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Dear

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE
APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (FOUR BASIC ASSESSMENTS) FOR
SANRAL'S PROPOSED CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL ROUTE 3 (N3) FROM
HAMMARSDALE TO PIETERMARITZBURG, KWAZULU-NATAL**

The South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) is responsible for improving, managing and maintaining the network of national roads in South Africa. In KwaZulu-Natal, sections of the N3 are operating at full capacity and upgrades are required to improve road safety and accommodate future growth. SANRAL (Eastern Region) proposes to provide additional lanes and upgraded interchanges along the N3 between Hammarsdale and Pietermaritzburg. This forms part of the suite of Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011, and specifically forms the backbone of the SIP2 project.

The proposed project activities require environmental authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended, 2017), published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended. SANRAL has appointed ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) and Metamorphosis as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP) to undertake applications for environmental authorization (consisting a total of six Basic Assessments (BAs)). Please note that there are two environmental authorisation processes being undertaken:

- ❑ Batch 1 - BA1 and BA2 (ACER).
- ❑ Batch 2 - BA3, BA4, BA5 and BA6 (ACER and Metamorphosis).

During 2016, the environmental authorisation process commenced for BA1 & BA2, which cover sections of the N2 and N3 between Durban and Key Ridge. During early 2018, the environmental authorisation process for a further four BAs (BA3, BA4, BA5 & BA6) commenced, which cover sections of the N3 from Hammarsdale Interchange to Pietermaritzburg. **This correspondence deals with Batch 2 only**, comprising:

- ❑ **Basic Assessment 3:** Capacity Upgrades to the N3 from Hammarsdale Interchange to Cato Ridge Interchange to be undertaken as two separate contracts:
 - Hammarsdale Interchange (km 8.8) to Cato Ridge Interchange (km 19.4) (excluding the Hammarsdale and Cato Ridge Interchanges).
 - A new interchange that is proposed near the D12 overpass, to service proposed adjacent developments.
- ❑ **Basic Assessment 4:** Capacity Upgrades to the N3 from Cato Ridge Interchange to Lynnfield Park to be undertaken as two separate contracts:
 - Cato Ridge Interchange (km 19.4) to Dardanelles Interchange (km 26.6) including upgrades to the Cato Ridge and Camperdown Interchanges, and realignment of a portion of Fairview Road. Closure of east facing ramps at Cato Ridge I/C is proposed, should the new interchange near D12 be constructed.

- Dardanelles Interchange to Lynnfield Park including the upgrade to the Dardanelles Interchange and tie-ins with the R56, R103 and R603.
- **Basic Assessment 5:** Capacity Upgrades to the N3 from Lynnfield Park to Murray Road to be undertaken as two separate contracts:
 - Lynnfield Park (km 30.6) to Ashburton Interchange (km 0.8) including new access roads along the R103.
 - Ashburton Interchange (km 0.0) to Murray Road (km 6.1) including the upgrade of the Ashburton Interchange (located at km1.8).
- **Basic Assessment 6:** Capacity Upgrades to the N3 from New England Road Interchange (km 8.8) to Twickenham Road (km 16.5) including a new Collector Distributor Road running parallel to, and on both sides of , the N3.

ACER is dealing with the applications for BA3, BA5 and BA6, and Metamorphosis is handling BA4. However, ACER and Metamorphosis are conducting one public participation process for all four BAs. Further, on behalf of SANRAL, ACER and Metamorphosis will make the necessary applications for water use authorisations to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in accordance with Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended.

*Please note that other EAPs have been appointed by SANRAL, to undertake separate application processes for two sections of the N3 not included in the BAs above, viz. **Key Ridge to Hammarsdale and Gladys Manzi Road to New England Road.***

Further information is provided in the enclosed/attached Background Information Document. On the comment sheet, please indicate which Basic Assessment you are specifically interested in, or alert ACER if you would prefer not to receive any further information for this project.

If you would like to participate as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for these projects, please complete the attached comment sheet and return to the Public Participation Office by 12 June 2018:

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Please indicate clearly in which section of the N3 (using the BA number) you are interested.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend the following Public Open Days, where they can view project information and engage directly with members of the project team (EAPs, engineers and SANRAL representatives).

Venue	Date	Time
Cato Ridge Country Club, Chamberlain Street, Camperdown Rural	28 May 2018	Any time
Vine Church, Lynnfield Park, Ashburton	29 May 2018	between 3 pm
Maritzburg Golf Club – 38 New England Rd, Pietermaritzburg	30 May 2018	and 7 pm

We thank you for your interest and look forward to your constructive contributions.

Yours sincerely,



ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

Ashleigh McKenzie (Pr. Sci. Nat)
Senior Environmental Consultant