

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE ROOISLOOT RIVER, VARIOUS CULVERTS AND BORROW PITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ROUTE N11 SECTION 13X (N11-13X) (MOKOPANE RING ROAD) IN THE MOKOPANE AREA



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

(October 2017)

DEA REF NO: To Be Confirmed

DMR REF NO: To be Confirmed

What Does This Document Tell You?

This document aims to provide you, as an **Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)**, with background information regarding the proposed **development of a bridge over the Rooisloot River, various culverts and borrow pits associated with the National Route N11 Section 13X (N11-13X), Mokopane Ring Road** being undertaken by the **South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)**.

The document also provides information regarding the **Basic Assessment (BA)** process to be undertaken. The document advises you on how you can become involved in the projects – by reviewing information, and making inputs thereon, including raising any possible issues. This sharing of information forms the basis of the **public participation process** and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the projects from the outset.

What Does The Project Entail?

The projects can be summarised as follows:

Project name	Basic Assessments for the proposed development of a bridge over the Rooisloot River, culverts and borrow pits associated with National Route N11 Section 13X (N11-13X), Mokopane Ring Road.	
Local authority	Mogalakwena Local Municipality – Limpopo	
Competent Authority	Department of Environmental Affairs (BA for the bridge over the Rooisloot River and culverts) Department of Mineral Resources Limpopo Region (Basic Assessments for the borrow pits)	
Landowner(s) & Property Details	Property Description	Ownership
	Bridge	
	Ptn 21 Uitloop 3 KS	Willem Abraham vd Walt
	Rem Uitloop 3 KS	DT van Eyk
	Culverts	
	Planknek 43 KS	Mogalakwena Local Municipality
	Ptn 12 Amatava 41 KS	Maraba Communal Property Association
	Rietfontein 2 KS	N/A
	Ptn 60 Piet Potgietersrus 44 KS	Klein Kalahari (Pty) Ltd
	Ptn 9 Bultfontein 239 KS	N/A
	Borrow Pits	
	Borrow Pit 0: Planknek 43 KS	Mogalakwena Local Municipality
	Borrow Pit 1: Extension No 6 Piet Potgietersrus	Mogalakwena Local Municipality
	Borrow Pit 2: Uitloop 3 KS REM	DT van Eyk
Borrow Pit 4: Tweefontein 238 KR Ptn 2	RSA	

	Borrow Pit 4A: Tweefontein 238 KR Ptn 2	RSA
	Borrow Pit B4: Uitloop 3 KS Ptn 50	Tikdeer Prop CC
	Borrow Pit B5: Amatava 41 KS Ptn 1	RSA (Manager: Etienne du Preez)

Co-ordinates	Location Co-Ordinate	
	Bridge	24° 06' 34.66" S 29° 00' 50.89" E
Culverts	Culvert at km20,10: 24° 01' 46.94" S 28° 58' 57.75" E	Culvert at km17,99: 24° 2' 51.33" S 28° 59' 20.39" E
	Culvert at km17,69: 24° 03' 0.24" S 28° 59' 25.49" E	Culvert at km16,43: 24° 03' 28.39" S 28° 59' 41.67" E
	Culvert at km16,26: 24° 03' 41.36" S 28° 59' 48.74" E	Culvert at km15,52: 24° 04' 4.79" S 28° 59' 55.85" E
	Culvert at km13,80: 24° 05' 0.82" S 28° 59' 56.18" E	Culvert at km4,4: 24° 08' 56.38" S 29° 03' 11.44" E
	Culvert at km2,60: 24° 09' 48.32" S 29° 03' 43.20" E	Culvert at km2,54: 24° 09' 46.41" S 29° 03' 48.44" E
	Culvert at km74,35-N1: 24° 10' 14.36" S 29° 05' 1.70" E	
Borrow Pit 0	24° 09' 40.74" S 29° 03' 29.92" E	
Borrow Pit 1	24° 09' 00.68" S 29° 01' 33.91" E	
Borrow Pit 2	24° 06' 54.08" S 29° 02' 03.42" E	
Borrow Pit 4	24° 03' 28.51" S 29° 58' 19.22" E	
Borrow Pit 4A	24° 03' 24.48" S 29° 58' 10.63" E	
Borrow Pit B4	24° 06' 01.36" S 29° 00' 34.06" E	
Borrow Pit 5	24° 07' 36.25" S 29° 03' 25.63" E	

Description Of The Proposed Project

Platinum is the major resource mined in the area and the mines are located just north of Mokopane. The current transportation of the concentrate to the smelter near Polokwane or to Gauteng is by road. The current route for both these destinations follows the N11 through the centre of the Mokopane CBD. All the through traffic from Gauteng to Northern Botswana on the N11 and beyond also follows this route through town. The South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL) has commissioned the Detail Design and the Construction Monitoring of the N11-13X Mokopane Ring Road to divert the heavy vehicle traffic that travels to and from the mines on the western side of Mokopane and to Botswana, from the already congested existing N11 section which passes through the existing villages and the Mahwelereng Township..

Royal HaskoningDHV have been appointed by SANRAL to undertake the construction of the National Route N11-13X, Mokopane Ring Road as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The length of proposed route is approximately 20.5 km. The project starts at km3.5 on the existing N11 just north of Mokopane at the intersection with Road D1501 and then splits off the existing N11 to follow a new alignment in a southerly direction. At km13 at the intersection with Road D1603, the road turns in a south easterly direction up to km21.5 where it joins the existing R101 that runs east west. At km24 at the existing R101/N1 overpass, an off and on ramp will be provided on the N1 to ensure access from the south.

The N11-13X Mokopane Ring Road is a "green field" project where a new road will be constructed. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study was previously conducted for the N11-13X road development and the Environmental Authorisation (EA) (12/12/20/1977) was obtained in August 2009. In addition, 5 borrow pits of 1.5 ha each (Borrow Pit 0; 1; 2; 3 and 4) obtained DMR Environmental Management Plan (EMP) approvals in August 2009.

The subject of the first BA study is to address the infilling activities within the watercourses and sensitive geographical areas associated with the bridge over the Rooisloot River and the culverts. The Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) will be the Competent Authority for this application for EA.

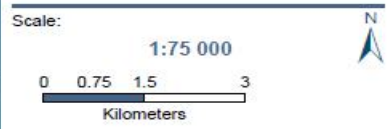
Seven (7) separate BA studies are being conducted for the following borrow pits: Borrow Pit 0; 1; 2; 4 & 4A; BP4 and B5 as the material from the existing approved borrow pits are insufficient for the layer works. Borrow pits 4A, BP4 and B5 are new borrow pits, whilst the mining area for the existing Borrow pits 0; 2 and 4 will be increased from 1.5 ha to 5 ha. The mining area for BP 1 will be increased from 1.5 ha to 3 ha. The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) Limpopo Region will be the Competent Authority for the borrow pit applications for authorisation.



Bridges and Culverts associated with the construction of the N11-13X Mokopane Ring Road

Overall Locality Map

- Legend**
- Bridge
 - Cattle Creep
 - Culvert
 - N11 - 13X Mokopane Ring Road
 - National Road
 - Major Road
 - Other Road
 - Railway
 - River



Date: 2017/10/23
 RHDHV Ref: MD1628
 Created by HdB



Figure 1: Locality Map of the Bridge over the Roisloot River and the associated Culverts

