

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Annexure A: Site notice text

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Notice is given of a Basic Assessment in terms of terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, of intent to carry out the following activity:

Project name: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT

Project description: The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:

- 19.6 ha in extent and constitutes indigenous vegetation.
- The area is adjacent to existing agricultural fields and large sections of the areas are already disturbed. The actual site however, is currently undisturbed, natural bush.
- The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
- The client wishes to plant the land to macadamias.
- No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
- The property is currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse.

Listed activity: GN 983, Listing Notice 1 of 2014 - Activity: 27
GN 985, Listing Notice 3 of 2014 – Activity 12

Location: Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

Proponent: Boschkom Estates (Pty) Ltd.

Consultant: Henwood Environmental Solutions
P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes

NELSPRUIT, 1213

Tel: 078 672 3645

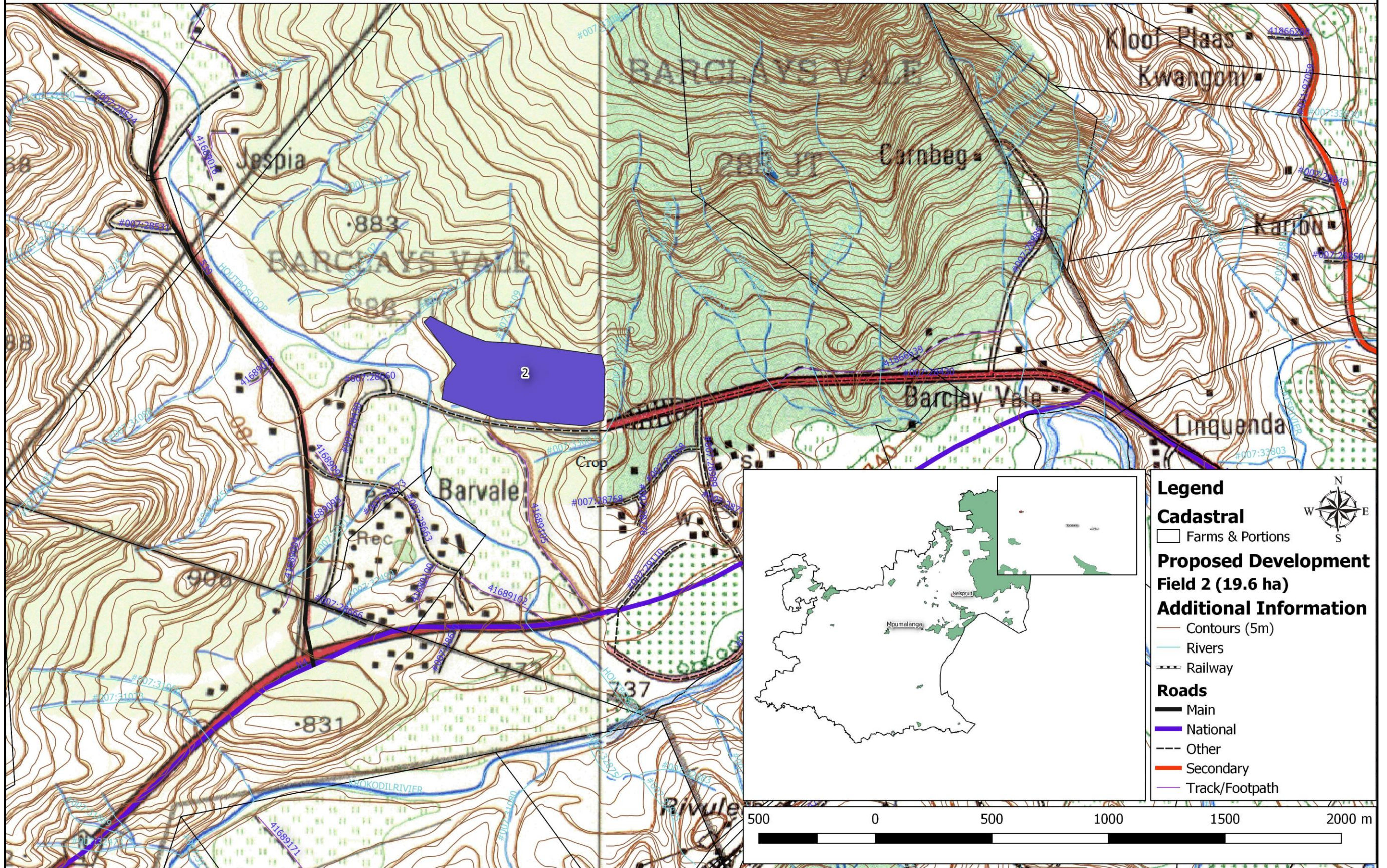
E-Mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za

