

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND EXPANSION OF WAKESLEIGH ROAD, BELLAIR, ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY ON THE SITE LOCATED AT BELLAIR AREA, WARD 65, WITHIN ETHEKWINI METRO MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU - NATAL

1. Project Background

The eThekwini Municipality is proposing the upgrade of Wakesleigh Road located within Bellair, Ward 65. The proposed upgrade will include upgrading the existing single carriageway road to a dual carriageway, construction of sidewalks on either side of Wakesleigh Road, a re-alignment and widening of the Wakesleigh Road bridge section that crosses over the rail line between Sarnia Road and River Avenue and re-alignment of a section of Wakesleigh Road between Cliffview Road and Sarnia Road to improve the vertical alignment and horizontal alignment.

SAT Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd has subsequently been appointed by eThekwini Municipality with regards to environmental issues on this site. This will include conducting a basic assessment process for the project, and the compilation of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The land is administered by Ingonyama Trust Board (ITB). eThekwini Municipality is in negotiation/communication with the ITB with regards to land to be used for the road expansion.

2. Project applicant

Applicant: eThekwini Metro Municipality (Mazande.Ntshangea@durban.gov.za / 031 3114221, 41 Margaret Mncadi Avenue, Durban, 4001
EAP – SAT Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (sheldon@satenviro.co.za / 072 455 5168), P.O.BOX 4004, Redhill, 4071.

3. Project Location

The site location is within Bellair Area which is in Ward 65 of the eThekwini Metro Municipality. The site is about 2km from Inkosi Albert Hospital with Wakesleigh Road starting across the road from BMW Durban South.

The project co-ordinates are recorded as follows: 29°53'0.65"S 30°57'17.50"E
 See the locality google map below:



Figure 1 - google image of the site location

4. Project description

The road to be upgraded is about 1.4km long. The following components will form part of the proposed upgrade:

- Upgrading the existing single carriageway road to a dual carriageway (two lanes per direction) with a centre median of a minimum width of 2m,
- Construction of 3.0m sidewalks on either side of Wakesleigh Road,
- Re-alignment and widening of the Wakesleigh Road bridge section that crosses over the rail line between Sarnia Road and River Avenue,
- Re-alignment of a section of Wakesleigh Road between Cliffview Road and Sarnia Road to improve the vertical alignment and horizontal alignment.
- There will also be an upgrade of all intersections of internal roads linked to Wakesleigh Road in terms of required turn lanes and traffic control.

5. Site description

The site is located within Bellair Area with Wakesleigh Road having a length of approximately 1.4km. There is an existing tar road which is going to be upgraded/expanded. The site is zoned as Existing Street Reservation. A portion of the road encroaches on a DMOS vegetation/forest area.



Figure 2 - site photo

6. Services on site

Portable water

The area of Bellair within which the site is located has portable water which is supplied by the eThekweni Municipality.

Internal roads

Wakesleigh Road can be accessed from the M7 or Sarnia Road with M7 being intersected at the start of Wakesleigh while Sarnia is met at the end of Wakesleigh Road. There are internal roads along the length of Wakesleigh Road with the intersections of these roads to be upgraded to meet turning and traffic requirements for T3 road.

Sewerage

The site location has a sewage system that is provided/serviced by the Municipality. However, no sewerage services will be required for the proposed development with temporary ablution facilities to be provided for workers throughout the construction phase.

Refuse

Waste to be produced during the construction phase will be in the form of general waste and rubble. All such waste will be collected and stored within the site as per recommendations made in the EA and EMPr which will include use of refuse bags, refuse bins and possible use of skips.

The waste will then be disposed of on a regular basis (once a week). The DSW Bellair Garden Drop Off Site is the nearest waste disposal site. However; a number of other waste disposal sites are available in the vicinity of the project site which can be used to meet waste disposal requirements as per waste material that is being disposed of.

