



Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

**Application for Exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment
National Route 3 (N3): Proposed KwaXimba Interchange, Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal**

Project Area and Project description¹

The Cato Ridge Logistics Hub Consortium (CRLHC), a subsidiary of Inkanyezi YeZulu Investment (Pty) Ltd, is presently planning the development of the Cato Ridge Dry Port. This is a private sector and amaXimba community driven initiative, which is aligned with the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality's approved Cato Ridge Local Area Plan that makes provision for a logistics zone within which the dry port is to be located.

The proposed project is located in the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality as well as eMkhambathini Local Municipality (KZN226), uMgungundlovu District (DC22) and the relevant 1:50 000 map sheets are 2930DC Hammarsdale and 2930DA Cato Ridge

The Cato Ridge Dry Port will comprise an intermodal facility, a truck stop, a logistics park, and fuel tank farms. The project is aimed to assist in the decongestion of the Port of Durban by rail cargo from the port to Cato Ridge, thereby easing traffic pressure and congestion on the Port of Durban and surrounds, Durban's Central Business District and the N3.

Planning indicates the need for a new interchange on the N3 to align with internal roads within the logistics zone and to take pressure off roads within Cato Ridge. The preferred site is where the D12 overpass is located (near the Engen Service Station on the Durban-bound carriageway) (Figure 1). Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations require a Basic Assessment to be undertaken in terms of NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended.

Observations

eThembeni Cultural Heritage has previously surveyed the study area during the course of the heritage assessments undertaken for the capacity upgrades to the N3 from the Hammarsdale Interchange to the Lion Park Interchange, including upgrading of the existing Cato Ridge, Camperdown, and Dardanelles interchanges². (Figure 2). No heritage resources were identified during these surveys.

¹ Background Information provided by ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

