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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BILL

Submission in respect of the above Document:

In Part 5: Processes

Environmental assessments

18 Whenever an environmental assessment is required in respect of an integrated strategic project, such assessment must be done in terms of the national Environmental management Act 1998(Act no 107 of 1998), with specific reference to Chapter 5.

It is submitted that a clause referring to the universal access to all projects in terms of this Act be inserted in this position.

Perhaps the existing Clause could be numbered (1).

- (2) All strategic projects require an Universal Design Access Plan which should be implemented in terms of The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act no4 2000 (PEPUDA), with specific reference to Section 9by a competent person.

Universal access has its roots in Universal Design. The development of the concept of universal access is drawn from the philosophy of Universal Design which is now a global approach to design , development, management and operation. It extends to information and communication technology, as well as orientation and way-finding systems and pro-active management and operational systems. This is design whereby in solving the environments and facilities to suit Persons with Disabilities, others not necessarily related to PWDs will also be taken care of.

South Africa, partly because of its past, has moved to the forefront of desegregated societies, and has followed up with being one of the first signatories of the United Nations Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disability. Other legislative imperatives support this stance, but it has been poorly recognized by enforcement bodies. If it is not specifically mentioned in all documents and briefings, it tends to be ignored.

It is critical that educational facilities in particular be universally accessible to ensure that the integrated education system proposed can be successful. It will broaden the scope of all facilities if they are accessible to persons with temporary and permanent functional limitations, who presently compose probably 62% of the population. (SAStats) It rarely requires additional expense if implemented as part of the brief at the commencement of projects. Integrated National Disability Strategy (INDS)

An Oral presentation will be done if required.