

Proposed Realignment and Widening of the Existing Mount Partridge Road located in Imbali, Edendale, Msunduzi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

September 2016



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The Applicant, Msunduzi Local Municipality, has proposed the realignment and widening of the existing Mount Partridge Road located in Imbali, Edendale in the Msunduzi Local and Umgungundlovu District Municipalities of KwaZulu-Natal.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; Act No 107 of 1998), published in Government Notice No. R. 982 of 2014, the proposed development triggers the following Listed Activities which require a Basic Assessment process to be conducted:

GNR 983	Part 19	<p><i>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 of more than 5 cubic metres from-</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the seashore; or</i></p> <p><i>(iii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-</i></p> <p><i>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</i></p> <p><i>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies.</i></p> <p>The proposed upgrade includes the widening of the Mount Partridge Road over an existing causeway located at the Thala Road intersection. The construction activities required for the road widening may trigger the above listed activity.</p>
---------	------------	---

GNR 985	Part 14	<p><i>The development of- (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; (d) In KwaZulu-Natal: viii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in Chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.</i></p> <p>The proposed road upgrade will take place within 32m of a wetland area. The project site also falls within environmentally sensitive areas as identified by the Msunduzi Environmental Management Framework as well as the Msunduzi Conservation Plan and the Draft Ecosystem Services Plan.</p>
GNR 985	Part 18	<p><i>The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1km. (d) In KwaZulu-Natal: xi. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.</i></p> <p>The proposed upgrade will entail the widening of the existing 7m carriageway to a 17m wide dual carriageway. The project site falls within environmentally sensitive areas as identified by the Msunduzi Environmental Management Framework as well as the Msunduzi Conservation Plan and the Draft Ecosystem Services Plan.</p>
GNR 985	Part 23	<p><i>The expansion of – (xii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square meters or more; where such development occurs – (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback adopted in the prescribed manner; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; (e) In KwaZulu-Natal: viii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.</i></p> <p>The proposed road upgrade will take place within 32m of a wetland area. The project site also falls within environmentally sensitive areas as identified by the Msunduzi Environmental Management Framework as well as the Msunduzi Conservation Plan and the Draft Ecosystem Services Plan.</p>

Under Government Notice No R. 982 of 2014, the Applicant is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The Applicant has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basic Assessment process for the abovementioned road upgrade project.

In addition to the above, the proposed development constitutes a Water Use in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (36 of 1998) and requires a Water Use License Application, in terms of the following listed activities:

Section 21	S21(c)	<i>Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.</i>
Section 21	S21(i)	<i>Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.</i>

These activities are triggered wherever infrastructure is proposed close to a water source, within a wetland or within 500 metres of a wetland. Wetland and other riparian systems have been identified within close proximity to the Mount Partridge Road upgrade route.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Msunduzi Local Municipality has identified the need to upgrade the existing Mount Partridge Road which is located in Machibisa, Unit 3, in Imbali, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. The upgrade entails the realignment and widening of the existing 7m carriageway to a 17m wide dual carriageway, including the provision of bus/taxi shelters and 3,5m wide pedestrian/cycle walkways. The relocation of affected services and the realignment and replacing of dysfunctional stormwater infrastructure will also be undertaken. The approximate length of the upgrade is 1km.

The Mount Partridge Road upgrade route commences at the intersection of Edendale Road/Sutherland Road and Mount Partridge Road, adjacent to the Edendale Mall, and ends at the intersection of Mount Partridge Road and Thala Road. The general area within the vicinity of the road comprises mainly peri-urban residential properties. The Greater Edendale Shopping Mall borders the road to the north-west.

Several wetlands and riparian systems have been identified within the vicinity of the project site, including the Greater Edendale Mall wetland which is located within the Greater Edendale Mall cadastral, and was rehabilitated as part of the mitigation requirements for the development of the Greater Edendale Mall.

The upgrade of the Mount Partridge Road will assist with the increase in the volume of traffic that has occurred in the area, improve traffic flow and safety and prevent the delays currently being experienced along this road.

Refer to Figure 1 for a locality map of the Mount Partridge Road upgrade route.

WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Mount Partridge Road upgrade route and the surrounding areas (Google Earth).



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)?

The Basic Assessment process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Competent Authority with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed upgrade.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE EIA PROCESS FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. *Application Form:*

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This Form provides information on the property, a description of the proposed activity, and lists the relevant Listed Activities which are triggered.

2. *Public Participation:*

The general public and relevant Authorities will be notified of the proposed upgrade through newspaper adverts, site notices and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but has not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the adverts and site notices.

3. *Identification of Impacts and Alternatives*

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

4. *Impact Evaluation*

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

5. *Mitigation and Management Measures*

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the upgrade, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures.

6. *Reporting*

The Basic Assessment Report and Draft EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities for 30 days. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Basic Assessment Report.

7. *Authority Decision*

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by the Competent Authority as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed upgrade should be approved or not.



- ◆ Surface water impacts; and
- ◆ Traffic impacts.

- ◆ Wetland Assessment; and
- ◆ Geotechnical Study.



In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **28 October 2016**.



Postal: PO Box 11 Hilton, 3245
Physical: Block H, Quarry Office Park,
 400 Old Howick Road, Hilton, 3245
Phone: 033 343 4176 **Fax:** 033 343 4201
Email: phillipa@greendoorgroup.co.za
Website: www.greendoorgroup.co.za

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organisation / Property Name:			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:			
		Post Code:	
Tel Number:		Cell Number:	
Fax Number:		Email:	

[illegible]

2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted:

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	Email:
Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	Email:

3. Additional comments?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental.

Thank you