
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)
FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE FROM GRAVEL
TO SURFACE STANDARD (TAR) OF ROAD D1954,
FROM D158 TO D565 AND D156 NEAR
WOLMARANSSTAD TOWN, NORTH WEST
PROVINCE.**



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	1
2	YOUR ROLE.....	1
3	PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESSES.....	1
3.1	KEY STAKEHOLDERS (other stakeholders may be identified during the Public Participations process).....	1
3.2	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	1
4	INTRODUCTION	2
5	LOCALITY	2
6	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	3
7	LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	5
7.1	Environmental Authorisation	5
7.2	Water Use License	6
7.3	Removal of protected trees and flora permits and licenses	6
8	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	6
8.1	Environmental Authorisation Public Participation Process.....	7
8.2	Water Use License public participation process	7

List of tables

Table 1: Summary of timeframes for the Basic Assessment Process.....	7
Table 2: Summary of timeframes for receiving and steps in processing of a water use license application ..	8

List of figures

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Makwassie Road	2
Figure 2: Typical cross section design for the D1954 road upgrade.....	4

ACRONYMS	
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
DEDECT	Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMG	Environmental Management Group
I&AP	Interested & Affected Party
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
VOCMA	Vaal-Orange Catchment Management Agency

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT



EMG has prepared this document to inform you about:

- The current understanding of the baseline environmental and social conditions.
- Possible environmental impacts and proposed specialist studies
- How you can have input into the Environmental Authorisation (EA) and relevant processes.

2 YOUR ROLE



You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) who may want to be informed about the proposed upgrade and have input into the processes and environmental reports.



You have an opportunity to review this document and provide your initial comments to us for incorporation in the process.



Comments will be recorded and included in the reports submitted to the relevant authorities for decision-making.

3 PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESSES



I&APs



Surrounding landowners, land users and communities



Parastatals

3.1 KEY STAKEHOLDERS (other stakeholders may be identified during the Public Participations process)



North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT)



North West Department of Public Works and Roads



Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)



Vaal-Orange Catchment Management Agency (VOCMA)



South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL)



ESKOM



South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)



African Rail Industry Association (ARIA)



Transnet Freight Rail



Cllr J. Coetzee - Ward 05 (Maquassi Hills Local Municipality)



Cllr J. Moletsane- Ward 10 (Maquassi Hills Local Municipality)



Cllr C. Stoltz- Ward 04 (Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality)

3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Local Municipalities: Maquassi Hills Local Municipality

: Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality



District Municipalities: Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality

: Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality

4 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd was appointed NEP Group Consulting Engineers on behalf of North West Department of Public Works and Roads to act as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) for the proposed upgrade of road D1954, from D158 to D565 and D156, from gravel to surface standard (tar) of road, near Wolmaransstad town, North West province. The BA process is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 (as amended), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA: Act No. 107 of 1998). WULA process is being undertaken in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998, as amended).

5 LOCALITY

The proposed road is located within the jurisdiction of 2 local municipalities namely: Maquassi Hills and Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipalities, under Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipalities, in the North West Province. The road passes through villages of Boskuil and Oersonskraal.

The road consists of 2 sections, which is from road D158 to D565, and from D565 to D156. The 2 sections transverse through the N12 road as indicated in the locality map below (figure 1).

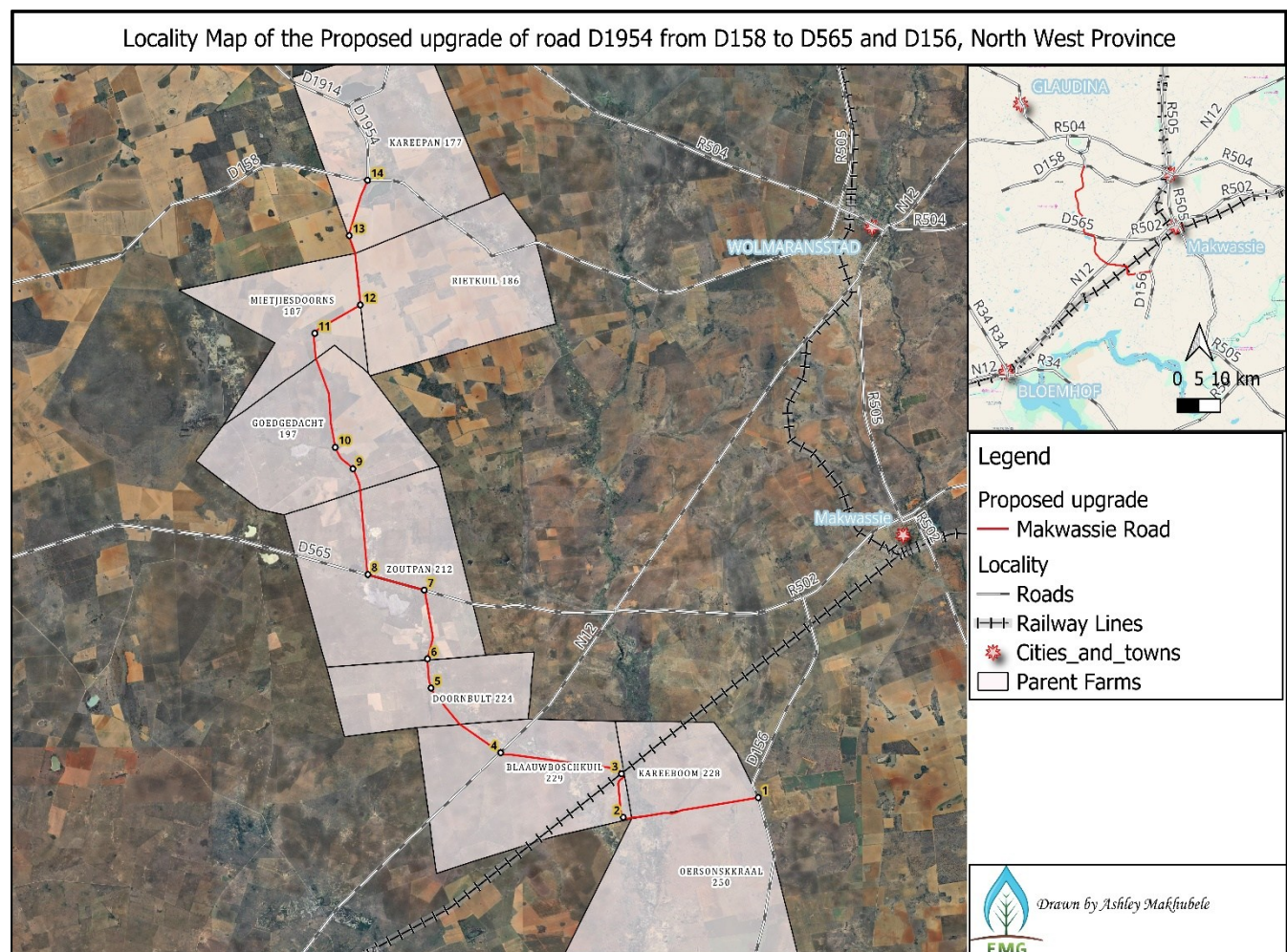


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Makwassie Road

6 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background of the project

The proposed upgrade will entail the upgrade of an existing gravel road (D1954) to a tar surfaced road of approximately 41.352km in length, which is from road D158 to D565, and from D565 to D156. The proposed road has been designed to have minimum of 30m wide road reserve. The upgrading activities will involve the removal of the existing gravel surface, preparation of the roadbed, as well as importation and construction of the proposed pavement layers, laying down a tar or asphalt surface whereafter the finishing will include road markings and signage. This upgrade will improve the safety, accessibility, and durability of the road for the benefit of the local community and travellers. The improved roads will provide a smoother and more reliable transportation route for motorists and enhance the overall infrastructure of the area.

The associated infrastructure for the proposed upgrade will include:

-  Pavement layers;
-  Roadside furniture fencing;
-  Guardrails and barriers;
-  Road signage and road markings;
-  Stormwater drains;
-  Culverts;
-  Speed bumps;
-  Road shoulder.

The scope of work for the construction phase includes the following:

-  Clearing and grubbing of the road alignment.
-  Earthworks include excavation, filling and compaction.
-  Installation of drainage systems to manage surface water runoff.
-  Construction of road base, and possibility subbase layers to support the new surface.
-  Placement of surface layers to achieve a smooth and durable road surface.

Road condition status

The gravel road appears to be in fair condition, with some sections showing signs of wear and deterioration. Several areas on the gravel surface are uneven and loose, indicating the need for rehabilitating and possible inclusion in new pavement structure. Moreover, the current gravel road conditions are at a level below the natural ground with no provision for shoulders.

Culverts and bridges

No major culvert sections currently exist along the road except for a few small pipe culvert crossings. During a visual assessment, approximately 9 existing culverts/bridges were identified. The culverts along the road do not appear to be functional and will be replaced with new culvert.

Typical road cross section

Traffic volumes were used to select the most appropriate cross section for the proposed upgrade. Based on the data set collected, the ADT in general is very low with a high average of 88 ADT and varies from location to location to as little as 28 ADT. The analysis shows that the growth scenarios do not present a high fluctuation, with a maximum of 213 EVU's in 2030 on the highest activity point. The low fluctuation indicate that the same design cross section can be considered throughout the full road length.

The proposed cross-section standard for D1954 will follow SANRAL Class 4 Rural Road configuration. Carriageway is as follows:

- 🔦 Paved roadway: 7.0 m (2 × 3.5 m lanes)
- 🔦 Surfaced Shoulders: 0.3 m paved each side and 2.5m in High Fills.
- 🔦 Road Reserve: ≥ 30 m
- 🔦 Crossfall: 2.0 % camber
- 🔦 Side drains: V-drains or trapezoidal channels dependent on catchment area. And toe drains where water accumulates towards the roadway.

