

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS AND A WATER USE LICENCE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A RIVER CROSSING INCLUDING A BRIDGE, ADDITIONAL CULVERTS AND GABIONS ON THE LIB- ERTAS ROAD IN EQUESTRIA IN PRETORIA AND THE CLEANING OF THE RIVER CHANNEL UPSTREAM OF THE RIVER CROSSING

Gaut: 002/13-14/E0005

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The City of Tshwane (CoT) intends to upgrade and construct a new river crossing at Libertas Road in Equestria. The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide:

- Stakeholders with an opportunity to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP),
- Background information on the proposed project,
- Information on the Environmental Authorisations that will be applied for and the process that will be followed,
- IAP with an opportunity to raise issues and concerns throughout the application process.

BACKGROUND

Certain areas within the City of Tshwane (CoT) is prone to flooding during rainfall events due to anthropogenic activities such as the increase in residential development. This may pose a serious risk to human lives and damage to infrastructure. One of the areas that are prone to flooding is the Libertas Road Crossing over the Willow Spruit in the Equestria Area (**Figure 1**). During 1991, work was undertaken in the Willow Spruit to increase the hydraulic capacity of the watercourse by removing the silt from the river bed.

It was however determined that the river drainage structures were inadequate in terms of their hydraulic capacity resulting in the flooding of the roads on a regular basis. In order to eliminate the over topping of the roads new culvert structures of adequate hydraulic capacities were constructed in Cura Road, Stellenberg Road as well as in Bush Road. At that stage the Libertas Road was not upgraded because it was anticipated that as part of the new proposed residential development in Equastria, Libertas Road will eventually become a cul de sac, in which case a road crossing would not be

required (Refer to **Figure 2**).

Since 1991 the planning of the area has been changed. It has become clear that Libertas Road will continue to be an arterial route (refer to **Figure 3**).



