

PROPOSED NEW VW DEALERSHIP ON ERF RE/863, MTHATHA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Background Information Document

INTRODUCTION

Indwe Environmental Consulting has been appointed by NTT Motors 384 (Pty) as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake a Basic Assessment Process for in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), for the proposed new VW Dealership on Erf re/863, Mthatha.

The activities to be undertaken include:

- G.N. R. 327 Activity 27 – 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) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

This document is intended to provide background information to stakeholders, authorities and other interested and affected parties and forms a key component of the public participation process being undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment process.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed new NTT VW Dealership site is located east of the centre of Mthatha. The site is adjacent to the R61 towards Port St Johns and can be accessed via Boundary Road, a road off of the R61 intersection, and onto Dakana Street. The site specifically is located at 31°35'19.55"S"; 28°47'48.37"E, with an extent of 2.1 ha. The building footprint is expected to be 6 500m², however the disturbance to the site is expected to be just over 1 ha in extent. One perennial river, the Sidwadweni River traverses the study area near the northern portion of the site and ultimately drains into the Mthatha river. See Figure 1 and 2 for the locality of the site.

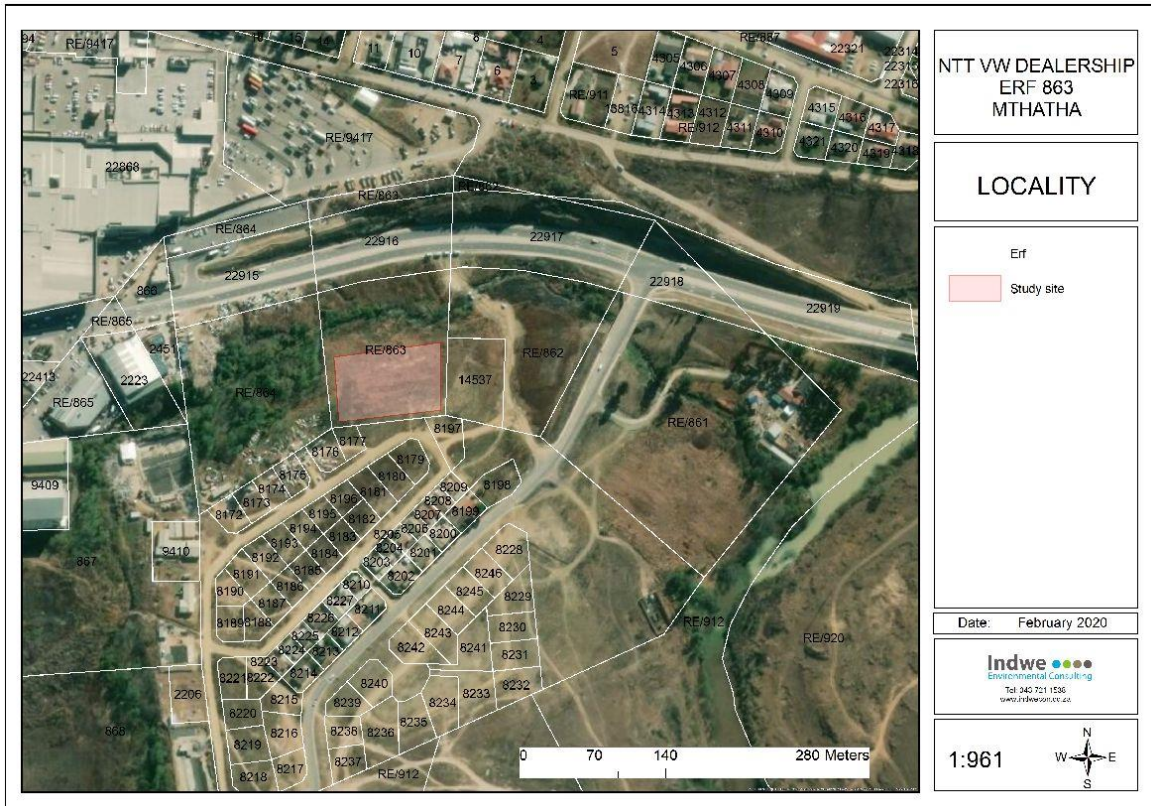


Figure 1: Aerial locality of the Proposed NTT VW Dealership site.

