



Amafa aKwazulu-Natali
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20 June 2013

Attention Bernadet Pawandiwa

Dear Ms Pawandiwa

Application for Exemption from a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment of the Proposed Widening of Medway Road and Associated Interchanges within Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal

Project description

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (**RBIDZ**) is planning to improve access to RBIDZ Phase 1A, which is a purpose built and secure industrial estate in Richards Bay, within the uMhlathuze Municipality. The proposed improvements to access the RBIDZ Phase 1A include the widening of Medway Road and Associated Interchanges, which are managed by the City of uMhlathuze.

The project is located in Richards Bay within the uMhlathuze Local Municipality, which is one of the local government administrative areas within the uThungulu District Municipality. The primary objectives of the proposed project are to improve the road service infrastructure to Phase 1A of the RBIDZ in an effort to support the various development scenarios for Phase 1A as well as to encourage investment in export-orientated manufacturing industries, thereby creating opportunities for employment.

The proposed upgrades to Medway Road will include the widening of the existing two lane road to a four lane road; the provision of a road median between the traffic lanes; the provision of a 1.5 m wide sidewalk; the widening of associated interchanges, including the intersection with the John Ross Highway (Plate 1) and the widening of the existing bridge structure across the Ngodweni River (Plate 2).



Plate 1 Medway – John Ross Highway Intersection



Plate 2 Medway Road Bridge over the Ngodweni River

Site assessment and recommendations

The proposed development area is located within an area dominated by swamp forests, hygrophilous grasslands and intertidal flats which were reclaimed during the construction of the Port of Richards Bay in the 1970's. As such no heritage resources of any significance are expected to occur.

We recommend, therefore, that no further heritage resource intervention is required.

Please could you convey Amafa's decision on this matter to the appointed Environmental Practitioner, Mr Giles Churchill, of **ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants**.

giles.churchill@acerafrica.co.za

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk and Elizabeth Wahl