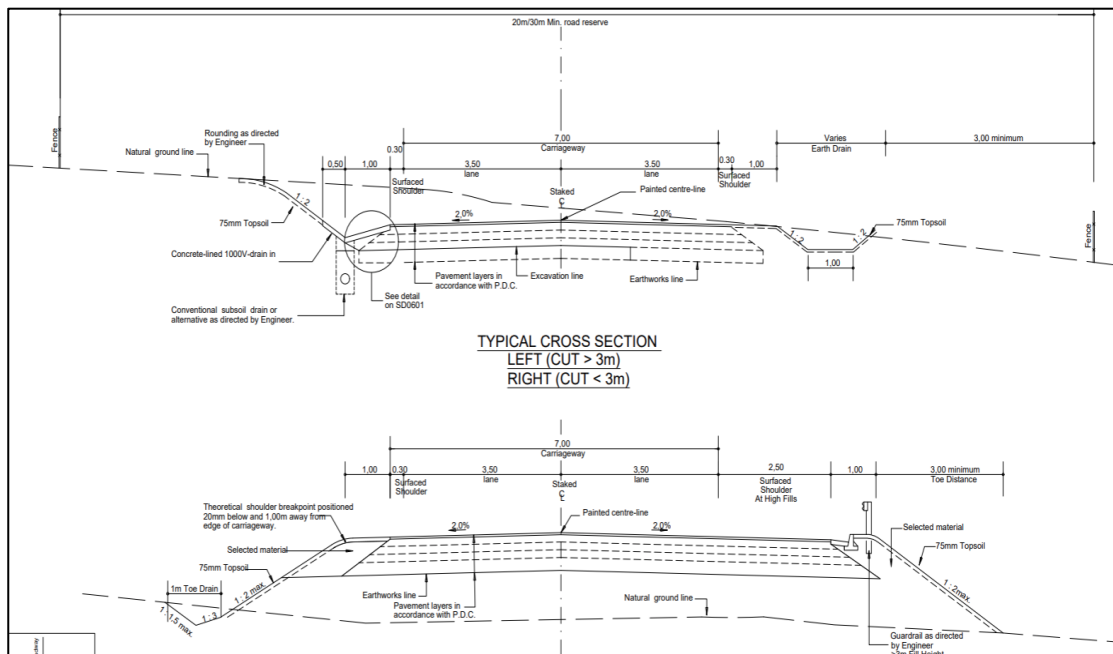


Figure 2: Typical cross section design for the D1954 road upgrade

Associated activities

Borrow pit and quarry

A borrow pit and quarry investigation will confirm the necessity of the source of road material and appropriate applications for legislative requirements in terms of Mining Permits will be applied for in line with the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act no. 28 of 2002).

Water uses

On account of the numerous water course crossings as well as the need to abstract water for construction, sanitation and drinking purposes, water use licences in line with section 21 (C&I) as well as section 21 (A) in accordance with the National Water Act (Act no. 36 of 1998) will be applied for. The section 21(A) WULA has been proposed to be in phases. Such an approach will allow for:

-  not underestimating the timeframes for which licenses are required to be active by responding to potential construction delays in timing of the applications for each phase,
-  the minimisation of active licenses, and
-  ease of monitoring of water use licenses.

Specialist investigations will be compiled to assess for potential environmental implications. These include:

-  Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment
-  Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment
-  Heritage Impact Assessment

These will be distributed to registered Interested and Affected Parties during the commencement of the 30-day public participation process.

7 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Environmental Authorisation

Prior to the commencement of the proposed upgrade of the Makwassie Road, Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998), A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in accordance with the Regulations as amended 07 April 2017 is required. The BAR must be submitted to the Competent Authority (CA)- North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT).

According to the NEMA, Listing Notice 1 (GN R327), Listing Notice 3 (GN R324 – the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:

NEMA: Listing Notice 1 (GNR. 327, 07 APRIL 2017)

19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.
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NEMA: Listing Notice 3 (GNR. 324, 07 APRIL 2017)

12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan- (h) North West (iv) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority; (vi) Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.
18	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. (h) North West (v) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority; (ix) Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.
23	The expansion of-

- (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs
 - (a) within a watercourse;
 - (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse,
- (h) North West**
 - (iv) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority

NB: Listing notices will be confirmed and finalised during the Draft Basic Assessment stage with DEDECT

7.2 Water Use License

Prior to the commencement of the proposed upgrade, A Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended, a Water Use Licence Application, in accordance with the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GN R 267), must be submitted to the competent authority: Catchment Management Agency (VOCMA).

According to the NWA, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) as amended, the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:

NWA: Section 21 (ACT NO.34 of 1998), as amended

(a)	Taking water from a water resource
(c)	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
(i)	Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse

NB: Water uses will be confirmed through a pre-application process with VOCMA

7.3 Removal of protected trees and flora permits and licenses

Prior to the commencement of the construction of the proposed upgrade, removal permits and licenses, in accordance with National Forests Act (NFA) 84 of 1998 may need to be submitted to Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) and DEDECT.

According to NFA the following may be applicable:

NFA: Section 15 (Act No. 84 of 1998)

15	Licences for activities in respect of indigenous trees in natural forests or their products- (1) Any person, organ of State or organisation may apply to the Minister for a license
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NB: The need for license and permit applications will be confirmed during the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment stage

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Process (PPP) forms a fundamental part of the application for Environmental Authorisation and the Water Use License Process. The PPP also informs other legislative processes for which authorisation / approval is being applied for. These additional authorisation / approval processes include but are not limited to Flora and Fauna Permits and Licenses.

