BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF BORROW-PITS FOUR FOR THE UPGRADING OF ACCESS ROAD D5010 AND D5021 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI AND FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, CAPRICORN AND SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, LIMPOPO PROVINCE (RAL/T1282/2025).

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May 2026

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Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
QEMS	Quality Environmental Management Services cc
PPP	Public Participation Process
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
BID	Background Information Document
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GNR	Government Notice Regulations
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
BP	Borrow Pit
RAL	Roads Agency Limpopo SOC
DMR	Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources

1. INTRODUCTION

Roads Agency Limpopo (SOC) Ltd (RAL) is in the process of applying for borrow pit permit from the Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (DMPR) Limpopo regional office. The proposed project requires an Environmental Authorization from the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) in accordance with the Mineral and Petroleum Development Resources Act 28 of 2002 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), an EA is required and therefore, RAL is undertaking a Basic Assessment Process (BA).

The materials obtained from the proposed borrow pits will be used for the upgrading of Road D5010 in Nkotokwane, including the installation of culverts, the upgrading of Road D5021 between Nkotokwane and Apel, and the construction of a bridge over the Olifants River. Both roads will be upgraded from gravel to a bituminous-surfaced standard. The proposed road works will cover a total distance of approximately 3.6 km, comprising 2.2 km of upgrades to Road D5010 and 1.4 km for Road D5021. In addition, the project entails the excavation of five borrow pits to provide the necessary construction materials for the road upgrades and bridge construction.

QEMS Management and Business Solutions cc has been appointed by Sekhukhune & Associates Consulting Engineers on behalf of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to undertake all necessary procedures and processes required by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998). The proposed project requires a mining permit from the DMPR in accordance with the Mineral and Petroleum Development Resources Act 28 of 2002. The project triggers listed activity (GNR 327) under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation as promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998).

2. PURPOSE OF BID

The purpose of this document is to provide the public with project information and brief any potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be conducted for the project.

The BID indicates how you can become actively involved in the EIA process through the Public Participation Process (PPP) and raise issues that may concern and / or interest you. You can achieve this by:

- Reviewing the BID and registering as an I&AP by completing the attached Comments and Registration Form
- Please also state why you should be considered interested / affected by the project
- Contacting us by sending us an email
- Giving comments, raising issues / concerns about the project
- You can register, complete a response form, write a letter, call or email QEMS if you wish to register.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCALITY

The Roads Agency Limpopo intends to undertake the upgrading of road D5021 and D5010 from Apel to Nkotokwane and construction of a new 1,687 m² bridge over the Olifants River. To facilitate this project, RAL requires access to gravel resources. RAL proposes the establishment of borrow pit 4 which will serve as a designated extraction sites to be used in the upgrading of the road. Table 1 lists the properties on which the applicant proposes to extract the gravel from the borrow pit, located within Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo Province. The central coordinates are 24°27'1.31"S 29°42'54.34"E.



Figure 1: Locality Map of the development

Table 1: Farm portion and Surveyor General 21 Digit

Farm portion and No.	Surveyor General 21 Digit code
Portion 0 of farm Spelonk 478 KS	T0KS00000000047800000

Table 2: Coner Coordinates of the Proposed Borrow Pit Development

Coner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner one	24°27'1.72"S	29°42'47.91"E
Coner two	24°26'57.30"S	29°42'52.14"E
Coner three	24°27'0.83"S	29°43'0.27"E
Coner four	24°27'5.39"S	29°42'57.22"E

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This Environmental Impact Assessment Process is done in terms of Government Notice Regulations (GNR) No. 327 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended). The EIA Regulations were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act ('NEMA', Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended). The NEMA activities which are triggered by the proposed development require an application for an Environmental Authorisation in the form of Basic Assessment Report process. The Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) requires Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) to conduct an EIA before granting environmental approval.

Table 3: Legislations Relevant to the project

Act	Description	Relevance
The Constitution of The Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, holds significant implications for environmental management. It serves to safeguard both the environment and	The developer is tasked with ensuring that the proposed activity does not result in pollution or ecological deterioration. Furthermore, it is imperative for the developer to guarantee that the proposed activity is

	individuals' property rights. Additionally, it alters the landscape of administrative law, facilitating easier access to information, ensuring fair administrative procedures, and broadening the scope for individuals to pursue legal action. These amendments are crucial for upholding adherence to environmental laws such as the Environment Conservation Act (NEMA). Section 24 in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution Specifically states: "Everyone has the right: • To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and • To have the environment protected, for the benefits of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that- prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while	environmentally sustainable, while also fostering economic and social development.

