

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ENHLALAKAHLE PHASE 2 SUBSIDISED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE UMVOTI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

APRIL 2023



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed development and the EIA Process that will be followed. The aim is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on how to participate in the EIA Process and to obtain comments from IAPs on the proposed development. Findings of the EIA Process, including concerns raised by IAPs will be submitted to the KwaZulu Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA).

INTRODUCTION

The Proposed eNhlalakahle (Phase 2) Subsidised Housing Development has been initiated by the uMvoti Local Municipality to address the Municipality's housing need due to the growth of the population in the area.

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment for the eNhlalakahle Phase 2 Subsidised Housing Development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

The proposed property, made up of a Portion of the Remainder of Erf 1455 of Greytown, is located within Ward 9 of the Umvoti Local Municipality and is under the ownership of the Umvoti Local Municipality. The site is located approximately 1.5km east of Greytown.

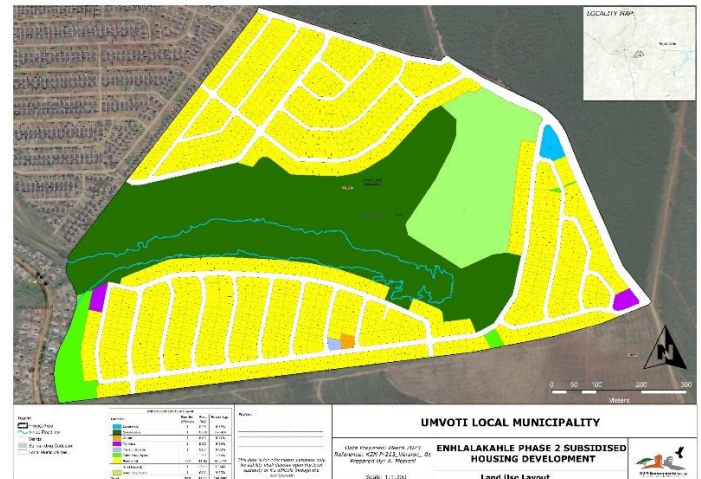
PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitude: 29° 4' 6.54" S
Longitude: 30° 36' 55.4" E

CURRENT LAND USE

The project area is currently covered by dense tree plantations with a valley bottom wetland that runs through the site from the west. The land was leased to Mondi for a timber plantation; however, Mondi will remove the timber trees to accommodate the proposed housing project.

Figure 1: Development Layout Plan



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The site is located within Ward 9 of the uMvoti Local Municipality and has a total extent of approximately 74ha with a development footprint of approximately 52.98ha. It should also be noted that there is a housing project taking place to the west of the proposed site. There are no critical biodiversity areas or protected areas located within the site.

The proposed development will entail the construction of the following:

- 778 BNG Housing Units
- Pipelines for the transportation of water supply and construction of a 35Kl elevated water storage tank
- Pipelines for the transportation of waterborne sewage and construction of an on-site wastewater package treatment plant
- Internal roads and stormwater infrastructure
- Erven will be set aside for commercial, municipal, place of worship land uses, a creche, a conservation area, public open spaces and a secondary school. It should be noted that recreational field as part of the secondary school will be shared with the community.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The EIA process for this proposed development will be conducted in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations lists activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorization from the competent authority. The regulations also specify the environmental assessment process, and information that is required to enable DEDTEA to make a decision regarding the proposed activity.

The Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed with accordance to the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended), as the following activities have the potential to be triggered by the proposed development:

Activity 12 of Listing Notice 1:

The development of -

(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;

where such development occurs -

(a) within a watercourse;

(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

Background: The proposed development will entail the construction of approximately 6 residential units and the onsite wastewater package treatment plant will be constructed within 32m of a watercourse. Furthermore, the proposed development will entail construction of a sewage pipeline across the valley bottom wetland located within the project area.

Activity 27 of Listing Notice 1:

The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -

(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or
(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Background: The proposed development will entail the removal of approximately 1.34 ha of degraded vegetation located within the western portion of the site.

