

## BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### VIRGINIA BEACH PROPOSED BEACH BOMA, DURBAN NORTH IN ETHEKWINI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

KZN DAEA REF NO: DM/0033/2014 / NEAS REF: KZN/EIA/0001481/2014

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT – APRIL 2014

#### WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the proposed initiative by eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, to establish a semi-permanent 'beach-bums' type restaurant (to be leased) at Virginia Beach, Durban North, within the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The document also provides information regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken. Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and/or raise issues, which may concern and/or be of interest to you. The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of a BA as input from I&APs ensures that all potential issues are considered within the study.

#### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality proposes to establish a semi-permanent 'beach-bums' type restaurant and boma consisting of temporary benches and tables, temporary containers and portable toilets, and related infrastructure (parking, electricity, lighting, security [fencing], road access, sidewalk, etc.) and dune rehabilitation. The works will potentially also include the refurbishment of the existing dis-used public toilets and rehabilitation of a portion of the existing road. The site is located seaward of Virginia Airport, Airport Street, Durban North. The size of the main building structure is approximately 100 metres squared. The entire area of development is approximately 1.5 hectares in extent.

3 options as well as the no-go option are proposed and will be considered as part of this BA process:

- **Option 1:** Dune rehabilitation of the northern half of the existing access road, and seaward of the access road. The lease area, parking and associated facilities would be consolidated to the south, in the vicinity of the current disused public toilets, which would be made fit for use as a public beach access point;
- **Option 2:** This option involves use of the entire length of access track for the development, with dune rehabilitation restricted to seaward of the access track. The proposed lease area would be located towards the northern extent of the access track, and the disused public toilets to the south would be made fit for use as a public beach access point; and
- **Option 3:** This option involves use of the entire length of access track for the development, with dune rehabilitation restricted to seaward of the access track, and the lease area located towards the south, in the area of the existing disused public toilets, which would be made fit for use as a public beach access point.

Initial visualisations of **Options 1-3** are included on page 3 of this document.

#### WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

During the assessment process, desk-top studies and specialist coastal and environmental appraisals, combined with a site investigation, will identify potential issues which require further investigation within the BA Report. Specialist studies which have been conducted to date are:

- Vegetation Assessment; and
- Traffic Assessment.

The assessment will highlight potential impacts, areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, as well as evaluate the project alternatives.

Feedback from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring further investigation within this BA process.

The BA process will aim to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the preferred layout/s in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- to undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

### WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice R. 543 to Notice R. 546 of 2010 (amended November 2013) published in terms of Section 24(5) read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998), the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality requires authorisation from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) for the undertaking of the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 544 and 546 of the NEMA EIA regulations. Activities under these listings may have an effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in Regulations 21 to 25 of the EIA Regulations (Regulation 543), will have to be undertaken.

DC Earthmoving, as the lead contractor, has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the required BA Process to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively engaged through a public participation process.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

- STEP 1:** Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper);
- STEP 2:** Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);

**STEP 3:** Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation and stakeholder engagement;

**STEP 4:** Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft BA report (40-day comment period); and

**STEP 5:** Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of the BA Report.

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process.
2. By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Royal HaskoningDHV.
3. In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information.
4. By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the allowed 40-day review period.
5. By reviewing and commenting on the final BA Report within the allowed 21-day review period.

### COMMENTS AND QUERIES

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Interested I&AP's are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental and Public Participation consultant on the 31st of July 2014.

#### Mrs Tandi Breetzke

Royal HaskoningDHV  
PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600  
Direct | 031 719 5500  
Fax | 031 719 5505  
E-mail | [Tandi.Breetzke@rhdhv.com](mailto:Tandi.Breetzke@rhdhv.com)





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**COMMENT FORM**

**April 2014**

**YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME**

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before the 31<sup>th</sup> of July 2014**, and return to:

**Mrs Tandi Breetzke**

PO Box 55, Pinetown, 3600

Phone: (031) 719 5500

E-mail: [Tandi.Breetzke@rhdhv.com](mailto:Tandi.Breetzke@rhdhv.com)

Fax: (031) 719 5505

<b>TITLE</b> (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		<b>FIRST NAME</b>	
<b>SURNAME</b>			
<b>CAPACITY</b> (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
<b>ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>		<b>POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TEL. NO.:</b> (     )		<b>CELL NO.:</b>	
<b>FAX NO.:</b> (     )		<b>E-MAIL ADDRES:</b>	

What comments / concerns would you like to rise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

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PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organisation:</b>		
<b>Contact details:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Tel.:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Cell:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>			

**IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT AND WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.**

<b>YES, Please remove me from the project database</b>	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>
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