	promoting justifiable economic and social development."	
National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)	The National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998) (NEMA) serves as the foundation for environmental governance in South Africa, establishing principles and institutions to guide decision-making on environmental matters. A central feature of NEMA is its provision of a comprehensive set of environmental management principles applicable nationwide to the actions of all state organs with potential significant environmental impacts. The National Water Act (NWA) provides for fundamental reform of the law relating to water resources in South Africa. The purpose of the Act is "to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways which take into account amongst other factors–	Prior to commencing the proposed project activities, environmental authorization is required. The development triggers the need for a Basic Assessment (BA) process, in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended. The activities requiring authorization are specified in listing notices 1. An application for Environmental Authorization (EA) will be lodged with the DMPR, specifying the listed activities for which authorization is sought. The proposed development Necessitates general authorization from the Department of Water and Sanitation due to the proposed borrow pit site being within 32m of a river. General Authorization allows for the use of water without a license, provided that the water usage adheres to specified limits and complies with conditions outlined in the Gazette General Authorization. Priorto exercising the waterusage,

	(a) Meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations; (b) Promoting equitable access to water; (c) Redressing the results of past racial and gender discrimination; (d) Promoting the efficient, sustainable and beneficial use of water in the public interest; (e) Facilitating social and economic development; (f) Providing for growing demand for water use; (g) Protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity; (h) Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources; (i) Meeting international obligations; (j) Promoting dam safety; (k) Managing floods and droughts." Section 21 of the NWA describes activities defined as water use under the Act. These activities may only be undertaken subject to the application for, and issue of,	registrationwith the Department is required. General Authorization is sought for the following water uses as stipulated in Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998): • Section 21 (c): Impeding ordiverting the flow of water in a watercourse. • Section 21 (i): Altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse

	a Water Use License (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA).	
National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)	The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) establishes overarching principles for the management of heritage resources nationwide, providing a comprehensive framework for the identification, assessment, and management of South Africa's heritage resources through an integrated system. According to section 35(3), individuals encountering archaeological, paleontological objects, or meteorites during development or agricultural activities are obligated to promptly report their discovery to the relevant heritage resources authority. Alternatively, they can notify the nearest local authority offices or museum, which will promptly inform the heritage resources authority. Section 35(4) of the act further states that it is an offence to undertake the	Although no heritage features were initially identified on the site, excavation activities may uncover buried objects deep underground. Should this happen, the project should be halted immediately and inform the nearest heritage authority.

	following without a permit from the relevant authority: (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite; (b) destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite; (c) trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or (d) bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.	
Occupational Health and	To provide for the health and safety of all persons at work	Both the contractor and developer are responsible for ensuring that

Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993)	and for the health and safety of persons in connection with the use of plant and machinery; the protection of persons other than persons at work against hazards to health and safety arising out of or in connection with the activities of persons at work; to establish an advisory council for occupational health and safety; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	work conditions are safe and do not endanger the health of the workers. Work conditions must comply with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations.

NEMA

The following activities require a BAR process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No.107 of 1998 and its associated regulations.

Table 4: NEMA Triggered Activities by the proposed project

Listing Notice and Activity Number	Description	Relevance
GNR 327 Listing Notice 1, Activity 21(a)	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including — (a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource [,]; or [including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum	The proposed establishment of a borrow pit entail the extraction of gravel material for the purpose of D5021 and D5010 road upgradation.

	Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)]	
GNR 327 Listing Notice 1, Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The proposed project entails the clearance of 4.90 hectare of indigenous vegetation.
GNR 324 Listing Notice 3, Activity 12e(ii)	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. e). Limpopo i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; or iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning	The area falls within the CBA2.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Basic Assessment process is a thorough and independent evaluation of both identified and potential environmental impacts. Its primary goal is to ensure that any proposed development is carried out in a sustainable manner, with a focus on minimizing negative impacts and

maximizing positive social benefits. The results of the assessment, along with any necessary mitigation measures, are documented in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which becomes a legally binding document upon approval.