Figure 1: Drainage structures at Libertas Road

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LOCALITY MAP

- Legend**
- Dams
 - Libertas Project Area
 - Streets
 - Rivers
 - Land Parcel



Date: 3 May 2013

System: Hartebeeshoek94

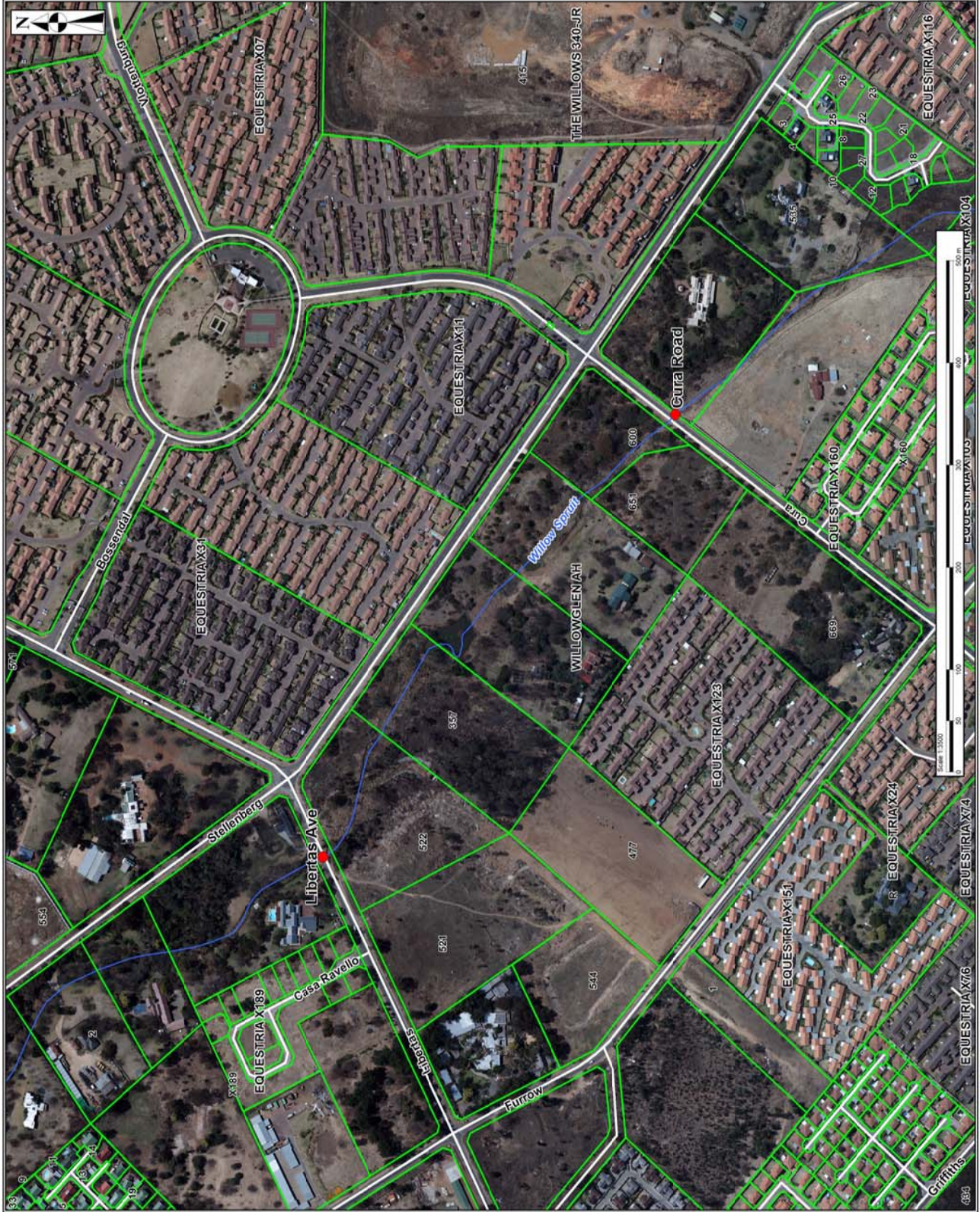




Figure 3 Libertas Road looking towards Stellenberg Road

Figure 4 Libertas Road looking towards Furrow Road

Consulting Engineers consisting ILISO Consulting, AECOM and SRK were appointed in 2012 to assist the CoT in all aspects of flood management. During this process various areas were identified that pose a risk to infrastructure and more important to human lives. Priority areas were identified that require urgent flood remedial measures.

The CoT's Department of Transport and Infrastructure Planning Division requested AECOM (previously known as BKS) to undertake a feasibility study for the upgrading of the existing drainage structure at the crossing of Libertas Road with the Willow Spruit in Equestria (refer to **Figure 2**).

In terms of the requirements of the Roads Department of the CoT the capacity of the drainage structure should be adequate to discharge a 50 year flood without overtopping of the road. It must be noted that the term 1 in 50 year flood indicate that there is a 2% possibility that a flood of that magnitude can be expected in any one year.

Therefore, a drainage structure needs to be constructed at the crossing of Willow Spruit with Libertas Road in order to ensure the discharge of a 1 in 50 year flood event without flooding the Libertas Road.

The proposed improvements and construction activities will *inter alia* entail the following:

- (a) The temporarily closure of Libertas Road and the removal of the existing drainage structure,
- (b) The necessary excavations to install the box culvert structure as well as to improve the alignment of the existing water course,
- (c) Desilting and cleaning of the area upstream of the road crossing,
- (d) The construction of the new structure and reinstatement of the road,
- (e) Installation of erosion protection measures upstream of the new structure to stabilise the new watercourse alignment, and
- (f) The clearing of the construction site.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENCE

The construction of the proposed crossing at the Willow Spruit requires an Environmental Authorisation from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and a Water Use Licence from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA).

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations 2010:

- Section 11 of Regulation 544: The construction of infrastructure covering 50 square meters or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 m of a watercourse
- Section 18 of Regulation 544: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic meters into a watercourse.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT APPROACH

In terms of the EIA Regulations 2010, the Basic Assessment Process needs to be followed and this will include:

- Motivation for the construction of the proposed river crossing,
- A draft Environmental Management Programme, and
- A Public Participation Process.

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be drafted in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 543 of 2010) promulgated in terms of Section 24 (5) of NEMA and will include:

- Activity information,
- Description of the site and surrounding area,
- Public Participation,
- Quantification of impacts associated with the activity, and
- An Environmental Management Programme (EMP)

THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Process (PPP) will be conducted by ILISO Consulting in accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2010. This process will be undertaken to fulfil the requirements of both Acts.

In order to ensure that your concerns are considered during the Basic Assessment process you are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) by completing the attached registration form and submitting it to Ms Carol Hooghienstra (details provided below) within **14 days** of receipt of this Background Information Document on or before the **7th of June 2013**.

All issues and comments received during the public PPP will be captured in an Issues and Response Report. This report will be updated as the project commences and will form an appendix to the BAR and will be submitted to GDARD for authorisation.

The PPP will entail the following :

- The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for review to all stakeholders who have registered as an IAP for a period of 40 days,
- Written comments received within the 40 days will be included in an Issues and Response Register and the BAR will be amended if necessary,
- The final BAR will then be redistributed for a further 21 days to provide the IAP with a second opportunity to ensure that all their concerns raised during the process have been addressed,
- Once a decision is taken by GDARD the outcome of the decision will be distributed to the IAP, and
- If an IAP is not happy with a positive Environmental Authorisation the IAP will be allowed to appeal the decision made by the Authority.

For further information please contact:
ILISO Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Carol Hooghienstra

THE WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

The proposed activity also requires a Water Use Licence in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) for the following water uses:

- S 21 (c) impeding or diverting of the flow of water in a water course, and
- S 21 (i) the altering of beds, banks course or characteristics of a water course.

The technical report will be compiled which will address, but will not be limited to the following:

- The project description,
- Status of the environment,
- Impact on the water environment, and
- Mitigation measures to prevent, minimise or rehabilitate the impact on the surrounding environment.



Tel: 086 124 5476
Fax: 012 665 1886
Email: carol@iliso.com

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

Please complete and return to Carol Hooghiemstra at ILISO Consulting (Pty) Ltd by **7 June 2013**:

PO Box 6873
Highveld
0169

Tel: 086 124 5476
Fax: 012 665 1886
E-mail: carol@iliso.com

Title		First Name	
Initials		Surname	
Organisation			
Postal Address		Postal Code	
Street Address			
Tel Number		Fax Number	
Cell Number			
E-mail			

Comments: (You may use a separate sheet if necessary)

The following issues must be considered during this variation application.

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Please add the following individual(s) to your mailing list.

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We thank you for you participation!