalized beach access will also promote beach safety for both locals and visiting tourists.
 - Findings from the Municipal Summit have prioritized the need for Local Economic Development. The proposed development aims at improving LED in the area by emphasizing coastal access and improving beach amenities at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall. Therefore, the municipality fully supports the proposed development.
 - The proposed development aims at enhancing the natural beauty and aesthetics of the area.
- QP agreed with the need/ desirability and motivated that the project will also receive priority from a National perspective.

5. Listed Activities triggered

- CS listed the possible triggers for approval.
- QP agreed and approved the following listed activities for the proposed upgrade and construction of coastal infrastructure at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall:
 - Listing Notice 1 (No. R. 327 of 2014, as amended 2017)
 - Activity 12.
 - Activity 15.
 - Activity 17.
 - Activity 19A.
 - Activity 30 – QP indicated that this activity must be applied to both Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
 - Listing Notice 3 (No. R 324 of 2014, as amended 2017)
 - Activity 12.
 - Activity 14.
- QP stated that all triggers must be supported and verified by specialist findings. The specialist findings must be included in the BA.
- ON enquired on the relevance of the Transkei Decree (1992) to the project.
- QP stated that the Decree doesn't form part of the Legislation and General Notices (2014, as amended), however, the EAP must take note of its contents and include it in the BA.
- CS acknowledged the comments and thanked QP and ON for their input.

6. Public Participation Process

- CS outlined the proposed methodology for the Public Participation Process.
 - A newspaper advertisement will be placed in the local paper.
 - Notice board will be erected at each location outlining the proposed development.
 - Interested and Affected Parties will be given the chance to register. A copy of the Background Information Document (BID) will be made available for all I & AP's.

- A copy of all supporting documents will be uploaded onto the ACER website.
- ❑ GC confirmed that a Public Participation Plan will be attached to the EIA Application Form and submitted to QP for approval.
- ❑ SM enquired regarding the potential stakeholders involved in the project and requested that the Local Tourism Forum be included.
- ❑ GC confirmed that the Local Tourism Forum will be included as a stakeholder and will be included in the BA process.
- ❑ QP emphasized that the project will receive the support from both local and provincial government. Therefore, I & AP's must be prioritized, and their concern must be considered during the Public Participation Process.
- ❑ NN indicated that the COVID-19 virus may alter any proposed public participation plans. She advised that the EAP consider this and envision ways to conduct meetings etc. whilst adhering to the present regulations.
- ❑ GC/CS acknowledged comments made by NN. They indicated that all processes would align itself with the present COVID-19 regulations.
- ❑ QP indicated that Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall are primarily rural areas. The EAP should note that not all individuals may have access to secure internet to review supporting documents online.
- ❑ GC confirmed that in conjunction with electronic copies, hard copies of the BA's and other supporting documents will be made available to community members at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.

7. DEFF Screening Tool and Proposed Specialist Assessments

- ❑ CS outlined the findings from the DEFF Screening Tool Reports. From the specialist requirements, the following assessments will be conducted:
 - Beach and Coastal Dune Dynamics Impact Assessment.
 - Ecological Impact Assessment (Vegetation, Wetlands/Watercourses and Fauna).
 - Heritage and Palaeontology Assessment.
- ❑ GC confirmed that the EAP will submit a motivation to QP outlining the need for each specialist assessment. The motivation will also provide evidence to eliminate certain specialist appointments.
- ❑ QP enquired if the specialists have considered the needs of physically handicapped individuals?
- ❑ GC confirmed that MBB consulting Engineers have considered physically handicapped individuals whilst drafting the layout plans.
- ❑ QP enquired if a Geotechnical investigation will be applicable to the proposed development?
- ❑ GC stated that a Geotechnical investigation will not be required for the proposed development. It is expected that the proposed infrastructure does not have any founding requirements and will not require the input from a Geotech. MBB Consulting Engineers will be asked to confirm the need for a Geotechnical Investigation and provide a short motivation if a geotechnical investigation is not required.

8. Proposed BA Programme

- ❑ GC outlined the proposed BA programme for the developments at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall. A copy of the programme was made available for all meeting attendants to view.
- ❑ ON emphasized the urgency of the development.
- ❑ GC advised that the proposed BA programme was drafted whilst considering all required legislated timeframes.

9. General Discussion

- ❑ QP asked if mounted binoculars were investigated as part of the proposed infrastructure for the development at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- ❑ GC stated that the proposed developments will involve the establishment of viewing decks at strategic points along the walkway to enhance the viewing experience. The provision of mounted binoculars had not been considered to date however it is unlikely that they would be provided due to their cost and likelihood of been stolen or vandalized. MBB will be asked to investigate the feasibility of implementing mounted binoculars into its design/ layout.
- ❑ ON conveyed her apologies on behalf of her colleagues for not being able to attend the meeting.

- ON indicated that if any drawings/ designs are required to be approved by the municipality, MBB should liaise with Mr. Makha from the Local Municipality for all drawing approvals.
- ON also requested that a copy of the BA be submitted to the Municipal Office (Mr. Makha) for comment.
- QP stated that the EAP/ specialist must consider Climate Change protocols/ requirements when drafting the BA. These protocols must also be adopted into the design/ layout/ waste management procedures of the developments.

10. Meeting Closure

- The meeting closed at 12H10.

Drafted by : ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

Approved by : Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)