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Royal HaskoningDHV
The Boulevard Umhlanga
19 Park Lane
UMHLANGA ROCKS
4319

ATTENTION: HUMAYRAH BASSA

Dear Madam

CLIENT: Royal HaskoningDHV

K&A REF: RK/Letter/0204

DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE PONGOLA (MBOZA) RIVER BRIDGE & VEHICULAR APPROACHES OFF DISTRICT ROAD D1834 CBAR AND SPECIALIST REPORTS

This letter confirms that the above information has been reviewed in alignment with the requirements that were stipulated by Royal HaskoningDHV in the sub-consultancy agreement.

## Dr. Richard Kinvig of Kinvig & Associates:

- i. Has independently peer-reviewed the documentation, and other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that could have compromised my objectivity and independence when assessing said documentation:
- ii. Is fully aware of and meets all of the requirements of Regulation 13, and that failure to comply with any of the requirements may result in disqualification;
- iii. Has reviewed all the work (mentioned above) undertaken by the EAP;
- iv. Will disclose, to the applicant, the EAP, other specialist (if any), the Department and interested and affected parties, all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- v. Is aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended).

The following comments about the information that was reviewed has context:

CK: 2015/016080/07 TEL: (083) 463-2919; EMAIL: <u>richard@kaec.co.za</u>; WEB: <u>www.kaec.co.za</u>

- \* The cBAR, EMPr and the Specialist Studies, required some additional detail and information, in particular the proposed manner in which construction of the river piers (works within the main river channel) would be undertaken.
- \* The mapping was satisfactory, however, certain aspects were a little difficult to identify due to the size of the maps.
- \* The impact assessment was substantial and well worded. The measures that have been recommended to mitigate impacts are practical and implementable.
- \* The EMPr, was required to be reviewed in order to ensure that it was auditable and that the Construction Method Statement (CMS) was accurately captured and thus the mitigations and impacts correctly recorded. The remainder of the document was comprehensive and was well considered.

## The following comments bear consideration:

The vegetation that occurs within the proposed areas for construction need to be clearly demarcated and the relevant permits obtained for the destruction, relocation and / or cutting of the vegetation. Given the presence of riparian fringing vegetation, we would recommend that a DAFF Licence also be pursued, as the DAFF may deem the area to be a forest (...more than three trees forming a contiguous canopy...).

It is our opinion that there should be no need for temporary access routes as all works should be contained within the areas that will ultimately be transformed, this will further mitigate the negative impacts that may be imparted.

We hope to have made a positive contribution to your project team.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned at (083) 463-2919.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Richard Kinvig (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

**Director / Ecologist** 

KINVIG & ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING