



**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION PROCESS
FOR THE UPGRADE AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL ROAD R101 SECTION 8
FROM BELA BELA (KM 0.0) TO MODIMOLLE (KM 26.8), LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

NOTIFICATION LETTER, INVITATION TO COMMENT AND REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY



MAY 2021





GA Environment

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTICE OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL ROAD R101 SECTION 8 FROM BELA BELA (KM 0.0) TO MODIMOLLE (KM 26.8), LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended that the South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL) is proposing to upgrade the National Road R101 Section 8 from Bela Bela (km 0.0) to Modimolle (km 26.8). The Notice is also issued in terms of Section 41(4) of the National Water Act No 36 of 1998, read with Regulations 17 to 19 Regarding Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GNR 267) published in Government Gazette 40713 of 24th March 2017.

Project Description

Section 8 of National Road R101 is situated within two Local Municipalities (Bela Bela and Modimolle) both situated within the Waterberg District Municipality in the Limpopo Province. The project starts in Bela Bela at the intersection of the R101 and Voortrekker Road (km 0.0) and ends in Modimolle at the intersection of the R101 and R33. The road will start at coordinates 24°53'5.16"S and 28°17'56.88"E and will end at coordinates 24°42'0.33"S and 28°24'21.10"E. The R101-8 consists of a two lane, single carriageway road with gravel shoulders along most of the route with an average surfaced width of 7.0 m. Within Modimolle, the road widens to four lanes with parking bays and sidewalks in the central business district (CBD). According to the pavement management system (PMS) information, the road was constructed in 1964 as National Road N1 joining Pretoria and Polokwane.

The general objective of this project is to successfully and optimally completely improve the National Road R101 Section 8 from Bela Bela (km 0.0) to Modimolle (km 26.8). The broad goals of the road upgrade are to:

- Relieve traffic congestion to acceptable level of service;
- Improve road geometry to improve road safety;
- Reconstruct bridges and other structures where required for hydraulic and traffic capacity improvement; and
- Provide adequate pavement capacity for the design period.

Locality maps showing the proposed road upgrade is provided in **Figure 1 & Figure 2**.

