



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF AIRSTRIP AND HANGAR IN KPNR

May 2016.

PROJECT:

The development of an airstrip and hangar in
Klaserie Private Nature Reserve

CONSULTANT:

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APPLICANT:

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PROPERTY:

Portion 2 of the farm Hull 92KU
Klaserie Private Nature Reserve



1. INTRODUCTION

The Suverein family has recently acquired portion 2 of the farm Hull 92KU in the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve. In this connection they wish to establish a private dirt landing strip and hangar for their Cessna 206 aircraft. This activity is identified in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, EIA regulations as having a potential detrimental impact on the environment and as such an Environmental Authorisation is required prior to any construction taking place.

Patrick Suverein (the applicant) has contracted EMROSS Consulting (Pty) Ltd., as independent environmental assessment practitioners, to undertake the required actions to apply for this environmental authorisation from the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA, the competent authority).

Government notices no. R 983-985 stipulates activities which require authorisation, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). Government notice 982 prescribes the manner in which the application must be undertaken.

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Proposed airstrip and hangar are situation on portion 2 of the farm Hull 92KU.

The airstrip will be a graded dirt strip with the maximum dimensions of 900m long by 30m wide.

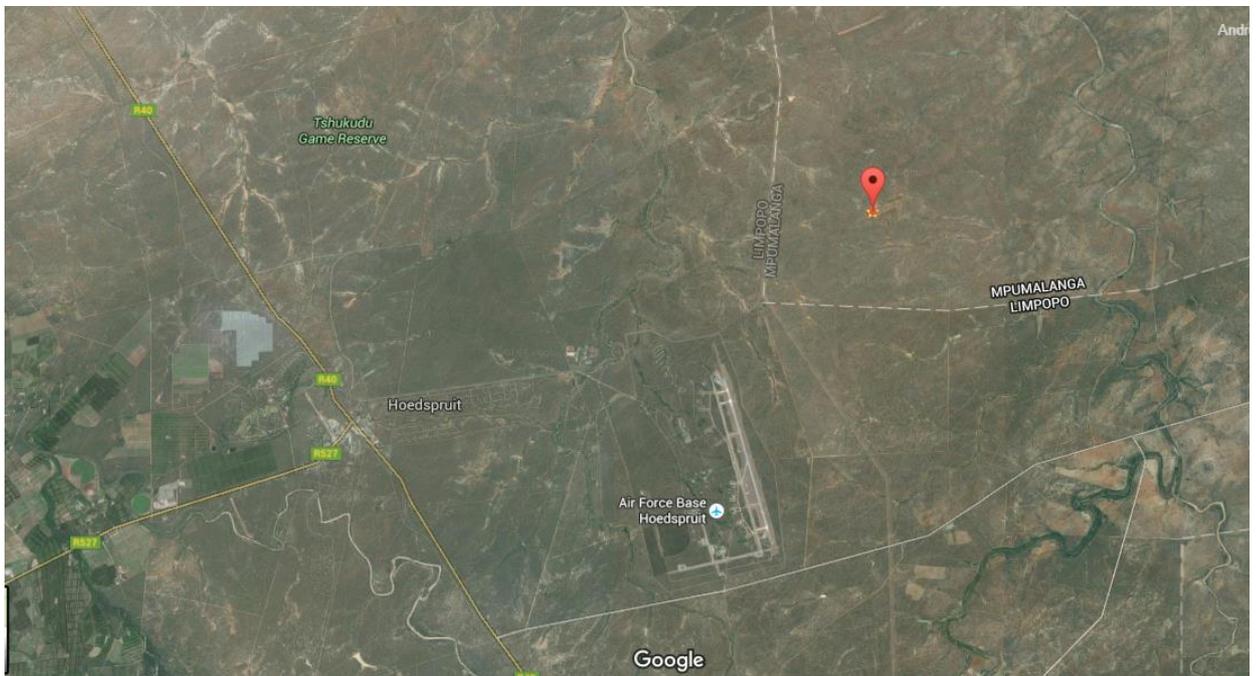


Figure 1: Location of the proposed airstrip (Source: Google Earth 2015).



Figure 2: Location of the proposed airstrip with alternative (Source: Google Earth 2015).

3. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the activities proposed are regarded as listed activities under schedule of activities as follows:

GNR 985 – LN3 (Basic Assessment in certain geographical areas):

Activity #7: “The development of aircraft landing strips and runways 1.4 kilometres and shorter..... (a) in Mpumalanga ii. Outside urban areas, in: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA...” and

Activity #12: “The clearance of an area of 300 square meters 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. (c) in Mpumalanga iv. On land proclaimed in terms of NEMPAA.”

As the proposed development is within a protected area, it requires a Basic Environmental Assessment in order to obtain environmental authorisation.

The proposed developments may also be subject to regulations contained in other legislation, such as the:

- National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, Section 38);
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No 43 of 1983);
- National Water Act (No 36 of 1998);
- National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998);
- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996);
- Promotion of Access to Information Act (No 2 of 2000); and
- Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act (No 10 of 1989).

These legislative components will be incorporated into the report where they are applicable.

4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The legislation calls for a basic assessment to establish potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed developments. The assessment will look at avoiding or minimising potential environmental damage and promote sustainable development.

The assessment process commences with a planning stage. During this stage:

- A pre-application meeting is held with the decision making authority, in this case the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs;
- Site visits by specialists may be required, if deemed necessary, to assess the site and potential impacts that could be caused by the proposed developments;
- Potential interested and affected parties to the development are identified and
- Notices and advertisements are publicised and identified interested and affected parties are consulted.

The planning stage is followed by a reporting stage. During this stage:

- Property information and public comment, along with various assessments and specialist inputs, are incorporated into a report which assesses the proposed development in context of the site.

The reporting stage is followed by Public Participation, where:

- The compiled report is made available for comment; and
- The application form and report is submitted to the competent authority.

The final stage is the decision making stage. During this stage:

- The authority reviews the report and public comments for decision making.
- Once the decision is made, this is circulated to the applicant and to the public. There will be an opportunity to appeal the decision at this point.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, it is the right of persons to have the environment in which they live protected in a responsible and sustainable manner. Every person also has the right of access to information and should be informed of any proposed scheduled activities.

Therefore, an important aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment process is to identify potential Interested and Affected Parties and to provide them with accessible information, to

which they may raise comments or voice any concerns associated with the proposed developments.

This is done by contacting neighbouring landowners and reserve management, by advertising the process in the Kruger2Canyon newspaper, by erecting notices at the Klaserie Access Gates, and also by contacting special Interested and Affected Parties such as the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency and the Kruger2Canyon Biosphere Reserve.

Registered Interested and Affected Parties have the right to comment on reports regarding the developments, which are to be submitted to the department by the consultant.

In return the registered Interested and Affected Party is expected to:

- Submit all comments in writing to the consultant;
- Adhere to time frames given for commenting or submit a written motivation for why a longer commenting period is needed; and
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the development and/or approval or refusal of the development.

6. WHO TO CONTACT

Should you wish to register as an interested and affected party to this process and should you have any special concerns that you wish to be addressed during the assessment process, please send your name and contact details and issues to be addressed to:

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A notice will be published in the Kruger2Canyon newspaper and site notices will be erected at the entrance gates to the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve. Interested and Affected Parties have **30 days to register**. We will, however, be accepting comments throughout the process. In order for issues to be fully assessed, it would be preferable to receive these at the start of this process.

The whole assessment process is expected to last approximately 6 months.