

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

as part of the

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

for the

PROPOSED LAGRANGE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, MATATIELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ALFRED NZO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

1. Introduction

The Matatiele Local Municipality has proposed the construction of the Lagrange Pedestrian Bridge, located within Ward 8 of the Matatiele Local Municipality, Alfred Nzo District. Before construction of the pedestrian bridge may commence, an environmental authorisation is required from the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (EDEAT), in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014. In order to obtain this authorisation a Basic Assessment is currently being undertaken by Enviroedge cc.

2. The Project

The project is located in ward 8 near the villages of Nkosane and Matewu, and will provide a formal pedestrian bridge crossing over the Kinira River. The project involves the construction of a formal pedestrian bridge measuring approximately 57 metres long by 3.2 metres wide. The existing bridge has collapsed and is in a state of disrepair. The proposed new bridge will replace the old structure and will comprise a combination of timber and steel material. The project aims to allow local residents to have improved, formalised access to their homes, schools, shops and the extended road network.

The proposed pedestrian bridge will replace the old rudimentary collapsed structure. The old bridge remains (timber) will be decommissioned and the new bridge structure will be located within the same location and footprint. Clearing of some shrubs and grasses will be required to accommodate the larger footprint. It is not anticipated that tree clearing will be required. Foundations for the bridge structure will be located outside of the riverway, thereby, impeding or diverting the flow of the watercourse should not be required. Please see Figure 4 – Site Layout. The bridge location can be found at 30°12'44.79"S 28°42'21.92"E.



Figure 1. Image looking west showing the collapsed pedestrian bridge that is proposed for replacement.



Figure 2. Image looking north towards the village of Matewu showing the collapsed pedestrian bridge that is proposed for replacement.

3. Affected Area

Topography and Drainage: The study area is located on a gentle sloping open valley with steeply incised banks of the Kinira River. The Kinira River is a perennial river that bisects the study area and runs in an easterly direction. The study area is located in the T33A quaternary catchment. The site elevation is approximately 1 449masl.

Climate: Rainfall in the study area occurs predominantly during the summer months, with some rain in the winter. Most rainfall received is in the form of thunderstorms. Mean Annual Precipitation ranges between 620 mm and 816mm. Mean Average Temperatures range between 12.9°C to 15.6°C. Moderate to severe frosts do occur for approximately 30 days of the year.

Geology and Soils: The general geology and soil of study area can be described as mudstone and sandstone of the Beaufort Group of the Karoo sequence. Sedimentary rocks of the Molteno, Elliot and Clarens Formations are also present. Soils are generally well drained with a depth of 500mm-800mm with a 15-55% clay content.

Vegetation: The site falls outside a designated vegetation group however is surrounded by the East Griqualand Grassland (Gs12), (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). The local vegetation can be described as hilly country slopes covered by grasslands, with patches of bush clumps with *Leucosidea sericea* or *Diospyros lyciodes*, *Acaicia karoo* and *Ziziphus mucronata* in low-lying and very dry sites. The proposed site groundcover is predominantly grasses with some shrubs. Trees are located both upstream and downstream of the proposed bridge on the northern river bank, however, no tree clearing is anticipated. The existing tree just to the east of the existing collapsed bridge will be retained and cordoned off during construction???. The alien invasive *Acacia mearnsii* (Black wattle), are noted on the northern banks of the river.

Culture and Heritage: The presence of features of cultural or historical importance is currently unknown.

National and District Roads: The pedestrian bridge does not join any formal access road. Existing cattle and footpaths lead toward the bridge. A formal gravel access road is located near Ramole 600 metres to the north, and near Nkosana 1 200m to the south.

Utilities:

No powerlines, telecommunications or water services were noted near the proposed Lagrange bridge. All relevant government departments or parastatals will be consulted as part of the Public Participation Process.