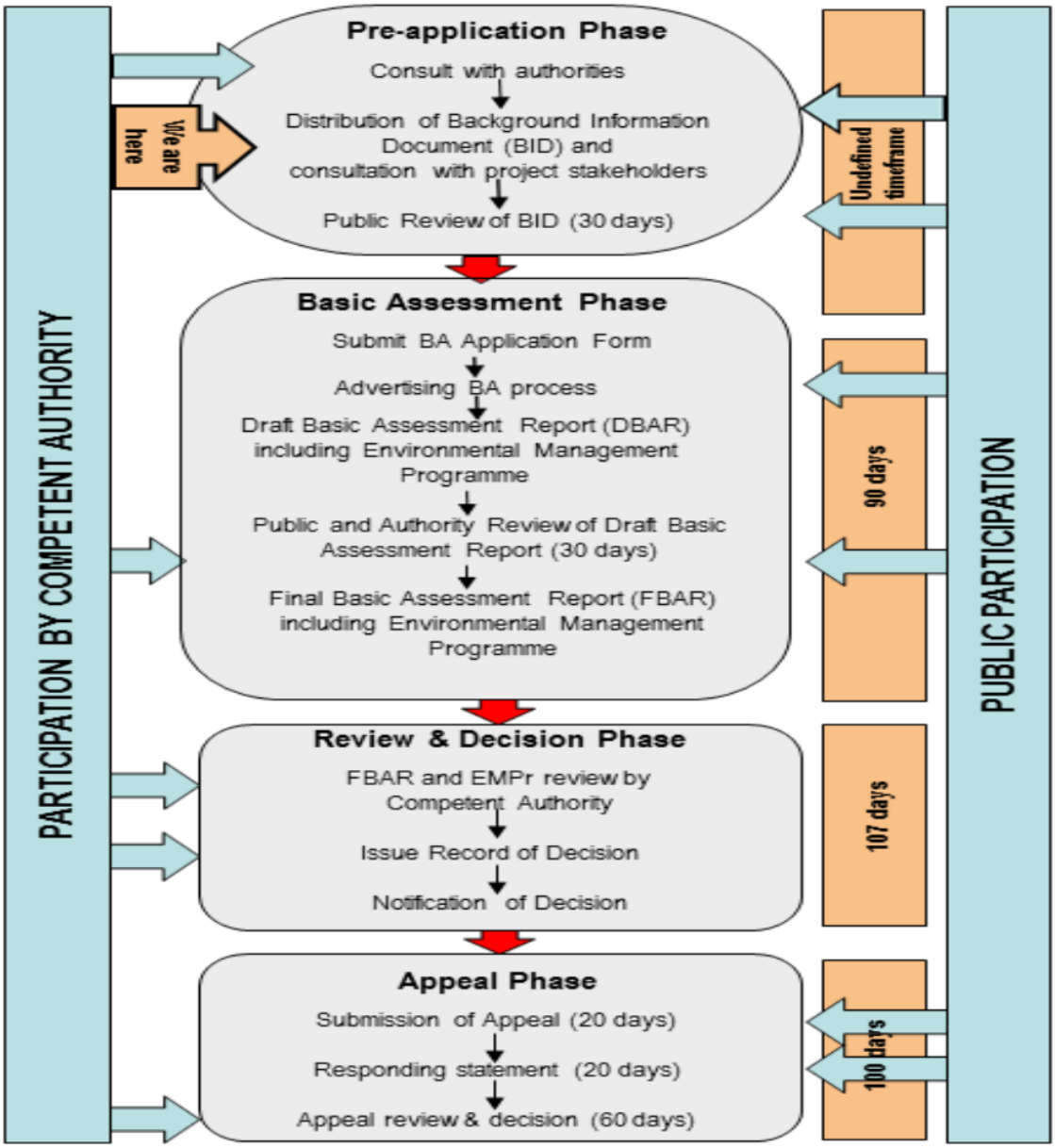


Figure 1:Public Participation Process

6. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Studies are a crucial component of the EIA process and form the basis of the BAR and EMPr for the proposed project. Several specialist studies will be commissioned to evaluate these environmental sensitivity themes as part of the EIA process. The following table outlines the specialist assessments that will be undertaken for the project. additional specialist assessments may be identified during the process.

Table 5:Project Related specialist studies

Specialist studies to be commissioned
• Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment • Terrestrial Biodiversity Impacts assessment • Agriculture Compliance Statement

7. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The significance of need and desirability cannot be overstated, as outlined in the Guideline on Need and Desirability released by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment in 2017. This guideline emphasizes the crucial principle of sustainability and the critical importance of evaluating need and desirability in a manner that guarantees ecological, social, and economic sustainability. The ultimate objective is to strike a delicate balance between socio-economic consequences and potential impacts on individuals' environmental rights.

As part of any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and related processes, the need and desirability component should consider the broader community's needs and interests as reflected in the municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Municipal Spatial Development Framework (SDF), as well as in the local strategic environmental assessment.

