

Level 1
BBBEE





HANSLAB


Environmental Consultants

Background Information Document:

The proposed development of the: Ebumnandini to Nqabeni
SSS Access Road, within the Mbizana Local Municipality


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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Report Title		Background Information Document: Ebumnandini to Nqabeni SSS Access Road			
Report Reference		Ebumnandini to Nqabeni SSS Access Road_EIA_WUL A-BID	Responsible Person	Lindokuhle Magagula	
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Revision	Date	Revision Details/ Status	Author	Review No.01	Review No.02
00	02/09/2020	BID	B Ramlagan	S. Nankhoo	N/A

Current Revision	Date: 02/09/2020
00	

APPROVAL

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Review No.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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This information is based on information supplied by the client, BMK Group. All information is given in good faith; however, no site visit, physical testing or chemical analyses were performed during the course of this assessment.

Although every effort was made to request and obtain all pertinent information for this assessment Hanslab (Pty) Ltd cannot be held accountable or accept responsibility for any discrepancies in this information or for the disclosure or review of information which has not been presented to the consultant. All information presented to the consultant for review have been referenced.

Please note that Hanslab (Pty) Ltd can only cannot be held responsible for any activities conducted or undertaken prior to any consultation with the relevant Competent Authorities and other stakeholders where such activities are non-compliant with legislative and regulatory requirements, this includes supporting legal documentation.

ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS

AMAFA	Provincial Heritage Conservation Agency for KwaZulu-Natal
BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GA	General Authorisation
I&APs	Interested & Affected Parties
LM	Local Municipality
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
WUL	Water Use License

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1. INTRODUCTION

Hanslab Environmental Consultants has been appointed by BMK Group on behalf of the Mbizana Local Municipality (Applicant) to fulfil the role as the Environmental Assessment Practitioners. Hanslab Environmental Consultants will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Water Use License Application (WULA) for the proposed upgrade of the Local Ebumnandini to Nqabeni SSS Access Road, which forms part of the greater Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Eastern Cape.

Project Description

The Applicant proposes to upgrade the current informal road to a formalized gravel top surface. The proposed road upgrade traverses four watercourses. Suitably designed ancillary structures will be constructed to accommodate the flow of water from the associated watercourses which intersects the road.

2. PROJECT LOCALITY

Project Location:

The proposed Ebumnandini to Nqabeni S.S.S gravel access road is located in Ward 09. It is situated about 17 km west of the Mbizana Central Business District. Entry to Ebumnandini Nqabeni SSS gravel access road is off the main road R61 that connects Mbizana and Flagstaff. The proposed route traverses between homesteads and is boarded by dense vegetation throughout. Four identified river streams (tributaries of the Golokode River) cut through the study area intersecting the proposed gravel route at several points.

Table 1: Coordinates of the proposed sites:

Start point	30°52'22.53"S	29°40'4.03"E
End Point	30°53'26.85"S	29°40'42.38"E

Watercourse crossings

Table 2: Coordinates for the water crossing points.

Crossing 1	30°52'29.53"S	29°40'4.40"E
Crossing 2	30°52'31.65"S	29°40'4.60"E
Crossing 3	30°52'46.36"S	29°40'20.90"E
Crossing 4	30°53'10.09"S	29°40'26.28"E

