

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 25M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON ERF 542, MAIN ROAD, KLEINSEE, NORTHERN CAPE



BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR COMMENT OCTOBER 2018

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 25M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST ON ERF 542, MAIN ROAD, KLEINSEE, NORTHERN CAPE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Activity

The proposed development of a 25m high telecommunications mast and associated infrastructure located on Erf 542, Main Road, Kleinsee, Northern Cape. The base station will have a development footprint of approximately (8m x 8m) 64m² and will include a 25m high lattice mast and three service provider equipment containers. The site will be enclosed by a steel palisade fence for security reasons. No new roads will be constructed as an existing access road will be utilised to gain access to the proposed site. The site is located off Main Road, Kleinsee Central. Access to the site will be gained via Main Road. Electricity to power the mast will be sourced from the land owner. The site has no slope and is located on a flat surface area. There is no natural vegetation present on site. The proposed site co-ordinates: **29°40' 43.95"S, 17°4'10.81"E**.

Environmental Requirements

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998), as amended, makes provision for the identification and assessment of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment and which require authorisation from the competent authority based on the findings of an Environmental Assessment. NEMA is a national act, which is enforced by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In the Northern Cape, these powers are delegated to the Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation (DENC).

According to the regulations of Section 24(5) of NEMA, authorisation is required for the following:

Government Notice R324 (Listing Notice 3):

Activity no. 3: "The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower-

- (a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and*
- (b) will exceed 15 metres in height-*

but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops".

g. Northern Cape

i. In an estuary;

ii. Outside urban areas:

(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;

(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;

(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;

(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve; or

(hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined; or

iii. Inside urban areas:

(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; or

(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.

Site Description

The proposed development of a 25m high telecommunications mast and associated infrastructure located on Erf 542, Main Road, Kleinsee, Northern Cape. The base station will have a development footprint of approximately (8m x 8m) 64m² and will include a 25m high lattice mast and three service provider equipment containers. The site will be enclosed by a steel palisade fence for security reasons. No new roads will be constructed as an existing access road will be utilised to gain access to the proposed site. The site is located off Main Road, Kleinsee Central. Access to the site will be gained via Main Road. Electricity to power the mast will be sourced from the land owner. The site has no slope and is located on a flat surface area. There is no natural vegetation present on site, and the site is totally transformed due to past development activities on the property. The proposed site co-ordinates: **29°40' 43.95"S, 17°4'10.81"E**. The proposed site is not located within 32m of any watercourse. Please refer to Appendix A1 for the locality map as well as Appendix C (site plans) and Appendix B for photographs of the proposed site.

Civil and Electrical Services

Electricity will be sourced from the land owner. The Proposed development of a telecommunication mast will not produce waste or use water during its operational phase.

Access

Access to the site will be gained via Main Road. No new road will be constructed.

Conclusion

The proposed communication mast, allows for multiple service providers to attach and house their equipment on the mast, decreasing the need for additional communications masts to be erected in the area. The benefits of telecommunications services in modern society are potentially limitless. The proposed activity will increase the coverage of these telecommunications services, including providing a more reliable and wider coverage.

The activity would create a more efficient telecommunications service, considered essential to the business and private sector. The data capabilities provided by the proposed mast are also important in business, education and for the public, and has thus become paramount for social and economic development. The construction of the telecommunications mast is therefore considered as part of the essential services for the greater community.

The proposed communications mast is not expected to have any adverse effects on people's health and well-being. It is also not expected to produce any noise or odours during the operational phase. Some noise can be expected during the construction phase, but this will be temporary and the impact is expected to be negligible. Due to the design and location of the proposed communications mast, the activity is expected to have a medium impact on the visual character of the area.

According to SANBI BGIS Namakwa District Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) Map and SANBI BGIS Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas (2016) Map, the proposed site is not located within an CBA. The site, however, is located within an terrestrial Ecological Support Area (ESA). Please note that the proposed site has no natural vegetation cover present and is completely transformed from its natural state due to past development activities on the property. No populations of threatened plant or animal species were observed on site. No cultural or historical aspects were identified on the site. Any potential negative impacts during the construction phase are expected to be adequately mitigated through the implementation of the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") and the appointment of an Environmental Control Officer ("ECO") during the construction phase.

Considering all the information, it is not envisaged that this proposed development will have a negative impact on the environment.

It is therefore recommended that this application be authorised with the necessary conditions of approval as described throughout this Post-Application BAR.