

## Background Information Document

Environmental Assessment: Redevelopment and Landscaping of the southern portion of the Kings Beach Node on the Nelson Mandela Bay southern beachfront

31 October 2011

### CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

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#### Purpose of the Background Information Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties in the environmental assessment process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed redevelopment and landscaping of the southern portion of the Kings Beach Node on the Nelson Mandela Bay southern beachfront.

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the proposed development and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and enhance beneficial or positive impacts.

The environmental decision making authority is the Provincial Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs in accordance with the Regulations published in Terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Government Notice R.543 in Government Gazette 33306 of 18 June 2010)

If you would like to participate in the process please register yourself and or your organization as an interested and affected party. Submit issues that you feel need to be addressed in the assessment by completing the response form or in a letter or by email to:

**Dr Mike Cohen  
CEN IEM Unit  
36 River Road  
Walmer  
Port Elizabeth  
6070**

<mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za>

**All comments must be submitted within 40 days of the date of this notice**

**Date of Notice – 31 October 2011  
Closing Date for Registration – 10 December 2011**

## Introduction

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit has been appointed by the Mandela Bay Development Agency to undertake the necessary environmental assessment for the proposed redevelopment and landscaping of the southern portion of the Kings Beach Node on the Nelson Mandela Bay southern beachfront (Phase 2). Activities will take place on Erf 1031, Erf 576 and the Remainder of Erf 575, Humewood (approximate GPS co-ordinates:  $33^{\circ}58'23.17''\text{S}$   $25^{\circ}38'45.70''\text{E}$ ). The study area is outlined in red in Figure 1.



Figure 1: An aerial image of the study area (outlined in red).

## **The Proposal**

The Kings Beach node falls within the Mandela Bay Development Agency's (MBDA) mandate area which comprises ~1039 ha of land in the Inner Metropolitan Area of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The role of the MBDA is to re-engineer and revitalize land within its mandate area. A phased plan to redevelop the Kings Beach Node has been proposed – Phase 1 has already commenced. The following activities are proposed for Phase 2:

- ✿ Construction of a boardwalk that will cross the dune system
- ✿ Reducing the height of a portion of the dune to its original constructed height (i.e. the dune was artificially constructed in the 1980s) to allow visual connectivity between the park and the beach
- ✿ Dune rehabilitation
- ✿ Construction of a skatepark
- ✿ Construction of a parking lot

A plan illustrating the proposed scope of works is shown in Figure 2.



➤ **Figure 2: Proposed redevelopment and landscaping plan (Kings Beach Phase 2).**

### **Preliminary List of Listed Activities in Terms of the EIA Regulations**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has in terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Amendment Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), listed the activities that require an environmental assessment. In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, made under section 24(5) of the Act and published in Government Notice R.543 in

Government Gazette 33306 of 18 June 2010 the following activities are subject to an assessment.

<b>No. R. 544</b>	<b>10 December 2010 – Listing 1</b>
<b>Activity number</b>	<b>Activity description</b>
16	<p>Construction or earth moving activities in the littoral active zone or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea, in respect of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) embankments;</li> <li>(iv) rock revetments or stabilising structures including stabilising walls;</li> <li>(v) buildings of 50 square metres or more; or (vi) infrastructure covering 50 square metres or more</li> </ul> <p><b>Project activity: modifying dunes and building a boardwalk within 100 m of the high water mark of the sea</b></p>
17	<p>The planting of vegetation or placing of any material on dunes and exposed sand surfaces, within the littoral active zone for the purpose of preventing the free movement of sand, erosion or accretion, excluding where the planting of vegetation or placement of material relates to restoration and maintenance of indigenous coastal vegetation or where such planting of vegetation or placing of material will occur behind a development setback line.</p> <p><b>Project activity: dune rehabilitation</b></p>
18	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) the littoral active zone or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea</li> </ul> <p><b>Project activity: the excavation of material to construct a boardwalk and modify dunes within 100 m of the high water mark of the sea</b></p>
<b>No. R. 546</b>	<b>10 December 2010 – Listing 3</b>
<b>Activity number</b>	<b>Activity description</b>
12	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea</li> </ul>

	<b>Project activity: clearance of dune vegetation to construct a boardwalk and to modify the dunes</b>
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## Some Identified Issues

As we progress with the environmental investigations we will identify potentially beneficial and adverse impacts. All identified issues will be subjected to an assessment to determine if they are significant and if they require additional investigation. Based on our preliminary investigations we have identified the following issues:

- ✿ Impacts on coastal ecology and sediment dynamics
- ✿ Pollution: noise, air, sediment, water
- ✿ Erosion Visual impacts
- ✿ Waste management
- ✿ Socio-economic Impacts
- ✿ Cultural/heritage impacts

## How Do I Participate

Every proposed project and / or development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed development site. While some of the impacts will have an adverse impact on the environment others will have a beneficial impact. For this reason it is imperative that you as an interested and / or affected party comment on the proposed development and raise issues or concerns that /you feel need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process. This can be done by completing the attached registration form and submitting it to the contact details below.

Upon submission of the registration form to CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive future project information.

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward comments regarding the proposed development, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by 10 December 2011.

## Description of Tasks to be Performed

This BID is being distributed to stakeholders who are directly affected by the application.

- ✿ The DEDEA have been notified that the assessment will be undertaken.
- ✿ All other stakeholders, including the relevant government departments will be notified of the proposed project.
- ✿ Advertisements have been placed under the legal section of *The Herald* and *Die Burger*
- ✿ Notice boards advertising the application have been placed at visible locations on and near the site.
- ✿ Once this initial stage of public participation is complete, a Draft Basic Assessment Report will be compiled and submitted for public comment.

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward comments regarding the proposed development, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by **10 December 2011**

**Dr Mike Cohen  
CEN IEM Unit  
36 River Road  
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Port Elizabeth  
6070**

**[steenbok@aerosat.co.za](mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za)**

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**CEN IEM UNIT**

**36 River Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth 6070**

**Fax 086 504 2549**

**Email [steenbok@aerosat.co.za](mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za)**

**Registration / Comment Sheet**

**Environmental Assessment: Proposed redevelopment and landscaping of the southern portion of the Kings Beach Node on the Nelson Mandela Bay southern beachfront (Phase 2).**

**31 October 2011**

I wish to register as an Interested and / or Affected Party and request that the following issues receive attention during the assessment process

**Closing Date for Comments: 10 December 2011**

Name of Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organisation / Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please use additional sheets as necessary

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_