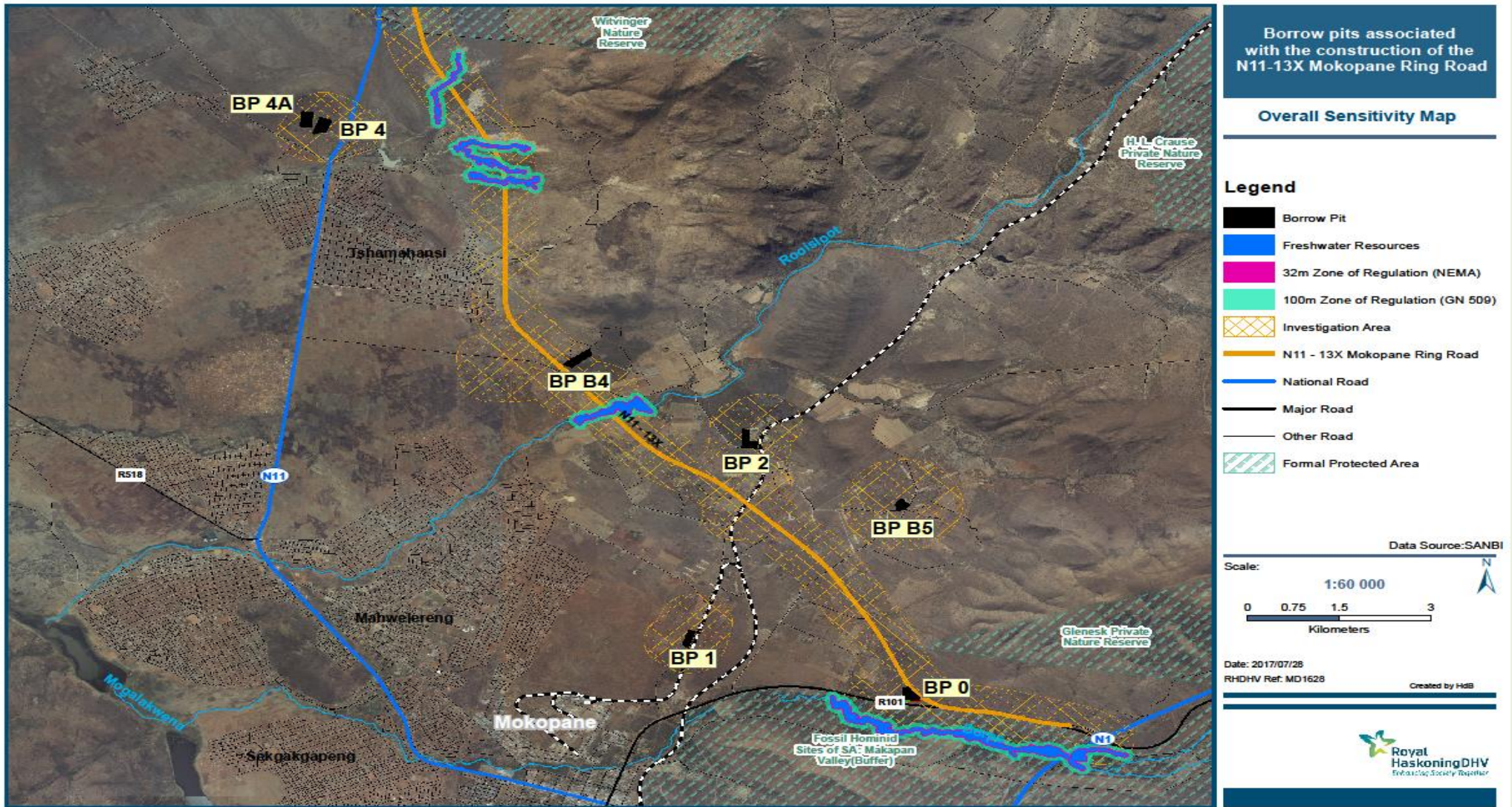


Figure 2: Locality Map of the N11-13X associated Borrow Pits

What Are The Potential Environmental Impacts Associated With The Proposed Project?

