

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR A SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE FILLING STATION, TRUCK STOP AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

MDEDET REF: 17/2/3/E-279

ENVASS REF: 001_14-15



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the NEMA Scoping and EIA process that is being conducted for the proposed Rooidraai Service Station and Truck Stop near Lydenburg, Mpumalanga Province.

In addition to supplying information regarding the project and the Scoping and EIA process, the BID also provides I&APs with the opportunity to:

- Register as an I&AP and to respond to the environmental compliance process
- Raise issues of concern and provide suggestions for enhanced benefits
- Contribute to local knowledge
- Provide information on the release dates of the Draft Scoping Report (SR) & Environmental Management Program (EMP) for comment.
- Inform any other person / organization that they may feel should be informed about the project

2. INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

Environmental Assurance (Pty) Ltd [herein after referred to as ENVASS], as independent environmental consultant, has been appointed by the Applicant, BEUKA Ontwikkelings Trust [herein after referred to as BEUKA], to undertake all the authorisations required for the development of the proposed development. BEUKA, as landowners, proposes to establish a new filling station, truck stop and associated infrastructure.

The proposed development will be located 5 km south west of Lydenburg, south west of the intersection of the R540 Dullstroom-Lydenburg road and the R577 Roossenekal road. These roads are both high traffic volume roads for mining and forestry transport vehicles, which makes the site ideal for the proposed development as found in the feasibility study by Jan Olivier from Prodeo Business Consultants.

The proposed development will consist of a filling station, truck stop, storage area for truck containers, a convenience store, road and Stormwater infrastructure. There are no visible permanent building structures, informal settlements, agricultural activities, public roads, power lines, water and/or gas pipelines, rocky outcrops, natural waterways, wetlands or large trees on the terrain. The closest related practice is the Sasol filling station, situated 3km away in the town of Lydenburg. It is located within a shopping centre complex, and access for large trucks are very limited, and in some cases impossible. The closest significant filling station and/or truck stop facilities from the proposed development site towards Dullstroom is 51km away, and towards Roossenekal 64km.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) [NEMA] (as amended), the proposed development constitutes listed activities which requires environmental authorisation prior to commencement with the activity. BEUKA is therefore applying for Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority, the Mpumalanga Department: Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET).

3. LOCALITY

The study area is located within the boundaries of the Ehlanzeni District and Thaba Chweu Local Municipalities. The proposed development site is registered as portion 43, a portion of portion 16 of the Farm Rooidraai 34 JT, within the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