Electricity

Electricity is provided within the area. However; for project purposes, no electricity connection will be required. A generator is likely to be used as and when required.

Storm water

A storm water plan will be compiled to regulate water flow on site, in line with the engineering recommendations.

7. Environmental legislative imperatives

Based on our site visits conducted on 17 February 2021 and a desktop top assessment conducted, it was noted that the Wakesleigh Road encroaches on a DMOS forest area on the Solomon Mahlangu side of the Road.

The scope of works was considered against EIA Listed Notice (1-3) and based on the project description outlined above we are of the view that the project triggers **GNR. 324 of 2014 (GNR 324, Listing Notice 3)** as amended on 7 April 2017. The triggered activities are tabulated below along with their descriptions as Per Regulation as well as description of how they are triggered by the proposed development.

Indicate the Activity Number:	Provide the relevant Activity (ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1, 2 & 3 (GN R327, GNR325 & GNR324)	Describe each listed activity as per the project description (and not as per wording of the relevant Government Notice)¹:
GNR. 324 of 2014(Listing Notice 3) as amended on 7 April 2017.	<p>Activity 12 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.</p> <p>KwaZulu Natal iv. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; v. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; viii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; xi. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose;</p>	<p>The proposed road works will include removal of vegetation during site preparation which is most likely to include more than 300 square meters of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>The site is located within the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Vegetation Unit which is listed as Endangered.</p> <p>Wakesleigh Road encroaches on a DMOS forest located towards Solomon Mahlangu Road.</p> <p>The site is also located within 5km of Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve.</p>
GNR. 324 of 2014(Listing Notice 3) as amended on 7 April 2017.	<p>Activity 18 The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>KwaZulu Natal iv. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; v. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in</p>	<p>The proposed road upgrade will mainly include widening of Wakesleigh Road with one lane to be added in each direction (2 lanes in total). Each lane is about 3.5m (7m total). In addition, there will also be sidewalks of about 3m constructed on each side of the road. Therefore; the road will be widened by more than 4m.</p> <p>The site is located within the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt</p>

¹Please note that this description should not be a repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description, i.e. describe the components of the desired development.

	<p>systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>viii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>xi. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose;</p>	<p>Vegetation Unit which is listed as Endangered.</p> <p>Wakesleigh Road encroaches on a DMOS forest located towards Solomon Mahlangu Road.</p> <p>The site is also located within 5km of Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve.</p>

The above are the Activities which have been identified thus far which will be confirmed through consultation with the Competent Authority in which case some activities may be removed or added to the list. Listing Notice 3, Activity 23 will be confirmed through consultation with an aquatic systems specialist as there were no watercourses observed on site during the on ground assessment conducted.

The national web based environmental screening tool, as contemplated in Regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the EIA Regulations, has shown Very High Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme due to residential properties that are found along the road and Very High Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme which is likely due to the fact that Bellair is known for high chameleon diversity and the forest that the project encroaches on which is part of the DMOS.

In addition, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to guide all phases of the project as per Section 28 of NEMA.

8. Identified project stakeholders

In view of the above, the following stakeholders have been identified as having legal jurisdiction on the application and site, and therefore expected to provide comments:

- Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- KwaZulu – Natal Amafa and Research Institute
- Department of Water & Sanitation
- eThekweni Municipality
- Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
- Transnet

9. Project need and desirability

The proposed upgrade of Wakesleigh Road will improve mobility and safety along this road and thereby ensure that this roads functions as Class 3 minor

arterial. The proposed upgrade is required to address the current geometric constraints, capacity constraints, access management and safety concerns along the road.

The proposed upgrade improves the road geometric standards along Wakesleigh Road in order to comply with the engineering standards for a Class 3 arterial road thereby improving safety for all road users.

In addition, a number of employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase which will have a positive socio-economic impact on those employed.

10. Figures:

- **FIGURE 1** – Google image of the site.
- **FIGURE 2** – Site photo.