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the BA studies, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Aquatic and Wetland Assessment	Scientific Aquatic Services
Ecological Assessment	Scientific Terrestrial Services
Heritage Assessment	Shasa Heritage Consultants
Peer reviews	Bridge and Culverts BA: Catherine Greengrass (GAIA) Borrow Pit BAs: Liselle van Niekerk (W&L Consultants)

Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within the BA studies. The studies will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential negative impacts.

The BA studies will aim to achieve the following:

- Provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical attributes of the affected areas;
- Undertake a detailed assessment of the two components in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- Identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- Undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

Why Are Environmental Studies Needed?

In terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014** (as amended in 2017), published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, **SANRAL** requires **Environmental Authorisation (EA)** from the **Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)** for the **bridge and culverts** as it includes activities listed under Listing 1 and 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended in 2017).

The following activities of Listing Notice 1 and 3 are triggered:

Listing Notice 1

- Activity 19 – The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 m³ from a watercourse.

Listing Notice 3

- Activity 12 e (ii) - The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
- Activity 14 – The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse:
 - e. Limpopo
 - i. Outside urban areas:
 - ff.) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;
 - hh.) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.

SANRAL also requires an EA from the **Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) Limpopo Region** for the following activities associated with the **Borrow Pits**:

Listing Notice 1

- Activity 21 - Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).

- Activity 22 (a) - The decommissioning of any activity requiring a closure certificate in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002);

Listing Notice 3

- Activity 12 e (ii) - The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Activities under these listings may have an effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in Regulations 16 to 20 and Appendix 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended in 2017), will have to be undertaken. A BA 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.

SANRAL has appointed **Royal HaskoningDHV** to provide independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) services for the proposed BA studies. The EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended in 2017) requires the EAP to be independent, objective and have expertise in conducting EIAs. Such expertise should include knowledge of all relevant legislation and of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity. To ensure a lack of bias and to strengthen transparency, external technical peer reviews will be undertaken prior to the public review during the formal environmental assessment process. These peer reviews will be conducted by GAIA for the bridge and culvert BAR and W & L Consultants cc for the borrow pit BARs.

General Authorisation

According to Appendix D2 of the General Authorisation in terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) Notice 509 of 2016, for water uses as defined in Section 21 (c) - *impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse* and 21 (i) - *altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse*, SANRAL is generally authorised for the construction of new bridges done according to the SANRAL Drainage Manual (subject to the compliance of the conditions of Notice 509 of 2016).

Public Participation Process

As part of these environmental studies, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through a public participation process (PPP).

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, five steps are proposed::

- STEP 1: Create awareness of the BA processes (by way of an advertisement in local newspaper, circulation of BID [this document] and erection of site notices);
- STEP 2: Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);
- STEP 3: Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation and stakeholder engagement;
- STEP 4: Invite I&AP comment and input on the consultation BA reports (BARs) (30-day comment period); and
- STEP 5: Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of the BARs.

How Can You Get Involved?

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to become involved.

- By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
- By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Johan Blignaut at Royal HaskoningDHV;
- In writing, contacting the EAP if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
- By reviewing and commenting on the consultation BARs within the allowed 30-day review period.

Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns and/or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Comments And Queries On The Project Can Be Directed To

Mr Johan Blignaut & Ms Seshni Govender	PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2191		 Royal HaskoningDHV <i>Enhancing Society Together</i>
	Tel	011 798 6458/ 012 367 5376	
	Email	johan.blignaut@rhdhv.com/ seshni.govender@rhdhv.com	

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YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before** and return to:

Mr Johan Blignaut & Mrs Seshni Govender	PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2191		 Royal HaskoningDHV Enhancing Society Together
	Tel	011 798 6458/ 012 367 5376	
	Email	johan.blignaut@rhdhv.com/ seshni.govender@rhdhv.com	

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

What comments / concerns would you like to raise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

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PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

Signature	
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IF YOU PREFER **NOT TO RECEIVE** ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND, WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS (CONTACT DETAILS AS PROVIDED ABOVE).

Yes, remove my name