

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT:

Mahlubini Residential Area Development, Cofimvaba

AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this Background Information Document is to provide people affected by and interested in the proposed project with information about this project, the process being followed and to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the EIA process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may raise issues of concern. These will be examined and included in the Reports.

The findings of the EIA will be provided to the DEDEAT (Provincial, Chris Hani Region) for final decision making, as to whether or not the project should go ahead and if so under what conditions.

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Your involvement in this process is critical, and will help ensure that all relevant issues are raised and assessed in the EIA process



BACKGROUND

Tshani Consulting as appointed by Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, has commissioned Coastal & Environmental Services (CES) to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the development of a residential area at the Mahlubini area, Cofimvaba, and to apply for environmental authorisation from the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT), as required by South Africa's environmental legislation. Details of the relevant laws, and an overview of the environmental impact assessment process are provided below.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development includes the establishment of properly demarcated residential and community facility sites, public open spaces, business sites and road reserves. The area will also be provided with a full service associated with the housing development, such as access roads, storm water infrastructure, water, sanitation and electricity.

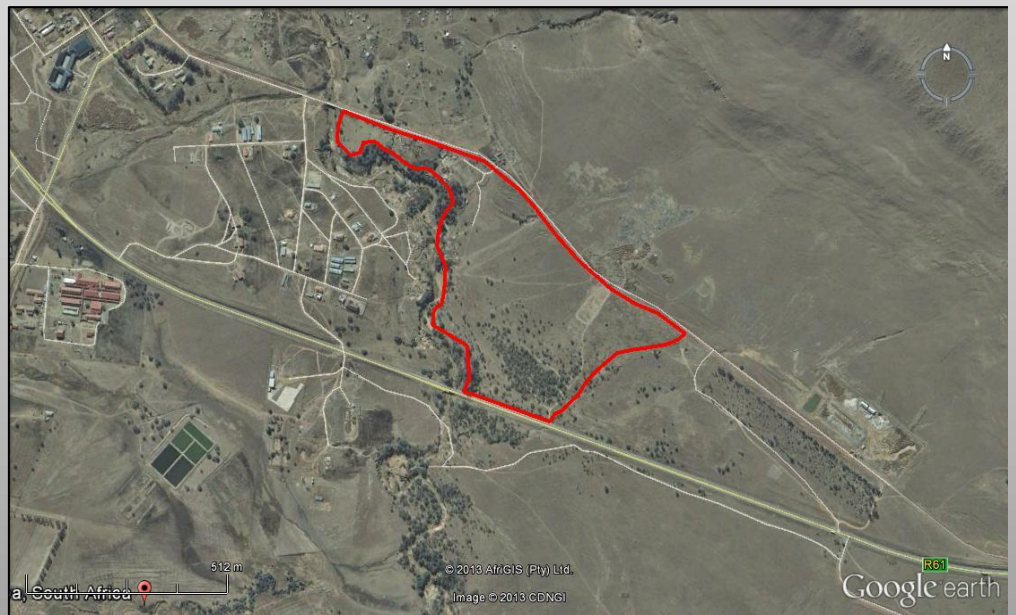


Figure 1: Location of the proposed housing development at Mahlubini in Cofimvaba, within the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Eastern Cape.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No 107 of 1998, as amended in 2010) identifies activities in terms of section 24(2)(a) and (d) which may not commence without an authorisation from the competent authority, who in this case is Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT-Provincial). In order to apply for authorisation for the development, assessment and communication of potential impacts of the activities must follow the procedure as described in regulations 26 to 35 of Government Notice No. R544 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010), promulgated in terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA as amended.

The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of the activities listed in Table 1 below.

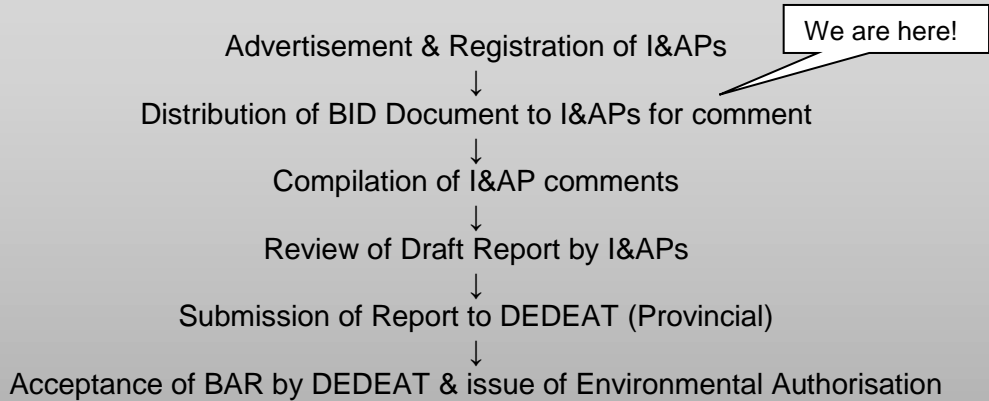
Table 1: Listed Activities triggered by the proposed development

Activity No (s)	Listed Activity
GN R544: 23(i)	The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential use, inside an urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares.
GN R544: 11 (xi)	The construction of infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more, where such construction occurs within 32 metres of a watercourse.