The existing gravel roads D5021 and D5010 from Apel to Nkotokwane are frequently degraded by heavy rainfall, resulting in erosion, potholes, and uneven surfaces that make them difficult to maintain and costly to repair. Regular grading and maintenance efforts are often insufficient to ensure year-round usability, while dust from the gravel roads negatively affects air quality and poses health risks to nearby communities. The poor condition of these roads' limits

accessibility, especially during the rainy season when they become muddy and slippery, hindering mobility for school children, emergency services, and public transport users.

The proposed construction of a bridge across the Olifants River, together with the upgrading of the associated roads, is considered necessary to address the social, economic, and accessibility challenges currently experienced by communities in and around Apel and Nkotokwane. Communities located on either side of the river currently have limited access to essential services and public facilities due to the absence of a direct, safe, and reliable river crossing. As a result, residents are often required to travel considerable distances to access nearby towns, shopping centres, healthcare facilities, schools, and employment opportunities. These challenges are further exacerbated during the rainy season, when increased river flows can make the river difficult and dangerous to cross. Consequently, communities may become isolated, while access to essential services and the movement of people and goods are disrupted.

The proposed bridge and associated road upgrades will improve mobility and connectivity between villages and surrounding areas by providing a safer, shorter, and more reliable transport route across the Olifants River. This will be particularly beneficial to school learners who currently walk long distances to access educational facilities. Reduced travel distances and improved road conditions are expected to improve access to education, support school attendance and punctuality, and reduce risks to learners travelling to and from school.

The project will also improve access to shopping centres, retail facilities, healthcare services, and other commercial and social facilities. By reducing travel distances, journey times, and associated transport costs, the upgraded road infrastructure and bridge will enable local communities to access essential goods and services more efficiently, while also improving access to employment and other economic opportunities.

In addition, the project is expected to:

- Improve access for emergency and healthcare services;
- Improve accessibility for public transport and service delivery vehicles;
- Facilitate the movement of people and goods between communities;
- Strengthen connectivity between villages and surrounding economic and social centres; and

- Enhance road safety for pedestrians, motorists, and other road users.

Overall, the proposed bridge and road upgrades will address existing connectivity constraints and contribute to improved social and economic integration of communities on either side of the Olifants River.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

Public Participation is a key requirement of the EIA process. The PPP needs to be conducted in line with the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (Regulation 39 - 44). The PPP aims to engage stakeholders or I&APs and provide an opportunity for the expression of public views on the environmental impacts of the applications. All public issues, comments and views on impacts and alternatives are documented, addressed, and responded in the EIA process and incorporated into environmental reports for consideration by the decision-making authority (DMR). It is therefore imperative that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the beginning of the EIA process to help focus the EIA plan.

8.1.PPP PLAN

Two rounds of public consultation are planned (one to be undertaken during the scoping phase and the second one to be undertaken during the EIA phase of the project) as part of the EIA process to satisfy the NEMA requirements.

During the PPP the following will take place:

- ❖ I&AP Registration
- ❖ Circulation of Draft BID, BAR AND EMPr for 30-days review and comment.

The project will be announced to the public through the following means:

- ❖ Placement of on-site notices in the project area.
- ❖ A press advert will be published at a local newspaper
- ❖ Public Participation Meeting

8.2.INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). For 30 days, the BID is presently available for review and for submission of comments regarding the proposed project.

I&APs are requested to please provide comments together with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application to the contact person provided within the review period. The preferred method of communication is either by telephone or email correspondence, which will also allow tracking of submissions.

9. WAY FORWARD

In terms of sections 39 to 44 of Regulation 326 of NEMA, a draft BID for I&APs to review and register as I&APs by completing the attached Comments & Registration Form below. They can also contact QEMS by emailing the details given in the attachment below. Lastly, I&APs can send comments and raise issues/concerns about the project.

THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF BORROW-PITS FOUR FOR THE UPGRADING OF ACCESS ROAD D5010 AND D5021 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE LEPELLE-NKUMPI AND FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, CAPRICORN AND SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, LIMPOPO PROVINCE (RAL/T1282/2025).

QEMS Management and Business Solutions cc

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Limpopo, South Africa

REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS SHEET

TITLE (Prof/Mr./Mrs.)		**FIRST NAME**	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Director/Secretary)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		**POSTAL CODE**	
TEL NO:		**CELL NO:**	
FAX NO:		**EMAIL ADDRESS:**	
INTEREST IN THE MATTER:			
COMMENTS/ISSUES / CONCERNS (Please use a separate sheet, if required)			

Please add the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbors to your mailing list:

Name	**Organization**	
Contact details:		
Address		
Tel:	**Fax:**	**Cell:**
Email:		