

# Ensuring quality housing

**S**RK Consulting has contributed its scientific and engineering expertise to numerous housing projects in KwaZulu-Natal since 2010 and has, to date, been instrumental in the successful completion of about 3 400 houses. Projects have ranged from peri-urban developments, comprising upwards of 1 000 stands, to small rural initiatives comprising 20 to 70 homes.

“The SRK team, with its broad range of expertise, is making an important contribution in terms of services ranging from environmental engineering to quality assurance,” explains James Morris, partner and lead engineer, SRK. “In town planning management, for example, we make use of a spatial planning tool that provides geographic information system overlays of development suitability criteria such as geotechnics, slope, road corridors, floodlines, wetlands,

servitudes and endangered species in the area of the development.”

SRK currently has over 15 housing projects in KwaZulu-Natal, with about half of them either in the construction stage or already completed. The remainder are in various stages of pre-implementation.

Among the earliest developments was the Kwa-Jali Rural Housing project. This ran from 2010 to 2014 and entailed the construction of 889 houses. Another is the 445-unit Bashaweni Rural Housing project, which ran from 2012 to 2015.

One of the largest is the Khula Housing integrated residential development project, which began in 2012 and is ongoing; by the end of 2018, some 1 145 houses will have been constructed in a very challenging and environmentally sensitive area.

A number of the housing projects in which SRK is engaged are at the approval stage

– including urban housing in integrated residential developments, rural housing and Operation Sukuma Sakhe housing initiatives. The impact of these will be significant, as they involve the delivery of over 6 000 houses.

SRK was part of the multidisciplinary team that was a second runner-up in the KZN section of the 2017 Govan Mbeki Housing Awards – in the Integrated Residential Development Programme category.

SRK’s roles on this project included technical project management, design and review, and the quality control of 1 145 houses, as well as water reticulation and roads.

The reticulation and house connection design involved 2.9 km of pipework, while the roadwork consisted of a 3.5 km Cape seal taxi route and 2.9 km of gravel access roads. **as**



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A completed Cape seal section

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