

## BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NTATSHANA ROAD, MTHWALUME IN UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

KZN DAEA REF NO: DC21/0026/2013

NEAS REF: KZN/EIA/0001256/2013

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

SEPTEMBER 2013

#### 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 initiative by the initiative by Umzumbe Local Municipality, to establish the Ntatshana Road within Mthwalume in Umzumbe Municipality within the Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The document also provides information regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken as well as a water use licence application in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and/or raise issues, which may concern and/or be of interest to you. 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. Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of a BA as input from I&APs ensures that all potential issues are considered within the study.

#### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The Umzumbe Local Municipality proposes to develop the Ntatshana Road. The proposed road is located in Mthwalume in Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed road will be approximately 2.9 km in length and 5m in width. The proposed road alignment will cross over a river and a bridge is proposed for this crossing. The EIA Regulations (2010) require a

basic assessment for any development which will fall within the 32 meter buffer to a watercourse.

#### WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

During the assessment process specialist and desk-top studies combined with a site visit will identify potential issues which require further investigation within the Basic Assessment Report. Specialist studies which have been identified and will be conducted include:

- Ecological and Wetland Assessment
- Heritage and Cultural Impact Assessment

Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within this BA process. The study will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, and evaluate the project alternatives.

The Basic Assessment will aim to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the preferred route/s in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and

- to 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 Government Notice R. 543 to Notice R. 546 of 2010 published in terms of Section 24(5) read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998), The Umzumbe Local Municipality requires authorisation from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) for the undertaking of the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 544 and 546 of the NEMA EIA regulations as well as a water use licence application in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) . Activities under these listings may have an effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in Regulations 21 to 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Regulation 543), will have to be undertaken.

The Umzumbe Local Municipality has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV, as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the required Basic Assessment Process to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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

**STEP 1:** Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper)

**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 draft BA report (40-day comment period)

**STEP 5:** Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of BA Reports

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Royal HaskoningDHV;
3. In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the allowed 40-day review period.

## COMMENTS AND QUERIES

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. 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 or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Interested I&AP's are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental and Public Participation consultant before the **30 November 2013**:

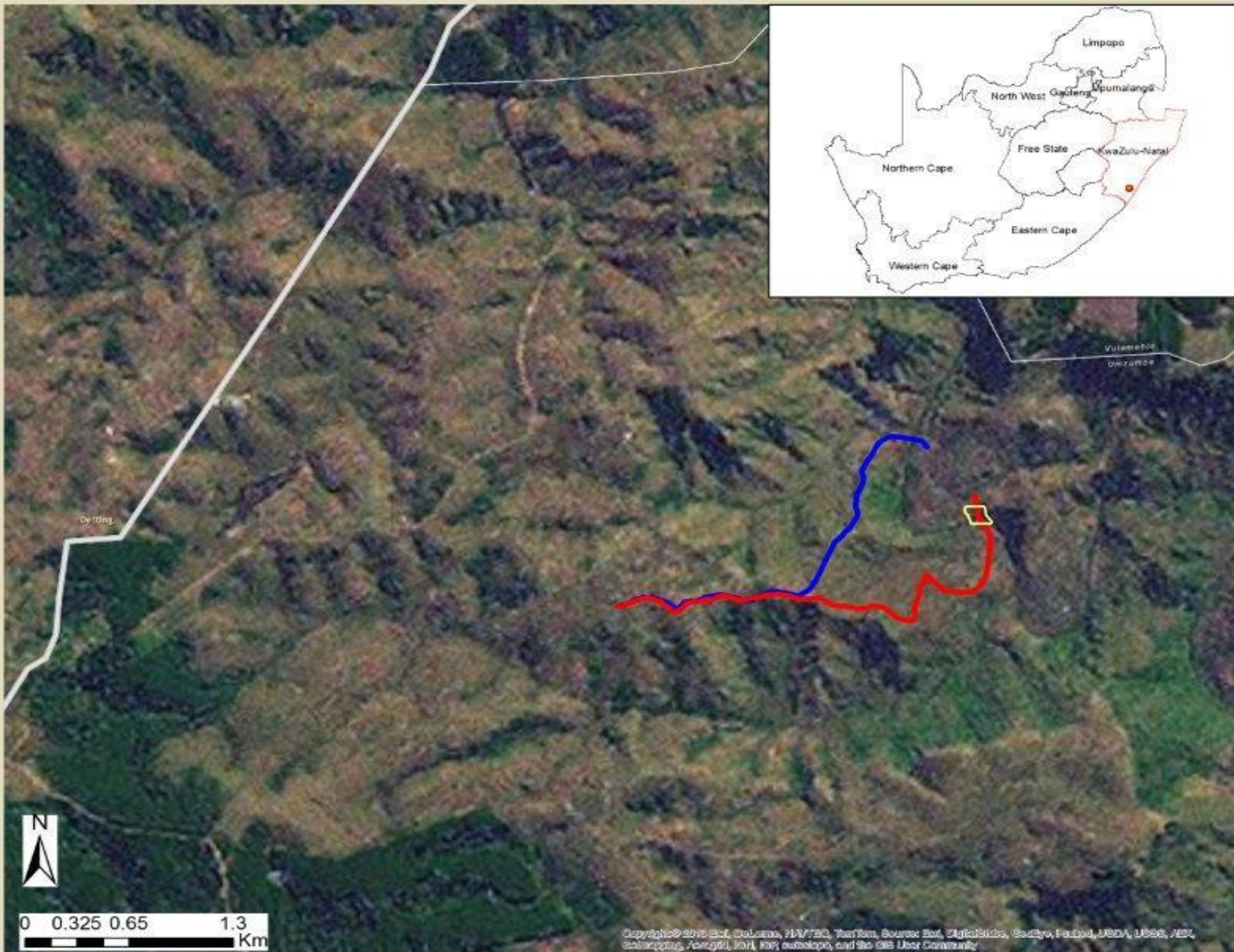
**Ms. Sharleen Moodley**

Royal HaskoningDHV  
PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600

Direct | 031 719 5532

Fax | 031 719 5505

E-mail | [Novashni.moodley@rhdhv.com](mailto:Novashni.moodley@rhdhv.com)



## Ntatshana Road

### LOCALITY MAP

#### Legend

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Bridge Area

Scale  
1:24 000

Data Sources  
Demarcation Board, Land  
Atlas  
SANSI

Date: 21 Mar 2013  
Created by: HaskoningDHV

Coordinate System: Custom  
Datum: WGS 1984  
Units: Degree



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**COMMENT FORM**

**September 2013**

**YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME**

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013**, and return to:

**Ms. Sharleen Moodley**

PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600

E-mail novashni.moodley@rhdhv.com

Phone: (031) 719 5532

Fax: (031) 719 5505

<b>TITLE</b> (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		<b>FIRST NAME</b>	
<b>SURNAME</b>			
<b>CAPACITY</b> (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
<b>ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>		<b>POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TEL. NO.:</b> (    )		<b>CELL NO.:</b>	
<b>FAX NO.:</b> (    )		<b>E-MAIL ADDRES:</b>	

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

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

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organisation:</b>		
<b>Contact details:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Tel.:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Cell:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>			

**IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE 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 WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES, Please remove me from the project database</b>	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>
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