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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF MSIZI GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CULVERT STRUCTURE ACROSS THE NON-PERENNIAL STREAM IN WARD 18 WITHIN MTUBATUBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**

**June 2018**

**Prepared by: Emvelo Quality and Environmental Consultant (PTY) Ltd**

**On Behalf of**

**Mtubatuba Local Municipality.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mtubatuba Local Municipality intends to upgrade the existing Msizi Gravel Access Road and Construct a Culvert Causeway over the non-perennial stream. The area is located on the western part of Somkhele in Kwa-Myeki (Ward 18).

Emvelo Consultant is appointed as an independent Environmental Assessing Practitioner (EAP) by Mtubatuba Local Municipality, to assess the possible impacts to the environment that might emerge as a result of the proposed upgrading of the Access Road and construction of culvert causeway. This will allow the identification of all the negative impacts at an early stage of the project, the mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce the impacts and to ensure that the proposed project is shaped to suit the local environment.

## **NEEDS AND DESIRABILITY**

The community of Ward 18 currently relies on the existing limiting track on its day-to-day activities. Rural roads form the most important connection in providing access for rural populations.

The access road and culvert causeway will provide road users with an improved and safe road access especially during rainy

season. As a result, this development will also save road users time to of using alternative access routes.

## **WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?**

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with information regarding the Basic Assessment Report and a Water Use Licence Application for the proposed development of an Access Road and Culvert structures. It aims to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regard to potential impacts on the environment.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible impacts and to make suggestions for mitigation. These comments will be included as part of the BAR which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

The I &APs include, but not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organizations and conservation groups.

This document details how you can become involved in the project, receive information and raise any issues of concern or interest regarding the proposed project. The sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Input from I&APs ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered within the context of the proposed project.

#### **STUDY AREA**

The site co-ordinates are as follows; start (28°18'0.00"S & 32°8'13.38"E), cross the stream at (28°17'55.69"S & 32°8'10.36"E) and the end at ( 28°17'51.74"S & 32°8'4.23"E).

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project entails the following; Re-graveling of the road, widening of the road from a current width of 2.5m to a width of 5.0m and the construction of a culvert causeway across the stream, along the Msizi access road.

#### **WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT?**

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

#### **WHY IS BASIC ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?**

In terms of to the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 04 December 2014, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment.

The proposed activity triggers the following listed activity in Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983, 04 December 2014).

**Table 1: Listed Activities**

<b>Listing Notice</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>
1	12	The development of – xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; Where such development occurs- (a) Within a watercourse (c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.

1	19	The infilling or deposition of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell, grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from – (i) a watercourse
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**WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?**

Public participation is the process by which an organization consults with interested or affected individuals, organizations, and government entities before making a decision. Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions. Public participation prevents or minimizes disputes by creating a process for resolving issues before they become polarized.

**WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS?**

- ✓ To inform and involve the community and the stakeholders about the upgrading of

Msizi Gravel Access Road and the construction of culvert causeway across the stream. To identify and address community and the stakeholders concerns regarding this construction.

- ✓ To provide opportunities for the community & stakeholders to identify priorities and determine alternative solutions to any concerns that might arise from stakeholders, i.e. Emdonini community, relevant government departments, farmers and political parties.

#### WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP?

I&AP are encouraged to make use of the opportunities created by the Public Participation Process to become involved and raise any issues or concerns which affect and/or interest them. The public is invited to register as an IAP and take part in the PPP through:

- Our contact details (phone, fax or e-mail)
- Media Notices placed in local newspapers(iLanga )
- Distribution of the BID
- Notice on sites and notice boards
- Public meetings
- Submission of comments on the media

This way, we will ensure that you are registered as an I&AP for the project, and

that your concerns or queries regarding the project will be noted. We will also ensure that you are provided with future information pertaining to the project as well as the availability of the BAR for review purposes.

#### COMMENTS AND QUERIES

I&APs may forward their written comments along with their contacts details by email to:

Name: Ms. Phumzile Lembede

Tel: 035 901 8760

Cell: 078 2849332

Fax: 086 577 5220

Email: [info@emveloconsultants.co.za](mailto:info@emveloconsultants.co.za)