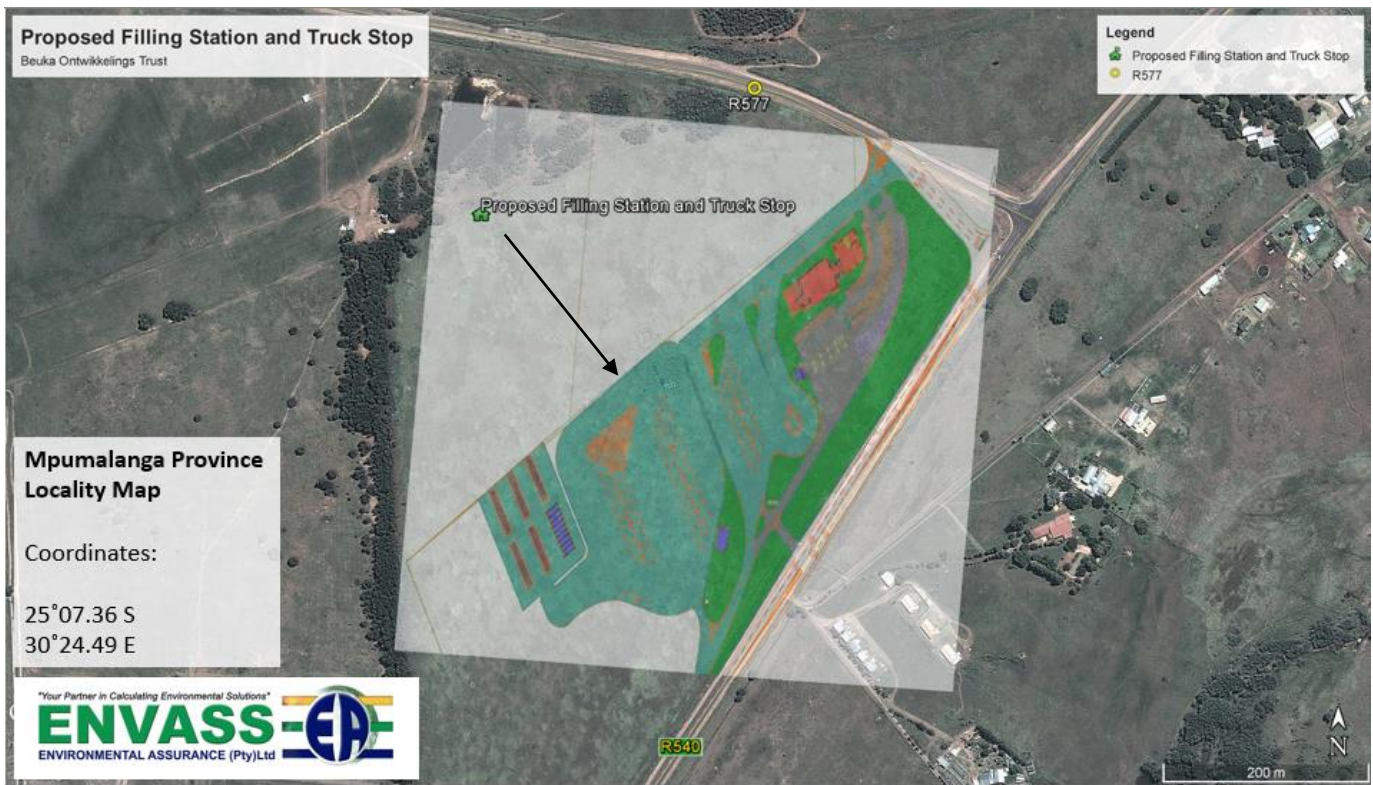


Figure 1: Locality Map

4. NEED & DESIRABILITY

The economy of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality is driven mainly by mining, agricultural, tourism and forestry production. These commercial activities are the reason the R540 and R577 roads are dominated by heavy transporting vehicles transporting their commodities. The proposed filling station and truck stop will supply heavy vehicle drivers with a safe and controlled area to overnight, store their containers and if necessary fill their tanks.

The site where the proposed development is planned has no visible permanent structures or settlement infrastructure. The proposed site have previously been used for agricultural activities to the extent that the vegetation encountered is visibly transformed. The property is owned by the applicant and the applicant intends to employ people from the local community.

5. ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
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| BID: | Background Information Document |
| MDEDET: | Mpumalanga: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism |
| EAP: | Environmental Assessment Practitioner |
| EIA: | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMP: | Environmental Management Program |
| GN: | Government Notice |
| I&AP: | Interested and Affected Party |
| NEMA: | National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998) |
| PPP: | Public Participation Process |
| SR: | Scoping Report |

6. LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED

The proposed development and construction activities requires compliance with the EIA Regulations of 2010, promulgated in terms of the NEMA, Act no. 107 of 1998, as amended. The proposed activity requires a NEMA EIA Scoping Process in terms of the activities below.

GN no. R545 Activity no.:

3: The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic metres.

GN no. R 544 Activity no.:

- 22: The construction of a road, outside urban areas, (ii) where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;
- 23: The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to- (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares;- Except where such transformation takes place- (i) for linear activities; or (ii) for purposes of agriculture or afforestation in which case Activity 16 of Notice No. R. 545 applies.