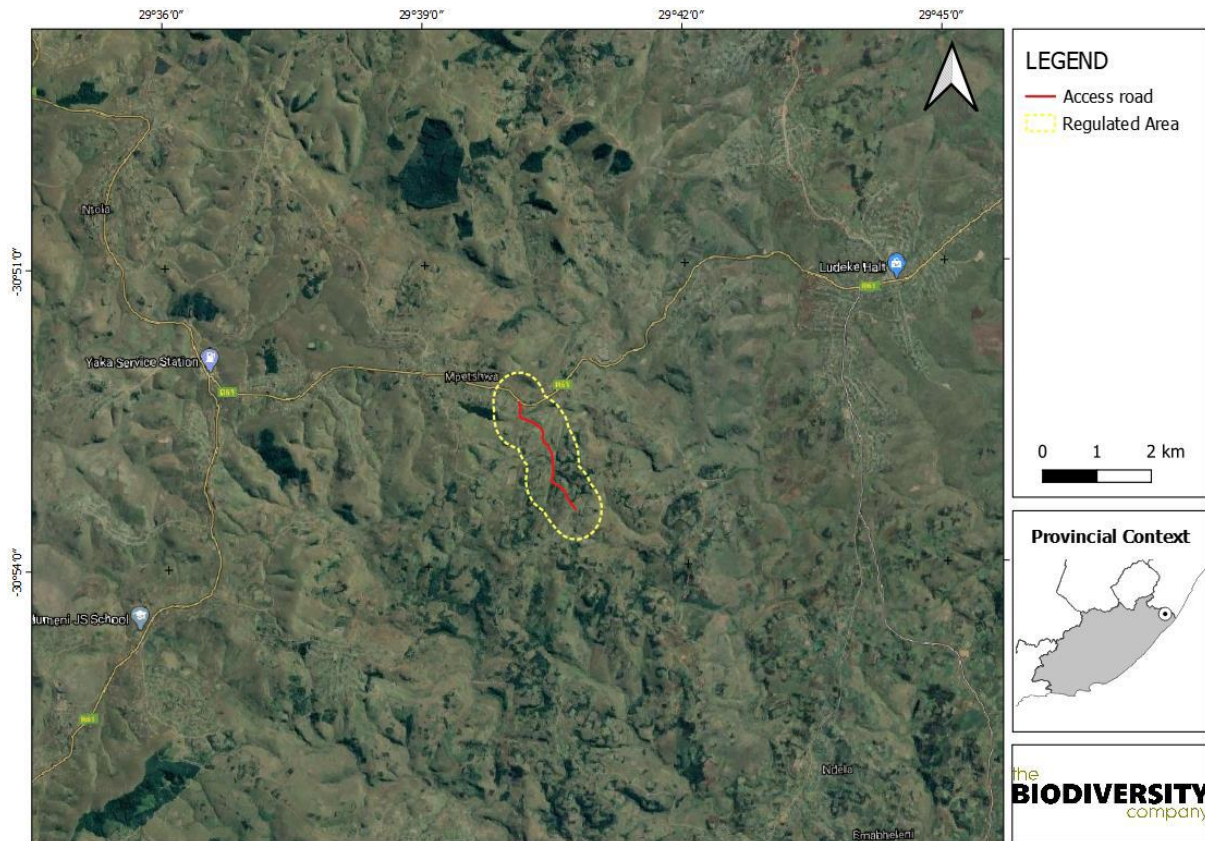


Figure 1: Map illustrating the location of the access road

3. TRIGGERED ACTIVITIES

- GNR 327, Listing Notice No.01, Activity 12 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017)
- GNR 327, Listing Notice No.01, Activity 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017)
- Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (1998)

4. SPECIALIST STUDIES CONDUCTED

A wetland assessment was compiled by The Biodiversity Company in August 2020.

5. BACKGROUND, NEED & DESIRABILITY

The proposed road falls within the Mbizana Municipality, and provides access to the local communities, and school children. Existing formal and informal residential units (scattered) border the proposed existing road track. Owing to the foot traffic traversing through this area there is a critical need to develop a formal road. In addition, there is no presence of formal low-level crossings from main road R61 to Nqabeni SSS and there have been reported cases of

student fatalities owing to attempted river crossings during high water levels. The lack of these formalized routes is a major concern to the surrounding community especially in terms of safety. This is especially prominent for senior citizens and scholars who use the unformalized pathways on daily basis. To establish a formalized road, there are several requirements which must be considered. These requirements include the **biophysical environments** which may potentially be impacted as well as the **social environment**. Hanslab Environmental Consultants undertook the task of establishing the potential biophysical impacts associated with the initiation of a proposed road. The social impacts are clear, as it is a need and desirability of the community to develop a formal road in order to prevent further damages or loss of life.

6. YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP

Should you wish to register as an Interested/Affected Party kindly follow the process outlined below:

1. Complete the attached comments and registration sheet attached to this BID and email or fax the completed sheet to Hanslab Environmental Consultants as per details below.
2. Contact the environmental consultant directly via email or telephonically, if you have any queries or require further information on the project.

Kindly note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), an I&AP is required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they may have with regards to the approval or refusal of the application.

Please register by the 25th of September 2020 by completing the attached comments and registration sheet.

For all queries / issues / concerns please contact:

Bhavisthra Ramlagan

Tel No: 031 563 1978

Fax No: 086 552 4224

Email: bhavisthra@hanslab.co.za

7. COMMENTS & REGISTRATION SHEET

Attention: Bhavisthra Ramlagan

Project: Ebumnandini To Nqabeni S.S.S Access Road

TITLE:		TEL/CELL:	
NAME & SURNAME:		EMAIL:	
ORGANISATION:		FAX:	
ADDRESS:			

Please tick appropriate box:

- I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party
- Please remove me from the distribution sheet for the proposed project. I would prefer not to receive any further correspondence regarding this process.

Do you have any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of this application?

Yes	No
-----	----

If yes, please explain:

Comments:

All comments are to be submitted within 14 days of receipt of the BID to:

bhavisthra@hanslab.co.za

APPENDIX: SITE NOTICE/ NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENSE FOR THE
Proposed Upgrade of the Ebumnandini to Nqabeni SSS Access Road, within the Alfred Nzo District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal****INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), that the proposed Upgrade of the Mbizana Road requires an Environmental Authorization (EA) and Water Use License (WUL) for the activities described below. In this regard, an Application for Environmental Authorization and Water Use License Application will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) respectively for consideration.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mbizana Local Municipality proposes to upgrade the Ebumnandini to Nqabeni SSS Access Road which links the areas of Ebumnandini and Nqabeni within the Alfred Nzo District Municipality. The proposed road upgrade will include, approximately 2.5Km of road to be upgraded. The upgrade will also consist of the upgrade of associated structures to accommodate the road intersecting Three Watercourses.

Start point	30°52'22.53"S	29°40'4.03"E
End Point	30°53'26.85"S	29°40'42.38"E

The following activities are triggered in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (1998):

- Activity 12 of Listing Notice 1 in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended April 2017)
- Activity 19 of Listing Notice 1 in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended April 2017)

The following water uses are triggered in terms of the National Water Act (1998):

- Section 21(C) and Section 21(I) of the said Act.

Should you wish to register as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) on the proposed project, kindly contact the Environmental Consultant on the details listed below. **Please note that the registration process is 14-days from the date of this notice.** Thereafter, all written comments must be submitted within **30-days from the date of this notice.**

For further information with regards to the proposed development and to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party, please send your name and contact information to the Environmental Consultants

**Date of Notice: 23/09/2020**

Ms. Bhavisthra Ramlagan / Ms. Shriya Nankhoo
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