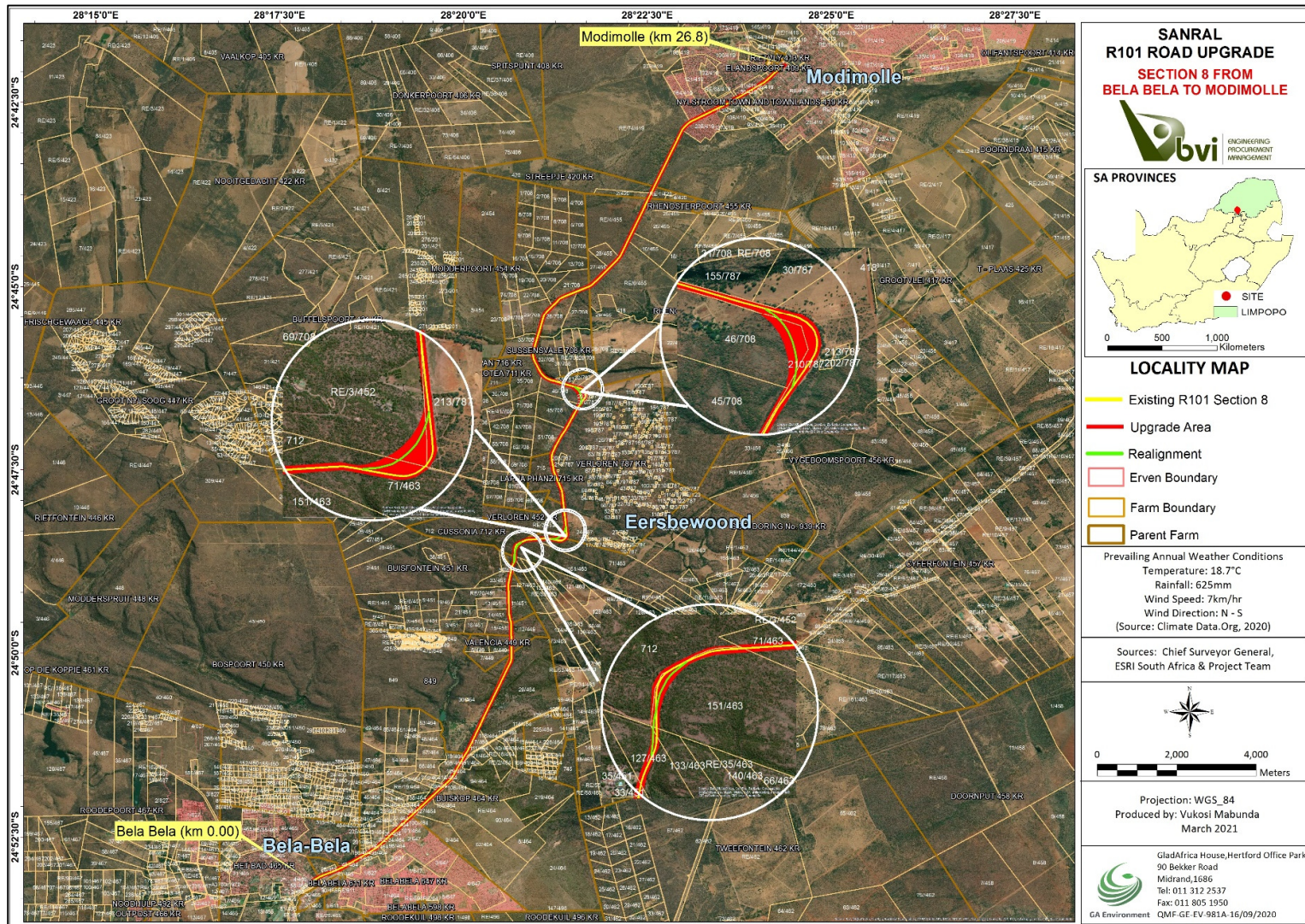


Figure 1: Project Locality (Orthophoto)