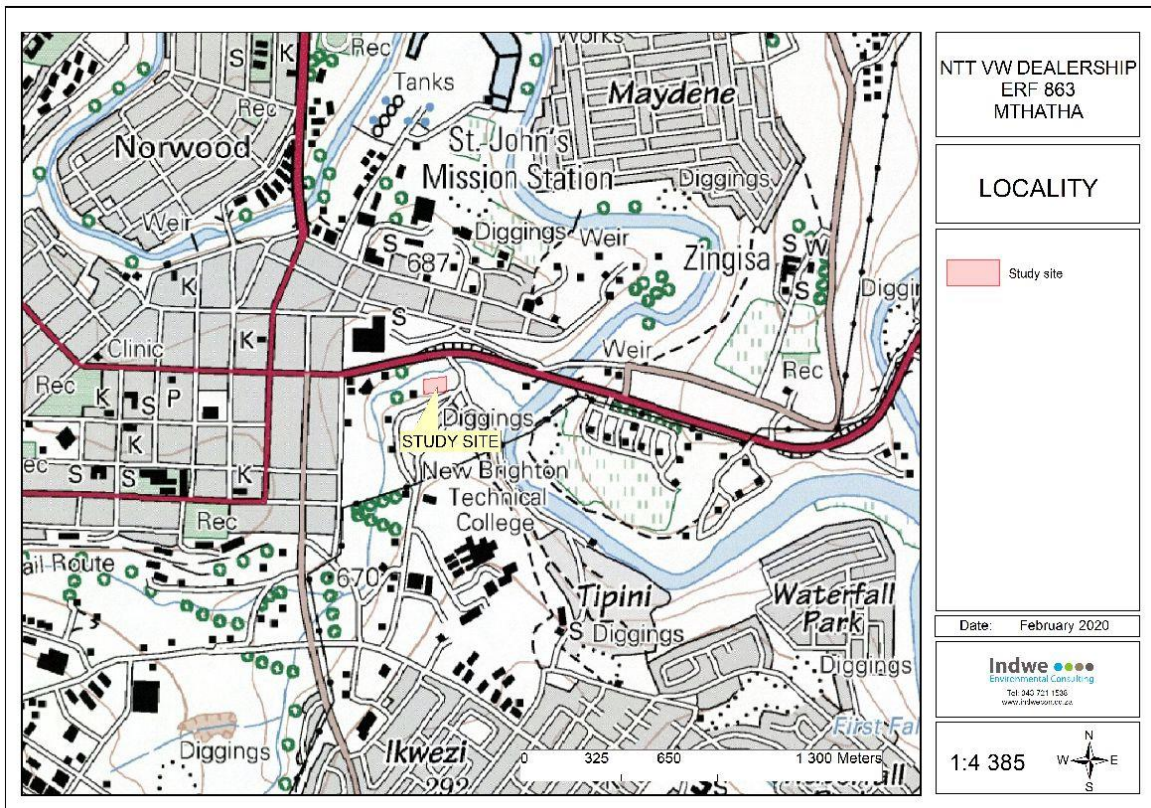


Figure 2: Topographical locality of the Proposed NTT VW Dealership site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NTT Motors 384 are proposing to construct a new VW Dealership on erf RE/863 in Mthatha. The project will involve the construction of a 1 storey building whereby the dealership will comprise the following departments: new cars, used cars, a service workshop, parts, finance and administration. Parking areas for staff and customers (disabled bays included) will be included in the development proposal (Figure 3). The approximate footprint of the building is 6 500m². Landscaping activities will also take place to ensure that the dealership is visible from the R61.

In terms of services, existing sewer and water reticulation exists on site whereby the proposed development will connect directly into these existing services.

The site is privately owned and located within the defined urban edge of Mthatha and has a current zoning of “light industry” of which land uses allowed are the following: wholesale warehouses; storage warehouses; light industrial; service industrial; general industrial; dwelling houses; residential buildings; schools and residential Colleges; shops; petrol filling stations; parking garages; offices; public buildings; places of assembly; other buildings and uses



Figure 3: Provisional site plan for Proposed NTT VW Dealership

EIA REQUIREMENTS

The EIA Regulations promulgated in Gazette No 40772 of 7 April 2017- NEMA Section 24(5) stipulates that “listed activities” require environmental authorisation via a Basic Assessment process should the activities trigger Listing Notices 1 & 3. The following listed activities are assumed to be triggered in relation to this project:

Listing Notice No. and Activity No.	Listed Activity	Development Activity
Listing Notice 1 – GN 327: Activity 27	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) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The building footprint is anticipated to be 6 500m ² and the construction and landscaping footprint to be expected to be approximately 3 000m- 3500m ² . Despite the site falling within the Mthatha Moist Grassland Vegetation type (VEG MAP, 2018), the vegetation present on site is not indicative of the mapped vegetation. The site has unfortunately become invaded by invasive alien plants (both terrestrial and riparian).

