TSHUZE TO ELUPHLISWENI

ACCESS ROAD UPGRADE - EASTERN CAPE



Project Overview

Hanslab (Pty) Ltd was appointed by
BMK Consulting Engineers on behalf of
the Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local
Municipality to fulfil the role as the
Environmental Assessment
Practitioners.

Hanslab (Pty) Ltd is currently undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) for the proposed upgrade of the local Tshuze to eLuphilisweni Access Road.

The applicant proposes to upgrade the current informal road to a formalized gravel top surface However, his road upgrade will traverse a wetland. A suitably designed culvert structure and associated stormwater management infrastructure will be constructed to accommodate the flow of water from the associated wetland which intersects the road. The road upgrade will approximately be 3,33 km in length and 4m in width.





Location

The site is situated about 29km west of the Mbizana Central Business District. Entry to the Tshuze to eLuphilisweni gravel access road is off the main road R61 that connects Mbizana and Flagstaff.

The upgrade of the road will assist in the improvement of service delivery and response times in cases of emergency will be significantly reduced.



Authorisation Application Process

The proposed development is undergoing an application for Environmental Authorisation (Basic Assessment Process) in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended). A Water-Use License Application in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) is also being undertaken.

Community & Environmental Benefits

The construction of the culvert at the water crossing, will ensure that safety for users is maintained especially during summer months, where water flows peak. The road upgrade will also ensure that the condition of the wetland is restored, as water flow will be improved, and less human interference will take place.

Road Users and Surrounding Infrastructure

The proposed road provides access to the local communities of Tshuze, Luphilisweni and surroundings. All other users wishing to access these areas e.g. service providers, authorities, health personnel, also use the same road. Existing formal and informal residential units border the existing road track.

Need for the Project

Due to the foot and vehicular traffic traversing through this area, there is a critical need to develop a formal road. The lack of formalized routes is a primary concern to the surrounding community, especially in terms of safety. This is especially prominent for senior citizens and scholars who use the unformalized pathway on a daily basis.

The current pipe structure at the watercourse crossing is also deemed unstable, especially when water flows are increased, therefore the surrounding area may be at greater risk of being flooded.