Activity 28 of Listing Notice 1:

Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after the 01 April 1998 and where such development:

(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or

(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;

excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.

Background: The proposed development entails the construction of residential units on land that was used for agricultural purposes.

Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3:

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.

D. KwaZulu Natal

iv. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystems 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.

Background: The proposed development will entail clearance of 1.34 ha of degraded vegetation that falls under the Midlands Mistbelt Grassland vegetation type which is classified as endangered.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

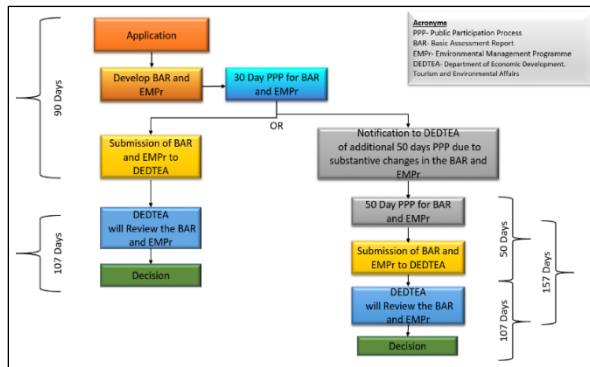
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project methodology involved with the required Environmental Authorization Process is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- Potential leakage of effluent from the proposed sewage pipeline that crosses the valley bottom wetland during the operational phase.
- Potential increase in sediments inputs and turbidity of valley bottom wetlands.
- Potential soil pollution and soil erosion from the construction activities.
- Potential dust pollution arising from the construction activities.
- Potential pollution and contamination of the valley bottom wetland from construction materials and chemicals.
- An Environmental Management Programme is developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur, during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC:

- Noise generated during the construction phase may be a nuisance to surrounding households.
- The development will assist in reducing the housing backlog of the Municipality and assist in reducing the establishment of informal settlements within the Municipality through the provision of housing opportunities to suitable / qualifying beneficiaries.
- Employment opportunities during the construction phase of the development and potential employment opportunities will be available during the operational due to the secondary school and commercial land uses that are proposed.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken, and no heritage or archaeological material of significance was identified on site.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the foundation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) guide various aspects of the EIA process, including public participation which involves provision of sufficient information, in a transparent manner, to IAPs. During the Public Participation Process input from, specialists, government, and non-government organizations as well as all other potential IAPs are gathered to enable more informed decision-making.

Public Participation during the Basic Assessment Process will entail the EAP notifying all IAPs about the draft Basic Assessment Report. IAPs will then be given the opportunity of at least 30 days to comment and raise issues and/or concerns of the draft BAR. Once the 30-day commenting period is over, the EAP will then compile the Final BAR which will be inclusive of comments and responses and submit to DEDTEA for assessment. IAPs will then be notified in writing of the decision taken by DEDTEA pertaining to the project.

Stakeholders are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) for the Environmental Authorisation Application Processes as well as comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report within 30 days of this notice. A copy of the Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available at the Greytown Library located on 50 Okes St, Greytown, 3250 from the 03rd of April 2023. Alternatively, the Draft Basic Assessment Report may be made available electronically to the IAP upon request. Representations with respect to this application may be made by fax or mail to Mr Gert Watson (contact details below) and must reach K2M Environmental offices on or before the **11th of May 2023**.

Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from:

Contact Person: Mr. Gert Watson

Tel: 031 7646 743

Fax: 031 7642 354

Email: admin@k2m.co.za



K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Company Registration Number: 2008/016461/07

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE ENHLALAKAHLE PHASE 2 SUBSIDISED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE UMVOTI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

(DC24/0001/2023)

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and/or bring to the attention of K2M Environmental the following comments.

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organization:		Address:	
Tel no:		Cell no:	
Fax no:		Email:	

Comment:

DISCLAIMER:

In terms of the section 11 of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI ACT), 2013, I hereby wish to give consent to K2M Environmental to the lawful processing of my personal information stated above for the EIA Process undertaken for the proposed development as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).

Sign: _____

Date: _____