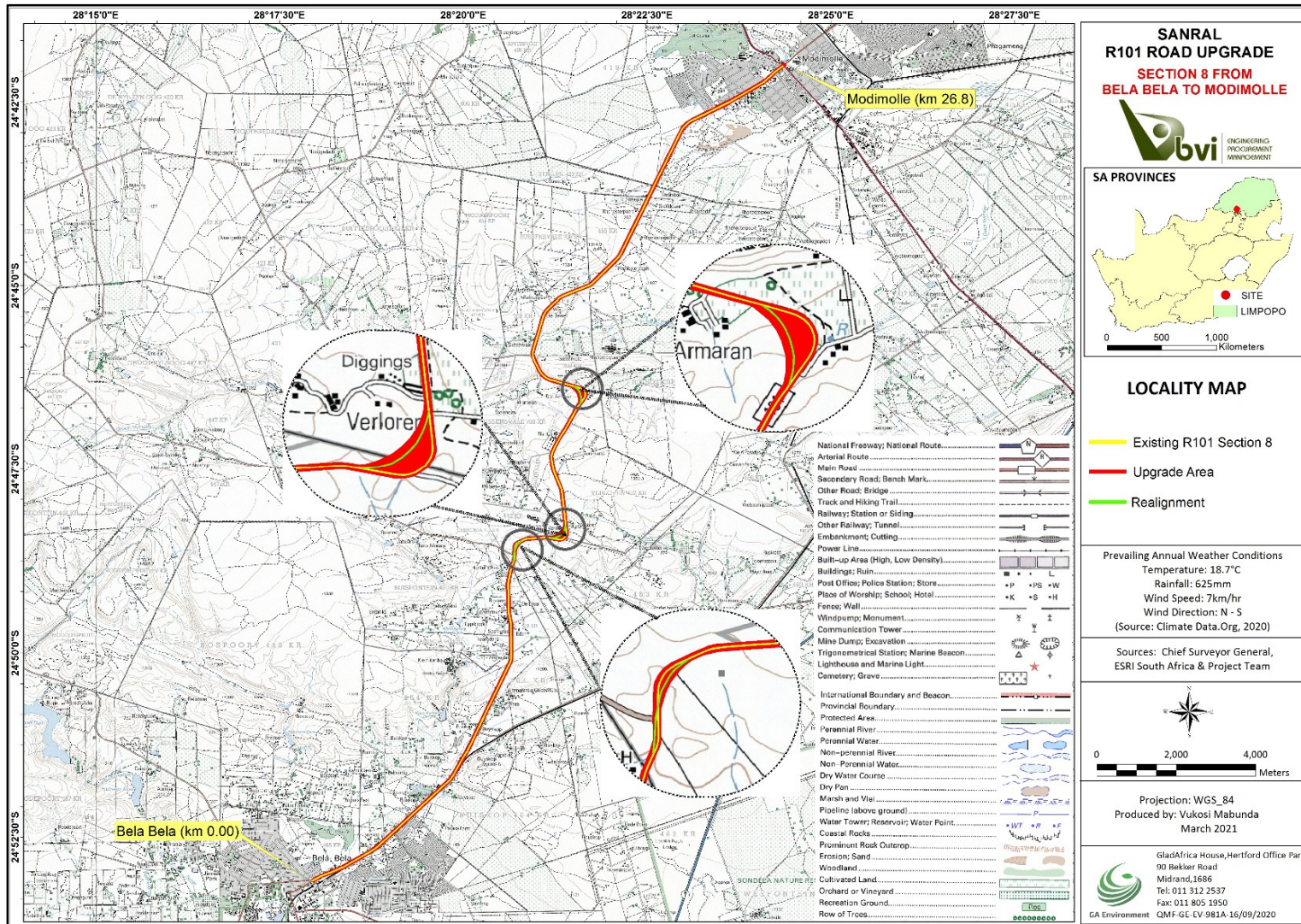


Figure 2: Project Locality (Topographic)

The riparian area of the Bad se Loop, Klein Kariba and Groot Nyl Rivier forms part of the study area and impacts on the rivers are anticipated during the reconstruction of the bridges and major culverts. The proposed improvement of the national road will thus require the following Authorisation processes before commencement:

- Water Use License Application in terms of National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)
- Basic Assessment Process in terms of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Construction material will be required for the proposed upgrade of Road R101 (Bela Bela to Modimolle). Material sources cannot be exploited without authorisations from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMR). However, BVi Engineers will obtain the required construction material from material sources located in closer proximity to the road upgrade which have already been exploited for a nearby road upgrade project where SANRAL is the project proponent.

The proposed road upgrade will traverse various private and state owned properties. It is important to note that a land acquisition process will be undertaken and all potentially affected landowners will be contacted by BVi Engineers and GA Environment. At least six (6) properties will be affected by the realignment and about nineteen (19) parent farms as well as fourteen (14) erven properties have been identified as properties that will be affected. Refer to **Table 1** below for the affected properties.

Table 1: List of affected properties

Properties that will be affected by the road upgrade			
Realignment Properties	Adjacent Parent Farms		Adjacent Erf/Erven
1. Portion 45 - Sussesvale 708 KR;	1. 849,	11. Rheno 418 KR	Nylstroom:
2. Portion 46 - Sussesvale 708 KR;	2. Belabela 611 KR	12. Rhenosterpoort KR,	1. 157;
3. Portion 127 - Tweefontein 463 KR;	3. Belabela 647 KR	13. Rietvly 413 KR	2. 396;
4. Portion 151 - Tweefontein 463 KR;	4. Buisfontein 451 KR	14. Streepje 420 KR,	3. 1024;
5. Remainder of Portion 71 - Tweefontein 463 KR;	5. Buiskop 464 KR	15. Sussensvale 708 KR;	4. 1025;
6. Remainder of Portion 3 - Verloren 452 KR	6. Cussonia 712 KR	16. Tweefontein 463 KR,	5. 1026;
	7. Elandsport 409 KR	17. Valencia 449 KR,	6. 1027;
	8. Het Bad 465 KR;	18. Verloren 452 KR, and	7. 1028;
	9. Lapha Phanzi 715 KR	19. Verloren 787 KR	8. 1038;
	10. Nylstroom Town and Townlands 419 KR		9. 1650;
			10. 1060;
			11. 1062; and
			12. 2394.
			Warmbaths:
			1. 655; and
			2. 713.

The land owners will be engaged throughout the Public Participation Process in order to get comments, issues that they may have regarding the proposed road upgrade.

