



The proposed Small Boat Harbour and Associated Development The Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process

How the Process works:

Very simply, in order for the development to proceed it has to go through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

Certain activities (such as dredging, reclamation of land, etc.) are specifically listed as requiring Environmental Authorisation from the Competent Authority before commencement (in this case it will be the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning – DEA&DP). The Small Boat Harbour (SBH) application will include several listed activities and therefore will be required to go through a full EIA with intensive public participation.

The Applicant (or developer) must appoint an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)/consultant to manage the Application for Environmental Authorisation on his/her behalf. In this instance Mike Cohen and Belinda Clark from CEN IEM Unit have been appointed.

Once the process has been followed, the decision made by the Competent Authority to either grant or refuse the requested Environmental Authorisation, may be appealed by any Interested and Affected party (I&AP).

An EIA has different focus areas to determine the impact of the proposed activity that will require the expertise of several specialists depending on what has been identified in the initial stage. In this specific application the following specialist have been asked to assess the site:

- Coastal Engineer: WSP Coastal Engineers - Koos Schoones
- Architect: Bartsch Architects - Rudolf Roos
- Town Planner: PJ Le Roux Town Planners - P J Le Roux
- Civil and Structural Engineer: BSM Baker - P A Becker
- Social scientist: Dr Anton de Wit
- Economist: Dereck Zimmerman.

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Other specialists and studies may include a heritage specialist, biodiversity specialist, visual and aesthetic specialist, marine specialist, traffic impact assessment, etc.

The outline of the process:

1. Once the process to be followed has been identified, the EAP will call for I&AP's to register and to provide initial comments on the Background Information Document (BID). This has already been done. Mike Cohen has, however, said that people can still comment, although there are still further phases during which submission of comments will again be possible.
2. The second stage is the Public Participation Process. This is what is currently happening. Focus group meetings with key stakeholders are held (this was already done with the municipality, the Forum, Ratepayers, Tourism and Business chamber. Further public meetings will be held with the public to assess the opinion of the local community.
3. The third phase is the Draft Scoping Report. This is to assess the scope of the proposed development in terms of social, economic and environmental impact. But in the Focus Group Meetings it was decided that the EAP will commission a Socio Scientist and Economist to perform a Socio-Economic study before-hand to determine if this development is feasible. The social scientist and economist will be doing surveys and interviews during the holiday season. This will be incorporated into the Draft Scoping Report for comment.
4. The Draft Scoping Report will then be available for 40 days for I&AP's and state departments to comment (i.e. Municipality, Department of Water Affairs, Cape Nature, SANParks, Marine and Coastal Management etc).
5. The Final Scoping Report will be available for comment for 30 days.
6. The Final Scoping Report will then be assessed by the competent authority which will then either except it, ask for amendments or reject the report.
7. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared and will undergo a public participation process.
8. The EIR will be submitted to the competent authority that will again either except it, reject it or ask for amendments.
9. If the EIR is accepted, all I&AP's will be notified of the Environmental Authorisation whereby I&AP's will have 12 days to submit an intent to appeal and another 30 days to submit an appeal.

Anyone has the right to register as an I&AP (with the consultant) during the entire process, not just in the beginning. Also, I&AP's can submit comments at any stage of

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the process and also phone the EAP at any time (working hours) to obtain more information. If you submit comments, make sure that you also submit your comments to the municipality (Municipal Manager) as well as to DEA&DP to ensure that your comments will be incorporated and considered by the important roleplayers. It is best to comment in the beginning of the process rather than the end as it will ensure that all concerns and issues are dealt with timeously and that the relevant studies are incorporated.

Below is a list of contact details for the consultant, Municipality and DEA&DP:

- Bitou Municipality:
 - Strategic Planning - Dupre Lombaard: dlombaard@plett.gov.za ; (office) 044 501 3302; (mobile) 082 895 6362
 - Municipal Manager – Alan Paultse: apaultse@plett.gov.za
- CEN Consultant - Mike Cohen: steenbok@aerosat.co.za ; (office) 042 581 2983; (mobile) 082 320 3111
- DEA&DP: George Office - Deputy Director (Province) Danie Swanepoel: Dswanepo@pgwc.gov.za or 044 805 8600

Please feel free to contact us at any time with any queries.

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