7. THE EIA PROCESS

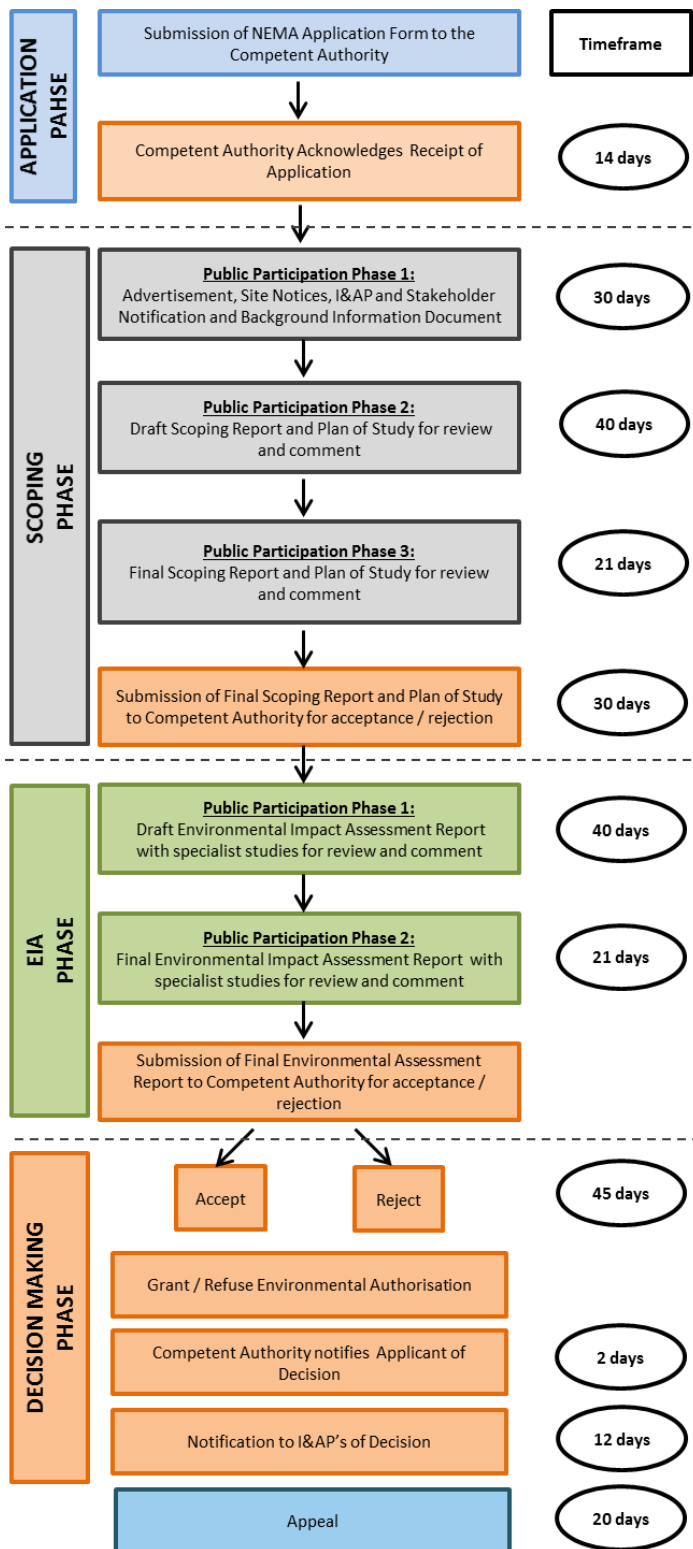


Figure 3: Process flow diagram

8. POTENTIAL ISSUES AND SPECIALIST STUDIES

- The EAP has identified environmental issues:
- Soil and land use impacts;
- Noise and vibration from construction activities;
- Traffic safety concerns due to heavy construction vehicles and road crossings;
- Dust as result of construction activities;
- Visual effect and sense of place of the
- Economic consequences and employment-related issues; and
- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (No. 10 of 2004);
- Hazardous Substances act, 1973 (No. 15 of 1973)

The EAP will further investigate supra issues and identify mitigation measures to assist in managing the possible effects of the project on the direct and surrounding environment. Specialist studies are being undertaken to assess and address the potential issues that have been identified. These include:

- Cultural heritage study;
- Baseline Ecological specialist study; and
- Baseline visual specialist study.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The PPP forms an integral part of the EIA process. The PPP aims to provide the I&APs with an opportunity to participate in a meaningful and constructive manner and gives the platform for raising issues, comments and concerns in respect of the project.

To ensure that you are registered as an I&AP, and are provided with an opportunity to comment on the project and that you receive updated project information, please complete and return the enclosed registration and comments sheet or contact Environmental Assurance by telephone, e-mail, mailing or fax.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in the scoping process, register yourself on the project database (see attached Registration form);
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, colleagues, etc.) who may be interested and / or affected by the proposed project about the bulk sampling process and encourage them to become involved;
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the approving authority; and
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal and or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the project.

Should you wish to register as a stakeholder, provide comment on the proposed project, raise queries, or request further information please complete the attached registration form.

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10. REGISTRATION FORM

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|---|--|-----------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Title: | | Surname: | | | | | | | |
| Name: | | | | Organisation: | | | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | | | | | | | |
| Tel: | | Fax: | | Email: | | | | | |
| I want to receive my notifications via: | | | | Post | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fax | <input type="checkbox"/> | Email | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Comments / concerns that you would like to raise at this stage of the proposed project?</p> <p>(Please use additional pages if required)</p> | | | | | | | | | |