APPROACH TO THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

This phase serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts. The potential impacts on the surrounding will be extensively addressed by specialists and a Basic Assessment Report will then be submitted and a decision will be made by relevant authorities.

Basic Assessment Process



HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the EIA. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- **Advertisement in the Daily Dispatch**
- **Notice Boards on site**
- **Circulation of the BID to all Stakeholders**
- **Review of the BAR by all registered I&APs and DEDEAT**
- **Comments period**

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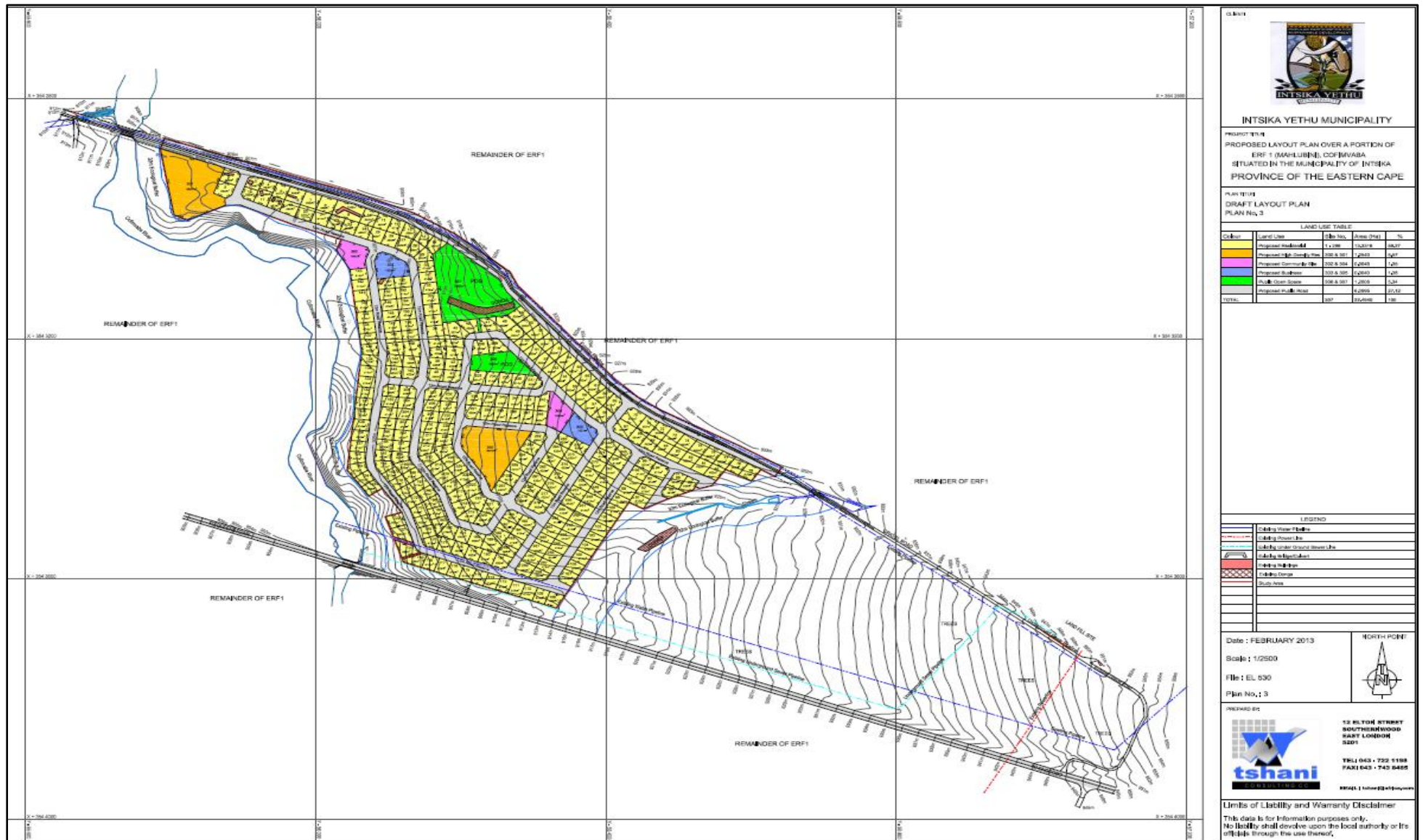


Figure 2: Layout map of the proposed Mahlubini residential area development, Cofimvaba.