² SAHRIS Case File 12956 & 14253

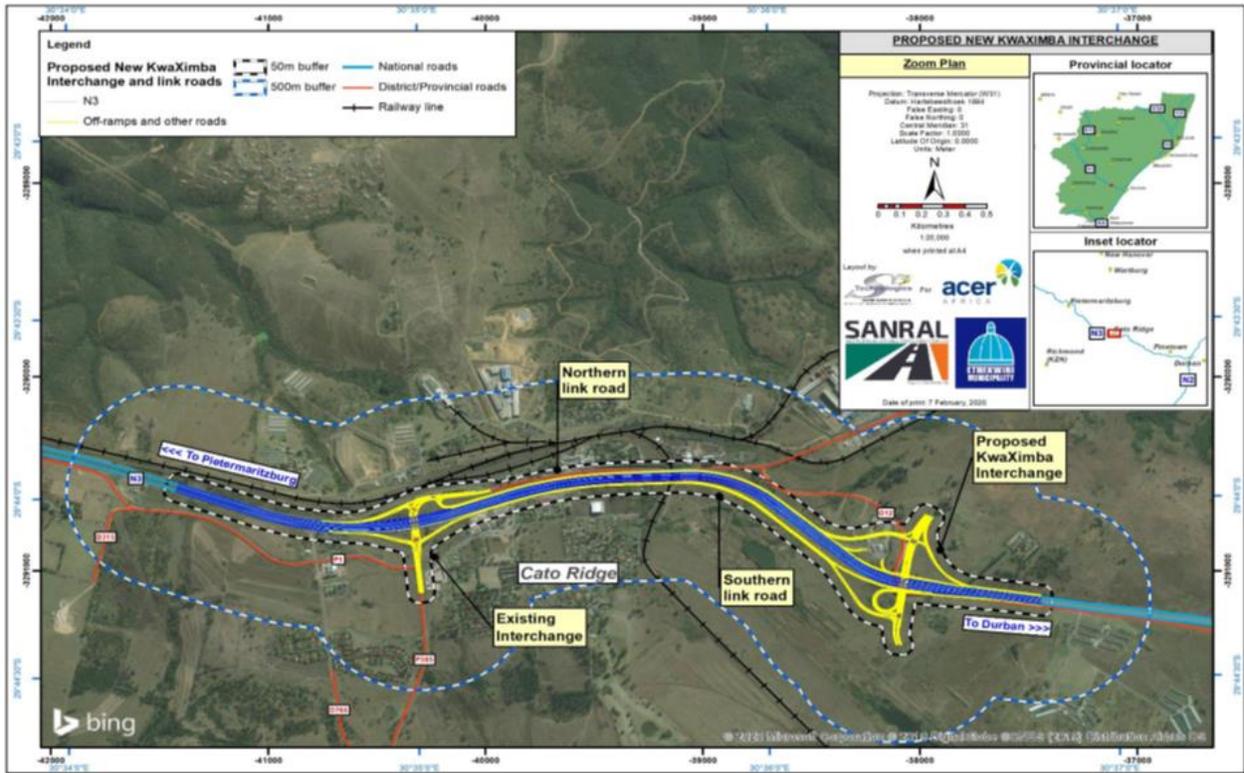


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed development

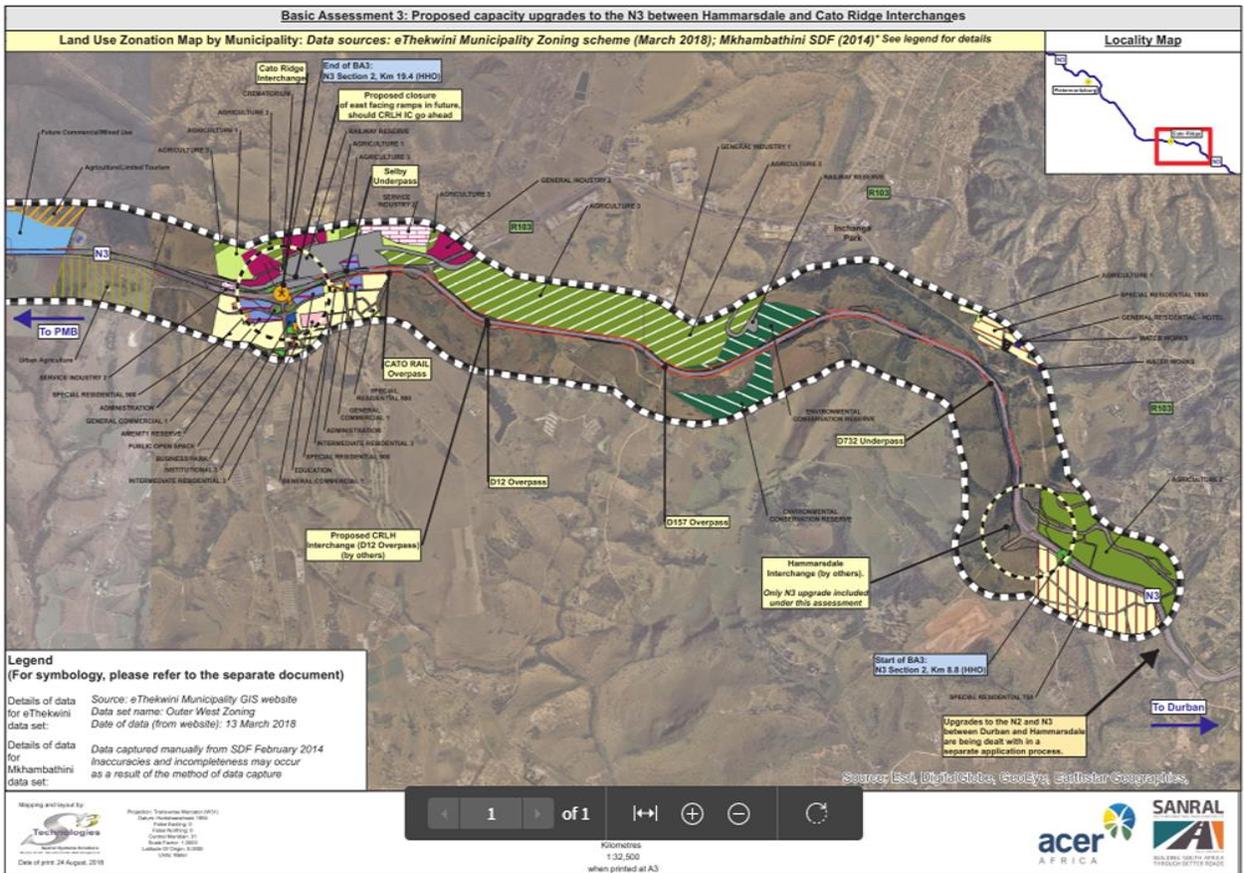


Figure 2 Hammarisdale to Cato Ridge N3 Upgrade survey area

³ Note: Higher resolution images have been loaded to the SAHRIS Case File.

As a follow up to these previous surveys, eThembeni staff inspected the site area of the proposed KwaXimba Interchange on 03 March 2020⁴. The interchange and attendant access roads are proposed within a highly transformed landscape including transport infrastructure and services, agricultural activities, and major landscape modifications when the N3 was constructed in the early 1970's. No heritage resources were observed during the field inspection.

The geology along the N3 at Cato Ridge is characterised by the sandstones of the Natal Group. The SAHRIS Palaeontology sensitivity map indicates the area to be of low sensitivity (blue). Consequently, no further palaeontology assessment or monitoring is recommended.

Recommendations

Accordingly, we request that Amafa grant an exemption from an HIA for the proposed KwaXimba Interchange, allowing the project to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

⁴ See track log loaded to SAHRIS Case File.