Legislative Requirements for the Proposed Development

According to the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, the proposed improvement of the National road requires that a Basic Assessment process be conducted prior to the commencement of the activities. The applicable listed activities are indicated in **Table 2**:

Table 2: Applicable NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended

Government Notice & Activity No	Activity in writing as per Listing Notices 1,2 & 3 (GN No 983, 984 & 985)	Applicability
NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2014 as amended		
Listing Notice 1 <i>Activity 9</i>	The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more.	Stormwater drainage infrastructure will be required for the proposed project including on new road sections outside of the existing road reserve.
Listing Notice 1 <i>Activity 19</i>	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.	The proposed road and associated infrastructure upgrade may result in construction activities such as dredging, excavation, infilling of material within or in close proximity to identified watercourses.
Listing Notice 1 <i>Activity 56</i>	The widening of a road more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13.5 meters	Various sections of the proposed road upgrade will require road widening and the existing road reserve is approximately 35 meters.
Listing Notice 3 <i>Activity 12</i>	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. 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.	The clearing of indigenous vegetation will be required in some areas identified as endangered and/or important ecosystems and biodiversity areas.
Listing Notice 3 <i>Activity 18</i>	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. e. Limpopo i. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (hh) Areas within a watercourse; or within 100 metres from the edge of a Watercourse.	Sections of the proposed road upgrade will exceed the 4 meter threshold.

The improvement of the road will also require Licencing in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) as per the following water uses:

- *Section 21 (c)*: impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- *Section 21 (i)* : altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The development footprint is located within 500 meters of two identified water courses, the Bad se Loop, Klein Kariba and the Groet Nyl River and has the potential to pose a risk to the resource quality characteristics. In terms of Appendix D2 of the revised General Authorisation 509 Notice of 26 August 2016, the proposed activities are generally authorized subject to compliance to the conditions of this notice.

Objective of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The main objective of the process is to obtain the required Environmental Authorisation from the Competent Authority (i.e. Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries) before construction commences. The Basic Assessment process aims to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed improvement of the road as well as any alternatives to the improvement / activity and compile appropriate mitigation measures.

Public Participation Process

In terms of the NEMA, 2014 Regulations, a Public Participation Process (PPP) forms an integral part of the Basic Assessment Process. The public participation process provides Interested and Affected parties who may be affected by the proposed activity(ies) with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project or to make suggestions that will be beneficial to the project and register on the project database and/or obtaining more information on the project.

The compilation of PPP documents such as this Notification Letter is one of the requirements of Chapter 6 of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. Other documents that will be drafted as part of the project notification phase include a Site Notice that will be mounted on site and its immediate surrounding areas, and an advertisement that will be placed in local and regional newspapers. The process also requires the use of any other PPP methods such as Focus Group and/or Public Meetings where the need for these arises.

The PPP is therefore included as a minimum requirement of this Basic Assessment process. All written submissions will be submitted to the Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (GA Environment) for decision making purposes. On the 5th of June 2020, the Minister of DEFF issued directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licenses. One of the requirements provided in the directions is that a PP Plan shall be submitted to the DEFF for approval by the allocated case officer. This notification letter is in line with the approved PP Plan.

Opportunity to participate

Should you wish to make suggestions and/or comments on this proposal, kindly provide these together with your name, contact details (preferred method of communication, e.g. e-mail address or telephone number) and an indication of any interest which you (or the organization you represent) have in the application to:

Name: Vukosi Mabunda	Tel: 011 312 2537;	Fax: 011 805 1950;
Cell: 082 048 9840	E-mail: environment@gaenvironment.com or vukosim@gaenvironment.com	Post: P. O Box 6723 Halfway House 1685.

Please register your interest in the project by the 21st of May 2021.

We look forward to receiving your comments!

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

May 2021

Would like to be registered on the Project database? Yes / No

Name:.....

Surname:.....

Organisation:.....

Postal or Residential Address:.....

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Post Code:

Tel number:.....

Fax number:.....

Cellphone number:.....

E-mail address:.....

COMMENT/S

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OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Please add the following neighbours/interested or affected parties to your mailing list (please provide their names, surnames and telephone numbers):

1).....
.....
2).....
.....



Please complete and return to GA Environment for:

Attention: Vukosi Mabunda

Fax: (011) 805 1950/57, **Email:** environment@gaenvironment.com or vukosim@gaenvironment.com

Post: PO Box 6723, Halfway House, Midrand, 1685

You may also call us on **Tel:** (011) 312 2537 or **Cell:** (082) 048 9840