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment process will involve the following project phases:

1. **Pre-Application:** This phase includes consultation with Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), OR Tambo Region regarding the proposed development, potential triggers, outcome of the National Web Based Screening Tool Report for the site and the way forward in terms of the applicable EIA process.
2. **Application:** An application form for authorisation will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), OR Tambo Region.
3. **Draft Basic Assessment Phase:** The Basic Assessment process is followed which includes the undertaking of a public participation process including consultation with key stakeholders, detailed site investigations, planning and reporting. Specialist input will be sought for this phase of the project. This phase will culminate in the production of a Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will be submitted to DEDEAT and the circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders for a 30 day comment period.
4. **Final Basic Assessment Phase:** Following the receipt of comments, the Basic Assessment Report will be finalised and submitted to DEDEAT for their assessment and issuing of an authorisation.
5. **Appeal Period:** After receipt of the Environmental Authorisation all registered I&APs and key stakeholders will be notified of its availability and provided with the opportunity and details for submitting an appeal to the decision if required.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process is defined under Regulation No 41 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended in 2017. This includes:

- Advertising in the local newspaper.
- Fixing a notice board at the site.
- Giving written notice to: the occupiers of the site, the owner/ person in control of the site, adjacent landowners, the municipal ward councillor and rate payers, the relevant municipality and any organ of state that has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.
- Maintaining an Interested and Affected Party Register.
- Uploading pertinent documentation on the Indwe website.
- Collecting comment on the project, in particular the draft Basic Assessment Report.

Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report over a 30 day period. All comments raised by I&APs will be included and responded to in the final reports which will be submitted to the competent authority (DEDEAT) to enable them to make an informed decision with regard to the development proposal.

Once an Environmental Authorisation is received, it will be distributed to registered I&APs who may appeal to the Minister or MEC of Environmental Affairs in opposition to the decision.

KEY ISSUES AND TYPICAL IMPACTS

Key issues and typical environmental impacts associated with the project identified to date include:

- Impacts to the watercourse (loss of riparian habitat, increased turbidity, impact on aquatic biota)
- Development according to the proposed land use
- Potential employment opportunities during the construction phase
- Temporary dust emissions and spoil material during the construction phase
- Potential employment opportunities during the operation phase
- Skills development for staff during the operation phase

DETAILS OF THE EAP CONDUCTING THE BASIC ASSESSMENT

Indwe Environmental Consulting CC is a registered environmental consultancy that specialises in all facets of environmental management. Our focus is on project based environmental studies. Broadly the services offered are Basic Assessments, Full Environmental Impact Assessments, Rectification of Non-Compliance Activities and Applications, Strategic Environmental studies (State of the Environment Reporting, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Management Frameworks) and integrated waste management planning.

The Indwe Environmental Consulting team is headed up and overseen by Brendon Steytler and Megan Hugo. Together they have a vast amount of experience in the environmental consulting industry of South Africa. Brendon Steytler was the founding member of Indwe Environmental Consulting in 2010 and has been instrumental in growing the company into the trusted and quality driven organisation that it is today.

Megan joined Indwe Environmental Consulting in September 2017 and was made a main member of the company in April 2018. Megan is a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) (Reg. No 2019/1530). EAPASA is the single Registration Authority for EAPs in South Africa. Megan is also registered as a Candidate Natural Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Cand. Sci. Nat 118810) and an active paid up member of the Internal Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) South Africa. Megan has been working as an Environmental Consultant since February 2015 and is responsible for all company related operations and financial management as well as acquiring new projects at Indwe Environmental Consulting. Megan has experience in all aspects of Integrated Environmental Management (Environmental Impact Assessments, Basic Assessments, Mining Permitting, Auditing, Strategic Environmental Planning), Ecological Reporting and General Project Management. She has undertaken a range Environmental Impact Assessments for projects in both the private and public sectors as well as various non-compliance applications for commercial, agricultural and residential project. Megan is the designated EAP for this project.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed development, please feel free to register as an I&AP by sending us your written comments. Please submit your name, contact information and written comments to the contact person below. A written comments form is supplied at the back end of this notice for your convenience.

Contact

Megan Hugo
Indwe Environmental Consulting
4 Pearce Street
Berea

East London 5241

Tel: 043 721 1538

Fax: 086 513 9734

E-mail: megan@indwecon.co.za

COMMENTS SHEET: PROPOSED NTT VW DEALERSHIP ON ERF RE/863, MTHATHA

Please send to: Megan Hugo
Indwe Environmental Consulting CC
 4 Pearce Street
 Berea
 East London
 5241

Tel: 043 721 1538 • Fax: 086 513 9734 • Email: megan@indwecon.co.za •

YOUR details:

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone Number	
Physical Address	
Postal Address	
Fax Number	
Email Address	

Comments:
