

Level 1  
BBBEE



**HANSLAB**  
**Environmental Consultants**

**Background Information Document:**

**Tshuze to eLuphilisweni Access Road Upgrade, Mbizana,  
Eastern Cape**



031 563 1978



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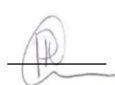

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DOCUMENT CONTROL					
<b>Report Title</b>		Background Information Document: Tshuze to eLuphilisweni Access Road Upgrade, Mbizana, Eastern Cape			
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*This information is based on information supplied 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 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

ECPHRA	Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
DEDEAT	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and Tourism
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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## INTRODUCTION

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Hanslab Environmental Consultants has been appointed by BMK Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Winnie Madikizela Mandela 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 Tshuze to eLuphilisweni Access Road, which falls under the jurisdiction of the greater Alfred Nzo District Municipality, within the Eastern Cape Province.

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE BID

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This Background Information Document (BID) provides stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information on the proposed project and details regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) being undertaken by Hanslab (Pty) Ltd. It also aims to emphasise the importance of public participation during the assessment phase and allows for input from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the potential issues that may arise. The BID provides I&APs with an opportunity to register as stakeholders in this process and encourages response to documents distributed for public review.

### 2. BACKGROUND, NEED & DESIRABILITY

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**The guideline document on need and desirability in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) has been consulted to inform and provide information on the Need and Desirability section outlined below.**

The proposed road falls within the Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality and provides access to the local communities as well as school children. Existing formal 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. 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 positive, as it is a need and desirability of the community to develop a formal road to prevent further community inconvenience.

### 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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The Applicant proposes to upgrade the current informal road to a formalized gravel top surface. The proposed road upgrade will traverse one watercourse. A suitably designed culvert structure will be constructed to accommodate the flow of water from the associated watercourse which intersects the road. The proposed structure will be a 1200 x 1200 double barreled culvert.

### 4. SITE LOCATION

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The proposed Tshuze to Luphilisweni gravel access road is located in Ward 9. It is situated about 29 km west of the Mbizana Central Business District. Entry to Tshuze to eLuphilisweni gravel access road is off the main road R61 that connects Mbizana and Flagstaff. The proposed route traverses between homesteads, one identified river stream cuts through the study area intersecting the proposed gravel route.

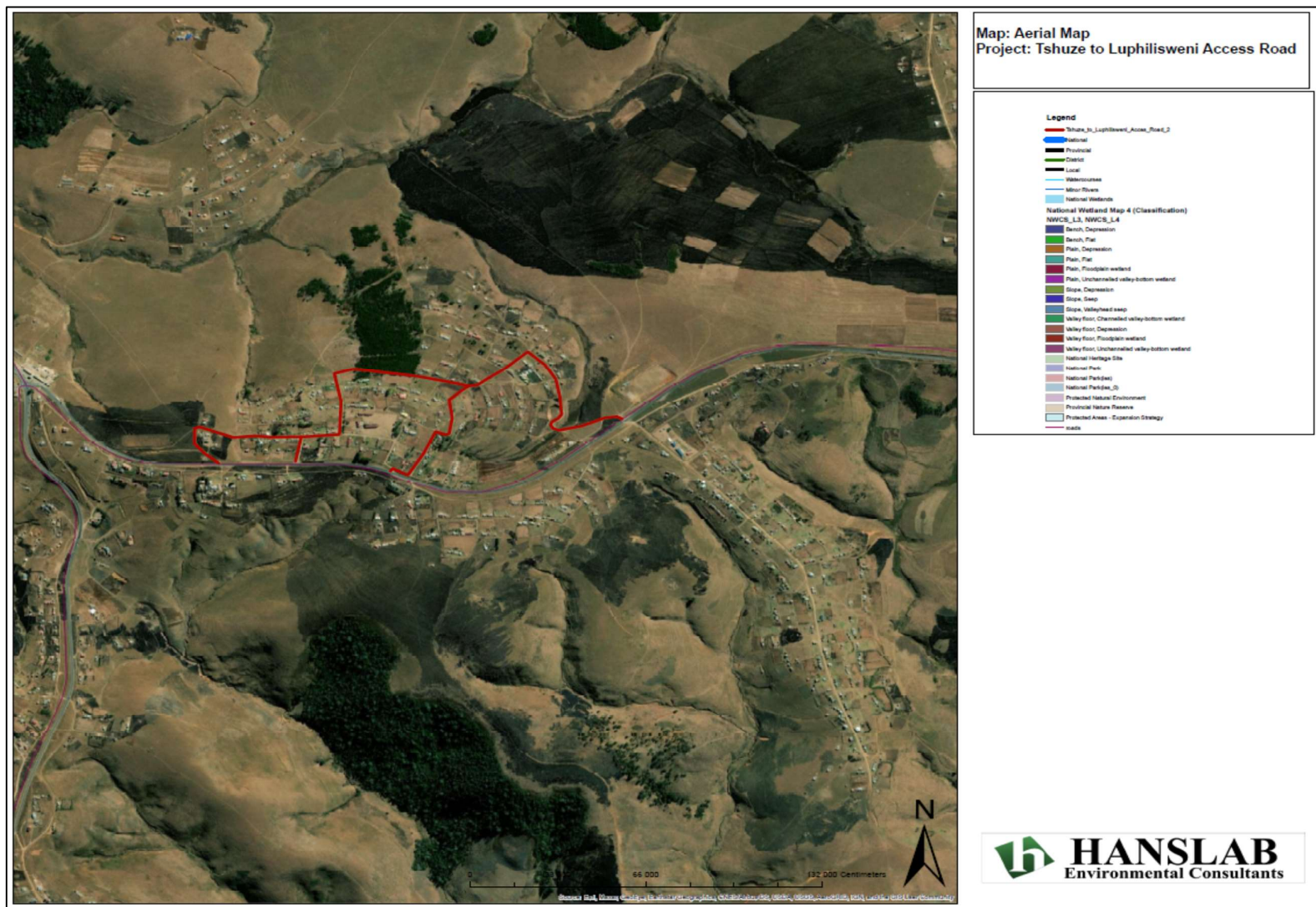
**Table 1: Coordinates of the proposed sites:**

<b>Start point</b>	30° 52' 9,59" S	29° 37' 42,29" E
<b>End Point</b>	30° 52' 15,40" S	29° 36' 52,91" E

**Table 2: Coordinates for the water crossing point**

<b>Crossing 1</b>	30°52'10.99" S	29°37'34.02" E
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**Figure 1: Map illustrating the location of the access road**



## 5. TRIGGERED ACTIVITIES

Table 3 List of NEMA and NWA triggered activities

No. and date of relevant notice	Activity No(s) (in terms of the relevant notice)	Description of each listed activity
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1 (2017)	<b>Activity 12 as amended on the 07 April 2017:</b>  <i>The development of-</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs-</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse.</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</i>	The project will involve the construction of structures in a watercourse with a physical footprint > 100m <sup>2</sup>
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1 (2017)	<b>Activity 19 as amended on the 07 April 2017:</b>  <i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</i>	The construction of structures within the watercourse will potentially result in the removal of >10m <sup>3</sup> of soil
National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)	<b>Section 21: (c)</b> <i>“impeding or diverting of the flow of water within a watercourse” and (i)</i> <i>“the altering of the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse”</i>	The route of the access road will cross a water stream; therefore, a general authorisation will have to be applied for to ensure that potential impacts to the water resource are identified and managed.

## **6. YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP**

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

1. Complete the associated online form and Hanslab will receive your information.
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 04<sup>th</sup> October 2021 completing the attached comments and registration sheet.**

For all queries / issues / concerns please contact:

**EAP: Nokukhanya Gasa**

Tel No: 031 563 1978

Fax No: 086 552 4224

Email: [nokukhanya@hanslab.co.za](mailto:nokukhanya@hanslab.co.za)

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*All registered I&APs agree to have their personal information (PI) gathered and stored by Hanslab (Pty) Ltd and have it thereafter be distributed to third parties (competent authorities, stakeholders and other registered I&APs). The competent authority requires this PI as part of the application process. It is further used to communicate updates to registered I&APs. This PI will be stored on our database saved on our secure server.*

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## 7. COMMENTS & REGISTRATION SHEET

**Attention: Nokukhanva Gasa**

**Project:** Proposed Tshuze to eLuphilisweni Access Road Upgrade

<b>TITLE:</b>		<b>TEL/CELL:</b>	
<b>NAME &amp; SURNAME:</b>		<b>EMAIL:</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>		<b>FAX:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			

**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
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**If yes, please explain:**

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**Comments:**

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

nokukhanya@hanslab.co.z

