

24 February 2020

**NOTIFICATION OF FIRST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD:
24 February 2020 – 27 March 2020**

GNEC Code: 20565

DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B3/28/1156/19

Dear Interested and Affected Party

**INFORMING OF START OF THE FIRST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED DUALLING OF
MAIN ROAD 201, PAARL, WESTERN CAPE.**

Background

Main Road 201 (also referred to as the R301) originates in the Breede River Valley, with the Km 0.00 marker being located at the intersection with the R46. MR201 extends through the Haweqwa Nature Reserve with the Bainskloof Pass being located within the nature reserve. MR 201 then extends through the towns of Wellington and Paarl before transecting the N1 roadway and terminating at the intersection with the R45 (close to the small community of Wemmershoek). MR201 largely supports one lane in each direction, with the amount of lanes increasing to two lanes in each direction in the urban areas. MR201 is entirely located within the Cape Winelands District Municipality; while sections of the road are located within the Witzenberg, Breede Valley, Drakenstein and Stellenbosch local municipalities.

MR201 is an important connecting roadway between Paarl and Franschhoek. MR201 is one of two roadways which can be utilised in order to reach Franschhoek. Travellers living outside of the Paarl-Franschhoek valley also make use of MR201 and the R45 as a gateway to regional areas which include the Overberg, Cape Agulhas and Garden Route areas.

The town of Paarl, supporting important business and education sectors, have led to the town experiencing a steady influx of permanent residents. It should be mentioned that Paarl is home to a total of 55 schools which automatically attracts large volumes of permanent residents as well as traffic volumes.

Numerous large scale private residential and lifestyle estates have also been developed South of the N1 which have resulted in an increased amount of vehicular movement on MR201. A number of residential estates have also recently been approved in the area which should still be constructed. Development of the approved residential estates will increase the amount of road users and hence traffic volumes. The increased traffic volumes will result in increased travelling times being experienced. In order to better accommodate the current and future traffic volumes, as well as to ensure the safety of road users, it is proposed that MR201 be converted into a dual carriageway. The proposed works will also entail the upgrading and expansion of existing stormwater structures.

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) have been appointed by the Western Cape Government: Department of Transport and Public Works to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed dualling of MR201.

Proposed Development

The proposed development entails the conversion of MR201 to a dual carriageway, as well as the upgrading and expansion of the existing stormwater infrastructure. The applicable section of the MR201 roadway starts approximately 145 metres south of the N1 roadway and terminates approximately 320 metres south of Kliprug Minor Road.

Conversion of MR 201 to a dual carriageway

The section of MR201 applicable to the current application, *hereafter referred to as the site*, as described above, currently supports one lane in both directions. The current high vehicular movement on the subject site resulted in the need for the road to be dualled in order for the site to support two lanes in both directions. The dualling of the roadway will therefore result in the current road reserve having to be redefined as the current road reserve widths are not sufficient to accommodate the proposed roadway. It is proposed that the road reserve have a width of 40 - 50 metres. It should be noted that no private permanent buildings will be impacted on by the proposed development.

A number of access points to MR201 also forms part of the proposed development, which also entails the realignment of some of the existing accesses.

Additionally, areas of sensitive natural vegetation was identified in the existing road reserve and new proposed construction footprint. Therefore, a Botanical Assessment was conducted by Dr Dave McDonald. It is proposed that rehabilitation of the natural areas be conducted in line with a rehabilitation plan which is currently being drafted by GNEC.

Upgrading of Stormwater Structure

The proposed dualling of MR201 will result in the existing stormwater structures to be upgraded and expanded in order to ensure that stormwater is adequately accommodated. The proposed widening of MR201 will result in a total of 27 culverts to be replaced and / or upgraded. It should however be noted that only three culverts are located within rivers, while two wetlands will be impacted on by the proposed development. As such, Scientific Aquatic Services (SAS) was appointed to conduct a Watercourse Assessment of the proposed development. It is proposed that rehabilitation of the wetland areas be conducted in line with a rehabilitation plan which is currently being drafted by SAS. The culverts which trigger NEMA listed activities are indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1 List of culverts to be replaced and / or upgraded triggering a listed activity in terms of the NEMA, 1998

Chainage marker)	(km	Description	Dimension		Crossing / Access
			Width (mm)	Depth (mm)	
59.05		Box Culvert	5100	3600	Crossing Unnamed Tributary of the Berg River
60.040		Box Culvert	458	2602	Crossing Malans Stream
61.750		Box culvert	1200	1300	Crossing Unnamed Tributary of the Berg River
Near Fraaigelegen Road		Adjacent to existing road			Seep Wetland

Near Kliprug Minor Road	Adjacent to existing road			Depression Wetland
-------------------------	---------------------------	--	--	--------------------

The following NEMA, 1998, EIA Regulations listed activities are triggered by the proposed development:

Government Notice No. R.327 of 2014 (as amended 07 April 2017):

Activities 14, 19, 48 & 56.

Government Notice No. R. 324 (as amended 07 April 2017):

Activity 12 & 18.

A Basic Assessment application process is therefore being facilitated in order for the necessary authorisations to be obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

Water Use Authorisation

Application is also made for a Water Use Licence in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). The WUL application is necessitated as a result of the proposed construction activities to take place within watercourses and wetlands.

The aim of this EIA process is to ensure that:

- Public participation will be conducted, i.e. to afford stakeholders and/or the community sufficient opportunity to provide comment on the proposed development; and
- Sufficient information is submitted herewith to decision-makers to support an informed decision-making process.

The first Public Participation Process will run from the **24th of February 2020 until the 27th of March 2020.**

Please refer to GNEC's website (www.gnec.co.za) to access additional information pertaining to the EIA application.

Meanwhile, should you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself, at:

Tel: (021) 870 1874

Fax: (021) 870 1873

E-mail: carina@gnec.co.za

Yours sincerely,

Carina Becker

For GNEC

Guillaume Nel 
environmental consultants

END

gn