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# environment & tourism

Department:  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 12/12/20/110  
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## **FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KNYSNA NATIONAL ROUTE (N2) TOLL HIGHWAY – DECISION REGARDING THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT**

The final environmental scoping report dated May 2007 submitted in terms of the requirements stipulated in GN No. R. 1183 regulation 6(1) for the above project refers.

The Department has considered the final scoping report dated May 2007. With regard to the legal fulfillment of the requirements of the EIA Regulations (GN 1183), the following refer:

The final scoping report meets the legal requirements of a scoping report as stipulated in regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations.

The proposed activity to be undertaken was adequately described.

The description of how the environment may be affected was adequately described.

The environmental issues identified were adequately described.

The alternatives identified were adequately described.

An appendix containing a description of the public participation process followed, including a list of interested parties and their comments was provided.

The public participation process followed was adequate.

This Directorate therefore, in terms of regulation 6(2) of GN No. R. 1183 accepts the final scoping report dated May 2007 for the proposed Knysna National Route (N2) Toll Highway subject to the following conditions:

The following specialist studies must be undertaken during the environmental impact assessment phase:

- Terrestrial ecology;
- Aquatic assessment;
- Erosion assessment;
- Social and Cultural Resource Impact assessment;
- Economic Impact assessment;
- Visual Impact assessment;
- Noise Impact assessment;
- Traffic Impact assessment.

The following alternatives must be carried forward for assessment in the environmental impact assessment phase:

Route alternatives:

- The "do nothing" alternative;
- SANRAL's preferred route alignment; and
- The 'short' route alignment.

Alternatives for the main interchange for traffic to the Knysna CBD:

- Eastford;
- Salt River;
- Grey (or Queen) and Long streets with new interchange; and
- One of the above in conjunction with a full access interchange at the crossing of Uniondale Road.

Alternative bridges:

- A fill (over the mud flats) and short span bridge (over the channel) [As per White Bridge];
- A multi span bridge on piers; and
- **At least one other beam, arch, or suspension bridge type (this alternative shall have a lower ecological footprint and impact as opposed to the first two options).**

This Directorate recommends that any further required public participation measures be conducted during normal schooling and working periods (Not during the schooling holiday season). The draft EIR must be made available at the public libraries and other public venues used earlier in the EIA process, and on CES's and SANRAL's websites, in order to facilitate public review and comment. An executive summary must be sent to all interested and affected parties on the project database. The publication of the draft EIR must also be announced in the media used earlier in the process. Interested and affected parties must be given at least 45 days within in which to submit comment on the report.

The final EIR must be made available at the public libraries and other public venues used earlier in the EIA process, and on CES's and SANRAL's websites. An executive summary must be sent to all interested and affected parties on the project database. The publication of the final EIR must also be announced in the media used earlier in the process. Please incorporate the provincial comments dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007 submitted to you into this decision.

You are requested in terms of GN No. R1183 of 5 September 1997, as amended:

That the information contained in the final scoping report dated May 2007 be supplemented by an environmental impact assessment (regulation 6(3)(b)); and to submit a plan of study for an environmental impact assessment (regulation 7(1)) to this Department. The plan of study for an environmental impact assessment must comply with the requirements of regulation 7.

Yours sincerely



**Ms Pam Yako**

**Director – General**

**Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism**

**Letter signed by: Mr. DWJ Smit**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation: Sensitive Environments,  
Antarctica & Islands**

**Date:** 17/08/2007

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