In addition, inputs from the public, interested and affected groups are considered in the planned project upgrade. As a result, a clear recording of issues raised, and comments made is maintained in a register

of comments and responses. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised.

8.1 Environmental Authorisation Public Participation Process

-  Public meeting with I&APs and regulatory authorities (if required).
-  Submit application to DEDECT.
-  Submit Draft BAR to DEDECT.
-  Public & authority review of Draft BAR (30 calendar days).
-  Update the Draft BAR with comments received during the review period.
-  Submit updated Final BAR to the competent authority.
-  Review of the Final BAR by the competent authority.
-  Circulate decision to I&APs on the project database.

Table 1: Summary of timeframes for the Basic Assessment Process

Process step	Responsible party	Estimated timeframe
1. Initial communication to clarify the application process with the authorising department	EMG	1 day
2. EAP to conduct a site investigation	EMG	1 day
3. EAP to arrange a pre-application meeting with the authorising department	EMG	5 days
4. EAP to compile and submit an application for environmental authorisation to the competent authority	EMG	5 days
5. Authorising authority to formally recognise the application	Authorising authority	14 days
6. EAP to undertake the BAR and compile a report (including specialist reports and draft EMP)	EMG	90 days
7. EAP to submit the final BAR report (inclusive of a 30-day PPP period) to the authorising authority	EMG	1 day
8. Authorising authority to grant environmental authorisation	Authorising authority	107 days
9. Environmental authorisation is subjected to a 20-day appeal period	EAP	20 days
10. Final approval of the environmental authorisation	Authorising authority	1 day

8.2 Water Use License public participation process

The WULA PPP will run concurrently with the EIA process in accordance with GN R 267, Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals Section 17(2) *“Where a public participation process has already been undertaken through the Environmental Impact Assessment Processes or any other public consultation process and that public participation process contains and covers all issues pertaining to water use activities, then that public participation process report may, subject to approval by the responsible authority, be submitted for the requirements of the water use licence application”*. The following process was followed in accordance with GN R267:

-  Erect site notices.



Placing of newspaper advert in one local newspaper.



Public & authority commenting period of 60 calendar days.

Table 2: Summary of timeframes for receiving and steps in processing of a water use license application

Regulation	Steps in processing of WULA	Maximum Days allocated	Cumulative days	Responsible
0	Pre-application enquiry	0	0	EMG & VOCMA
1	Application submitted	1	1	EMG
2	Responsible authority acknowledges receipt of the application	10	11	VOCMA
3	Applicant confirms arrangements for site inspection with an allocated case officer	5	16	EMG
4	Site inspection to confirm water uses, determine information requirements and the need for public participation	20	36	VOCMA & EMG
5	Confirm requirements for water use licence application technical report based on site visit and meeting	5	41	VOCMA
6	Compilation, consultation and submission of water use licence application technical report by applicant	105	146	EMG
7	Reject / Accept water use licence application technical report	10	156	VOCMA
8	Assessment	139	295	VOCMA
8	Decision and communication to applicant	5	300	VOCMA

In order to ensure that you are identified as an I&AP, individuals are requested to respond by submitting their complete contact details and any comment in writing to the details provided below.

The Background Information Document (BID) will be furnished on request. Once registered, a notification will be sent for the availability of the Draft BAR for a thirty day (30) commenting period (in terms of NEMA).

All information will be available on the website provided below.

Contact person(s): Mhloti Ashley Makhubele/ Ricus Nel
 Tel: 051 011 4415
 Email: mhloti@envmgp.com and rnel@envmgp.com
 Website: www.envmgp.com

Date			
Particulars of the I&AP			
Name			
Postal Address & Code			
Street Address & Code			
Telephone number		Cell phone no.	
E-Mail Address			

[illegible]