CONSULTANT TACKLES TIGHT EIA TIME FRAMES

Responding to the shorter time frames for environmental impact assessments (EIAs) introduced last year, extensive pre-EIA screening can reduce the frustration inherent in the tight deadlines applied to dynamic planning.

The Durban office of SRK Consulting (SA) has developed a screening process to help clients understand a project’s environmental implications before launching into a formal EIA assessment.

SRK’s senior environmental scientist Philippa Burmeister says significant environmental impacts can be avoided by accounting for them in the design and planning phases.

“This allows for the assessment of alternatives – such as project location, layout, technology, resource provision and access – and the integration of preliminary management measures into the design and project feasibility,” said Burmeister.

“The pre-EIA screening offers an opportunity to identify potential fatal flaws at prefeasibility and feasibility stages of a project, and to go into the EIA process with a clearer understanding of project layout, design, environmental constraints and controls, and the associated costs,” she said.