

## **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS ON THE SEWEWEEKSPOORT PASS**

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS TO STRUCTURES ON THE MAJOR ROAD MR309 IN SEWEWEEKSPOORT PASS SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (DEA REF NO: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1761), IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**

Notice is hereby given for the environmental authorisation application that has been lodged with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1761) under the provisions of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended in 2017. The proposed road upgrade will trigger activities in Government Notice Regulations 327 and 324 (Listing Notices 1 and 3 respectively) and therefore a Basic Assessment process needs to be conducted. The project has also triggered the need for a Water Use Licence in terms of Section 21(c) and 21(i) of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) given that Pass crosses numerous points along the Seweweekspoort River. The Water Use Licence Application (WULA) has already been submitted to the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, in March 2017.

The project will take place across the Eden District Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality in the Western Cape Province. Public participation will be conducted with interested and affected parties during September 2017.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The Seweweekspoort Pass, located on MR309 approximately between km 40.9 to 58.1, is a gravel road that meanders through the narrow gorge of the Seweweekspoort, linking the towns of Laingsburg and Ladismith, Western Cape. The starting point for the area of study is located at the northern end of the pass at KM40.9. The study area ends 17.2 km away at the southern end point at KM58.1. Most of the study area is located within the formally protected Towerkop Nature Reserve, with the southern portion also forming part of a Mountain Catchment Area.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The Seweweekspoort Pass crosses the Seweweekspoort River numerous times in a short distance of approximately 18km making the gravel road susceptible to flood damage. Structures have been constructed over many years consisting mostly of one or two pipes. The result is that even small rainfall events cause the road to become flooded with ensuing damage to the river crossings and the road that requires repair work to be done by both the Eden District Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality since the Seweweekspoort Pass connects the two Municipalities. Thus the Western Cape Government Roads Network Branch has undertaken to upgrade the road and the identified structures along its course. These repairs and upgrades include constructing concrete retaining walls, repairing stone headwalls and damaged gabions, installing drop inlets and working on river realignment. In addition to this, widening of the causeway in places where ponding occurs at pipe inlet and outlet areas will be undertaken.

#### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Persons wishing to comment on this application are requested to submit such comments to the relevant person below:

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Copies of the application and supporting documentation are available for a 30-public review period from 1 September to 1 October 2017. The documents are available at the Laingsburg Public Library (Van Riebeeck Street, Laingsburg, 6900) as well as the Ladismith Public Library (21 Queen Street, Ladismith, 6655). Electronic copies can be emailed upon request, and are available online as follows: <https://www.hatch.com/SeweweekspoortBasicAssessment>. The Public Participation Process documents and BAR can also be accessed by scanning the QR code:

