



**The development is well underway with residents living in their homes and more under construction**

**M**any elements of the multi-billion rand, mixed-use development at Cornubia near Mt Edgecombe have been completed and, as projected, it has had a positive impact on the local community, particularly for the beneficiaries of the eThekweni Municipality's residential component.

“There is a huge backlog of housing and the country is currently faced with the phenomena of rapid urbanisation due to people looking to improve their living conditions and to find employment or business opportunities,” says eThekweni Municipality's acting head of communications Mandla Nsele. “There are numerous informal settlements within the eThekweni Municipality, as well as people renting in backyards, so there is always a large pool of potential beneficiaries for BNG (breaking new ground) houses.”

The Cornubia development has relieved some of this backlog with Phase 1A, consisting of 482 fully-subsidised units, having been completed and all units occupied. “To date, approximately 450 houses have been transferred to beneficiaries,” says Nsele. “Phase 1B consists of 2,180 fully-subsidised housing units, of which approximately 1,900 are completed and occupied by beneficiaries. The balance of the units is under construction and are at various stages of completion.”

Houses require infrastructure and much of this is in place, with the first

phase of the Blackburn water reservoir constructed and the Phoenix Waste Water Treatment works upgraded to accommodate the additional demands.

“Other related engineering infrastructure like major roads and an electrical substation, are planned and implementation is imminent,” says Nsele.

A temporary primary school to serve Phase 1A opened on 20 July 2015 and Nsele says that the permanent construction of this first social cluster, comprising a primary school, a clinic and a multi-purpose hall, has been designed and the tender advert is on the agenda. June saw the opening of a community retail facility in Phase 1A, which has been completed.

“The eThekweni Business Support Unit has committed to mentoring and supporting successful tenants to become fully-fledged entrepreneurs,” says Nsele.

There's still work to be done with detailed planning for Phase 2A underway and the hope that construction will begin towards the end of 2018. The tender process of the planning professionals for Phase 2B is at the final stages and award is anticipated within the next quarter.

“By the time of completion, Cornubia will provide approximately 25,000 housing opportunities, including approximately 15,000 fully-subsidised (BNG) units,” notes Nsele.



# Cornubia residences occupied

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