

## **REQUEST FOR SPECIALIST SERVICES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

ECOLOGY SPECIALIST STUDY: R61, SECTION 3, CRADOCK (KM 24,2) - TARKASTAD (KM 75,0)

An ecological specialist study is needed for mining and environmental permitting associated with the rehabilitation of the R61-3 Cradock-Tarkastad. The specialist will be appointed as co-consultant by GIBB. The quotation should be submitted to Dr Norbert Klages on [nklages@gibb.co.za](mailto:nklages@gibb.co.za).

### **Project Background:**

GIBB have been appointed by SANRAL through WorleyParsons to undertake the necessary permit applications for the rehabilitation of approximately 50 km of the R61, section 3, between Cradock and Tarkastad. The undertaking of a basic assessment process in support of applications for environmental authorisation is required, as well as preparation of environmental management plans for five borrow pits and one hard rock quarry. Water use registrations/licences are required for the upgrade of 17 river crossings on the R61, section 3.

The proposed engineering works for the R61 rehabilitation entails the widening of the roadway by  $\pm$  5 m and the widening of all stream crossing structures along the route. All road work is planned to take place within the existing road reserves, save for very small slivers of farmland where the road realignment dictates so.

### **Specialist Study Terms of Reference:**

Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) are serving the attainment of biodiversity conservation targets. In systematic conservation planning they are accorded this status because they contain representative samples of biodiversity and threatened species (flora and fauna) where they can persist over the long term. They also contain abiotic features and processes indispensable for biodiversity conservation, such as providing a system of natural pathways (corridors) facilitating the movement of fauna and flora.

The construction site, which is confined to the road reserve, is surrounded on all sides by a Critical Biodiversity Area (category: terrestrial CBA 2 or near natural landscape - elsewhere termed "Ecological Support Area - ESA") as mapped by the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2007. It is therefore prudent to assess potential impacts on the surrounding land for this Basic Assessment.

The study must address the following:

- Assess each borrow pit and quarry site identified by the project engineers. On the R61 a total of 5 borrow pits and 1 hard rock quarry have been identified by the engineers.
- Areas where existing road cuttings are to be widened it must be assessed whether any ecological resources are likely to be affected or encroached upon.
- Where applicable, recommendations for the conservation of biodiversity resources are to be included.

The study must fulfil the requirements of section 32(3) of the National Environmental Management Act Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (GN R543 of 18 June 2010). In this regard the specialist will be required to sign a declaration of independence.

Proposed budgets for the study should comprise a combined total of fees, permit applications where necessary, disbursements, travel, etc. excluding VAT.

GIBB will provide detailed locality maps, GPS co-ordinates for each borrow pit or quarry locality, and technical descriptions of the project components.

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