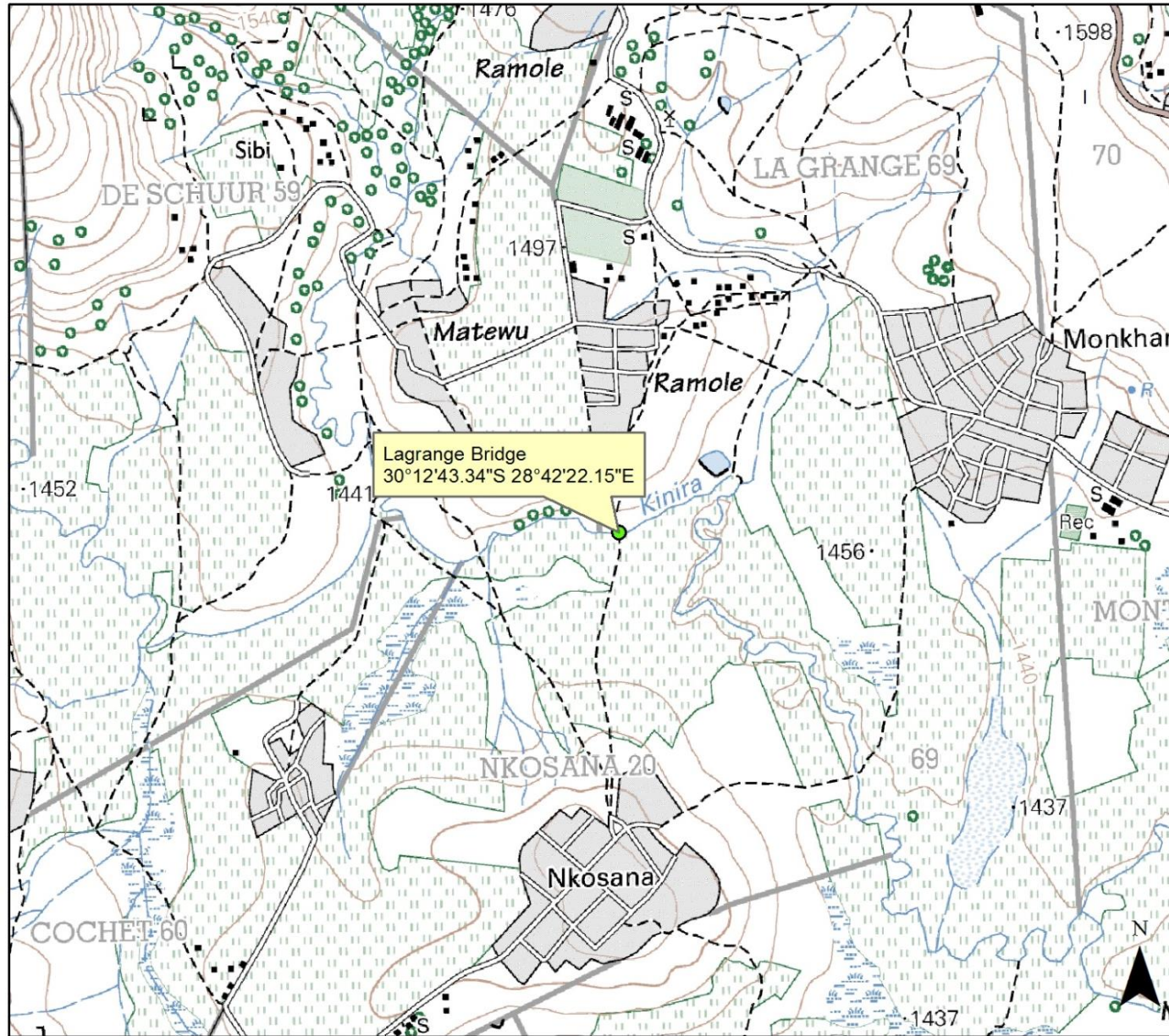
4. Public Consultation

Members of the public have the right to be consulted during the Public Participation Process. If you would like to be part of this process please register with the environmental consultant using the contacts below.

Consultants: Enviroedge cc.
Contact: Steven Whitaker

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Project:	
Lagrange Bridge	
Title:	
Locality Plan	
Scale: 1:25 000	
Meters	
Rev: 01	
PO BOX 1009, Kloof, 3640 Tel:(031) 764 2569 Fax:(086) 654 6598 info@enviroedge.co.za	

Figure 3. Locality Plan

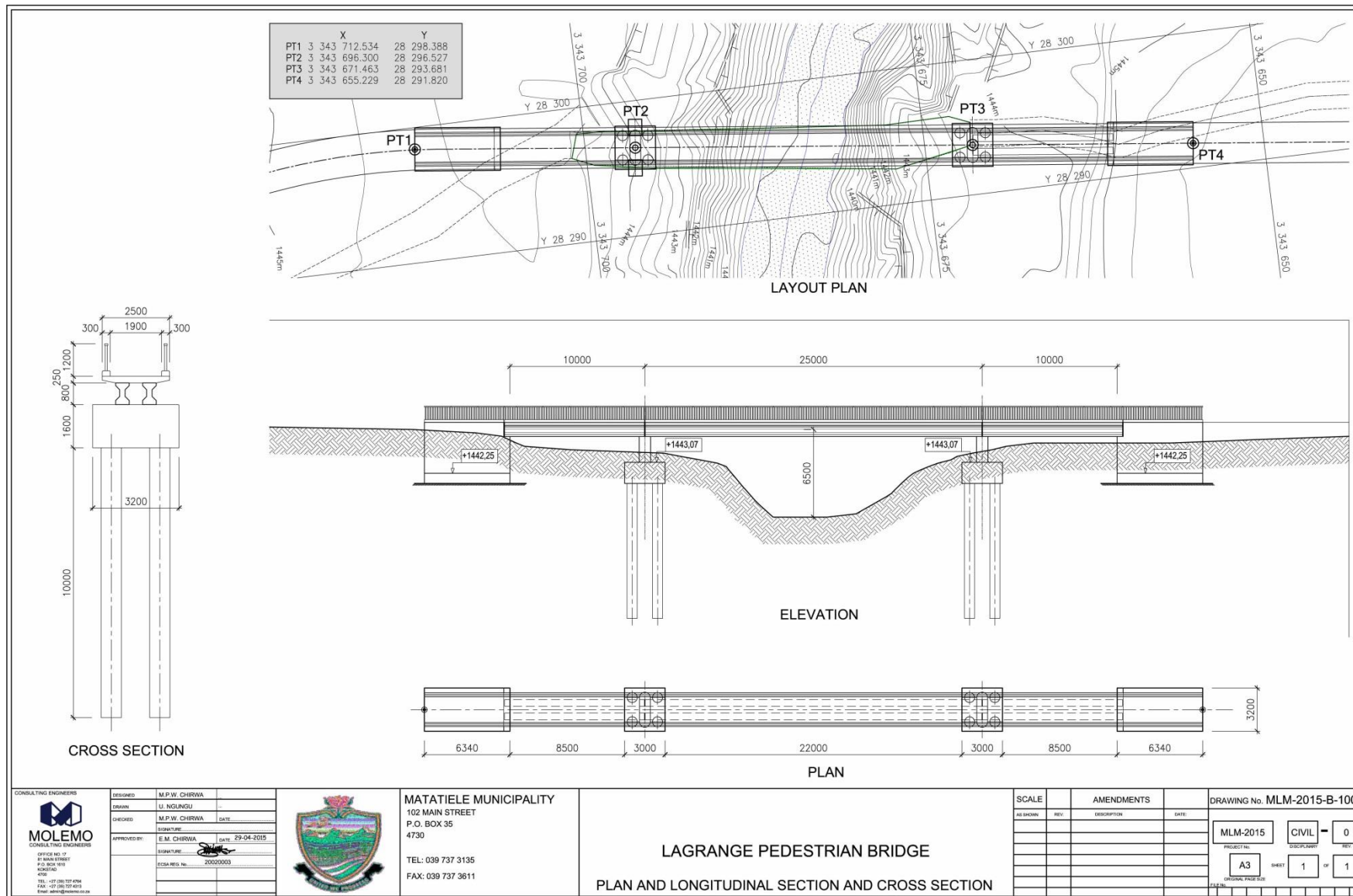


Figure 4. Site Plan