

Environmental Consulting, Management and Design

Glenvista ADvTECH School proposal, Glenvista Ext. 3

Basic Assessment Process

Reference No. Gaut: 002/17-18/E0111

General information and feedback to Interested and Affected Parties

22 August 2017

The environmental impact assessment process:

This application for environmental authorisation to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), the competent authority in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, must not be confused with other applications, submissions or approvals for the proposal that may be necessary. Such approvals may *inter alia* include approval of the Site Development Plan (SDP) and approval of the building plans that must be obtained from the City of Johannesburg as well as the approval of the traffic impact assessment and its recommendations by the Johannesburg Roads Agency. While these different authorisations and approvals are complementary to each other, they each have a specific objective in terms of the mandates of the different authorities. The current zoning for the Erven is for educational use (see attached Zoning Certificate).

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended in 2017), and its listing notices, a Basic Assessment (BA) process has to be done in this instance to fulfil the requirements for the application for environmental authorisation by GDARD, which is the provincial department responsible for the management of impacts of listed activities on the environment. The BA process consists of the following steps:

- Obtain a Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) reference number.
- Submit an application form to GDARD.
- Advertise the activity.
- Open a register of interested and affected parties and compile a Comments and Responses Report (on-going throughout the process), in other words, a notification that a BA process is starting and that Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) may register to participate in the process.
- Inform stakeholders (other government departments that may be affected).

- Prepare a draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) (this is the stage where details of the site and proposal will be provided for scrutiny as we do not have those details at this stage). The draft basic assessment report will in this instance include (as regulated):
 - An assessment report;
 - Site plans;
 - Site photographs (as specified in the regulations);
 - Facility illustrations;
 - Public participation information;
 - Other departments' inputs that may include a water use licence, South African heritage Resources Agency information and letters confirming availability of services from the municipality (sometimes only included in the final BAR);
 - Specialist reports that will include vegetation and flora survey, a riparian zone assessment and traffic impact assessment.
- Allow registered I&APs as well as other stakeholders 30 days to provide comments and inputs.
- Consider comments and inputs received.
- Prepare and submit a final Basic Assessment Report to GDARD for consideration and to I&APs for comment (which they may also make directly to GDARD).
- Notify interested and affected parties of the decision of GDARD and indicate that there is an opportunity for appeal if necessary.

The school proposal:

The proposed school is still in the SDP phase that occurs in parallel with the BA process. The detail design and approval of building plans is a later phase that comes after environmental authorisation and approval of the SDP has been obtained from the relevant authorities. The following are responses to questions asked by interested and affected parties in respect to the school:

- The facility will include a pre-school, a primary school and a high school.
- The pre-primary will be single story, the primary school double story and the high school will be double and three storey buildings.
- It will be a commercial private ADvTECH school (please look at the ADvTECH website for details).
- School fees will be slightly more expensive than that of a typical Model C School.
- Building of the school has to start in the first quarter of 2018 in order to accommodate the first learners in 2019.
- The school will start off with approximately 450 learners in the first year which will increase in gradual increments of approximately 450 learners per year over a development period of four years (a maximum of 1800 learners from pre-primary to high school on completion).
- Comments in respect to drawings of the school buildings, detail design calculations for beams, columns, slabs, live load, dead loads, wind loads etc. will not be dealt with in the BA process (to be dealt with later in building plans to be approved by the CoJ).
- A stormwater management plan will be included as an appendix in the draft BAR. Detail designs of the elements will, however, not be dealt with in the BA process (to be dealt with later in building plans to be approved by the CoJ).
- A geotechnical report for the BA process will only be included if it is a specific requirement of GDARD in terms of an identified potential environmental impact (it has not been required for previous applications on the specific site or the area in the general).
- Foundation designs of buildings will not be dealt with in the BA process (to be dealt with later in building plans to be approved by the CoJ).

Traffic:

Increase in traffic volumes in the area is recognised as a significant concern for I&APs. The following are responses to questions asked by interested and affected parties in respect to traffic:

- Access to the site can only be from Hantamberg Street as Bellairs Drive is a Class 3 minor arterial road with specific access distance restrictions which cannot accommodate an access point for the school.
- A Traffic Impact Assessment that will *inter alia* address road requirements is being undertaken and will be included as an appendix to the Draft Basic Assessment Report that will be provided to I&APs for comment.

Comments received from I&APs:

All comments received from I&APs will be treated in the following manner:

- Comments raised by I&APs are added to the list of potential issues that will be addressed in the Draft Basic Assessment Report.
 - Comments on the application for authorisation and responses thereto will be included in the Comments and Responses Report, a required appendix, to the Draft Basic Assessment Report.
 - Although we endeavour to respond to comments as soon as possible, it may not be possible to respond immediately in some instances as the responses may require consultation with other project team members.
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