

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED

EESTERUST EXTENSION 6 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - ERF 4232

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Encouraging Environmentally Sustainable Development

JUNE 2020



GAUTENG PROVINCE
Agriculture and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed development and the EIA Process that will be followed. The aim is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on how to participate in the EIA Process and to obtain initial comments from IAPs on the issues pertaining to the proposed development. Findings of the EIA Process, including concerns raised by IAPs will be submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration (GDARD).

INTRODUCTION

Phumaf Holdings was appointed by the Department of Human Settlements to assist with all preplanning, planning, design and construction of the Eesterust Extension 6 Housing Development. Phumaf subsequently appointed K2M Environmental to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Eesterust Extension 6 Housing Development.

Erf 4232 of the Eesterust Extension 6 Township makes up the project area. This property forms part of the Gauteng Rapid Land Release Programme which is aimed at fast tracking the release of State-owned land for development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

The total extent of the project area is approximately 2.6Ha in extent and is situated within Ward 43 of the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality. The site is surrounded by formal housing and is adjacent to the Eersterust Care and Training Centre to the south and the Eersterust Cricket Club to the far east.

Access to the site can be via Niger Avenue, Petunia Avenue, Rondebosch Avenue and Oranje Street.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitudinal Extent: 25° 42' 5.066" S

Longitudinal Extent: 28° 18' 39.677" E

CURRENT LAND USE

The project area is currently vacant, however, is illegal dumping occurs on a small portion of the site. No CBAs, ESAs, protected areas or watercourses have been identified within the project area. However, it should be noted that majority of the site is considered as HPAL.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed housing development is aimed at providing suitable housing to beneficiaries within the City of Ekurhuleni. The project entails the rezoning from 'Educational' to 'Residential 4' to facilitate the development for high density housing development. The proposed development will entail the construction of approximately 295 housing units.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The EIA process for this proposed development will be conducted in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended in 2017), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations lists activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorization from the competent authority. The regulations also specify the environmental assessment process, and information that is required to enable GDARD to make a decision regarding the proposed activity.

The Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed with accordance to the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017), as the following activities have the potential to be triggered by the proposed development:

LISTING NOTICE 1

Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -

- (i) the undertaking of linear activity; or
- (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Background:

The proposed development may entail the removal of more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation.

LISTING NOTICE 3

Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.

v. Within sites identified within threatened ecosystems listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004);

Background:

The proposed development may entail the development of roads wider than 4 metres.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

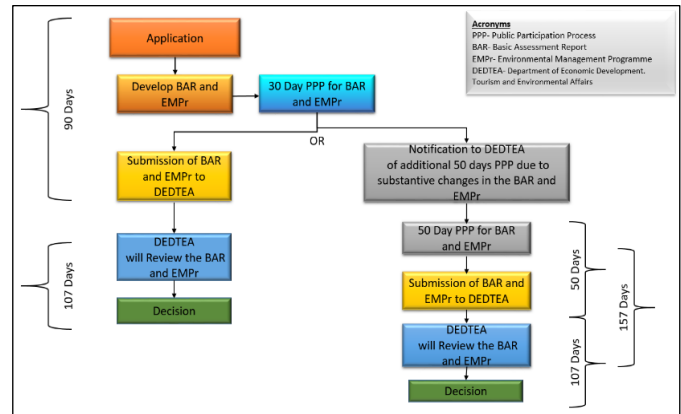
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project methodology involved with the required Environmental Authorization Process is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- Clearance of indigenous vegetation for the construction of residential units. A Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken to identify sensitive areas within the site and will provide adequate mitigation measures for the proposed development.
- A Geotechnical Assessment will be undertaken to determine the stability of the soil.
- Loss of land that is considered to have a High Agricultural Potential. An Agricultural Assessment will be undertaken to determine the extent of HPAL and provide suitable recommendations and mitigation measures.
- An Environmental Management Programme will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur, during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- Potential increase traffic volumes along the existing road network during the construction phase of development may impact on other road users.
- Increase in ambient noise level during the construction phase affect surrounding households.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

- The project will be submitted to SAHRA for their comment and establish whether a Heritage Impact Assessment is required.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the foundation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) guide various aspects of the EIA process, including public participation which involves provision of sufficient information, in a transparent manner, to IAPs. During the Public Participation Process input from the proponent, specialists, government, and non-government organizations as well as all other potential IAPs are gathered to enable more informed decision-making.

Public Participation during the Basic Assessment Process will entail the EAP notifying all IAPs about the draft Basic Assessment Report. IAPs will then be given the opportunity of at least 30 days to comment and raise issues and/or concerns of the draft BAR. Once the 30-day commenting period is over, the EAP will then compile the Final BAR which will be inclusive of comments and responses and submit to GDARD for assessment. IAPs will then be notified in writing of the decision taken by GDARD pertaining to the projec

COMPILED BY

From the information provided to K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd and as per the site assessment conducted on the 18th November 2019, a Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed for the proposed development.

This Background Information Document was compiled by:

Mr Gert Watson



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On behalf of K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from:

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K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED EERSTERUST EXTENSION 6 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - ERF 4232

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and/or bring to the attention of K2M Environmental the following comments.

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organization:		Designation:	
Postal Address:			
Tel no:		Cell no:	
Fax no:		Email:	

Comment:

Date: _____