Contact: Steven Henwood

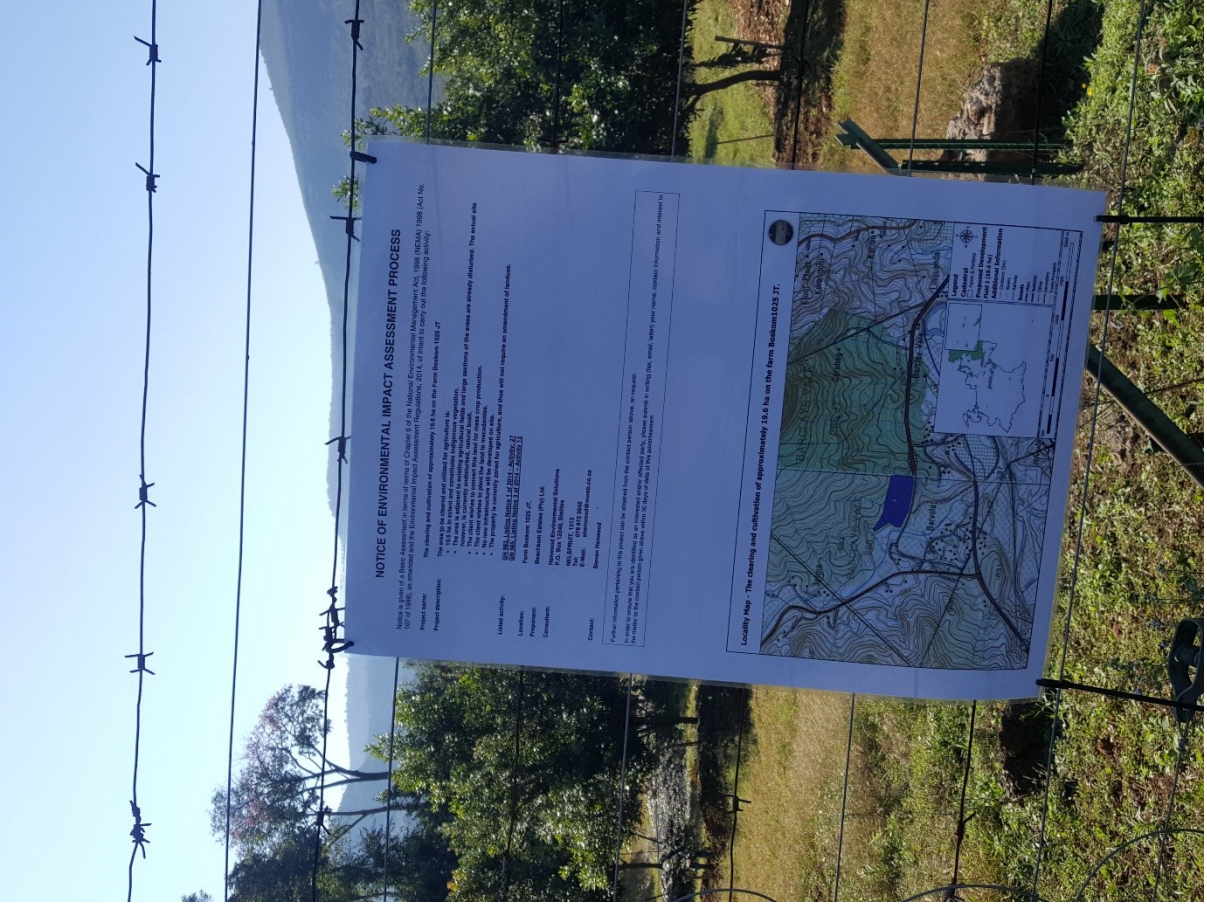
Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from the contact person above, on request.

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party, please submit in writing (fax, email, letter) your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given above within 30 days of date of this advertisement.

Locality Map - The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the farm Boskom1025 JT.



Annexure B: Proof of displayed notice boards



Annexure C: Background Information Document (BID) text

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

For the clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the farm Boskom 1025 JT.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information to the proposed project and to obtain comments and contributions from stakeholders with regards to potential environmental impacts – which includes (but is not limited to): ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in identifying possible impacts of the proposed development on the environment and to make suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives.

Please complete the enclosed reply sheet and forward it to the address provided below:

Postal Address: P.O. Box 12340, STEILTES, NELSPRUIT, 1213
Fax: 086 719 6216
E-mail: Steven Henwood shenwood@mweb.co.za
For any enquiries or further information contact us at:
Tel: 078 672 3645

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development or project. It is conducted in compliance with Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. The regulations identify a list of activities (Government Gazette GN983, GN984 and GN985) for which an EIA must be conducted.

The proposal has the following listed activities:

GN 983, Listing Notice 1 of 2014

Activity: 27

"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation"

GN 985 Listing Notice 3 of 2014

Activity: 12

"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

(a) In Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Western Cape provinces:

i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or indigenous vegetation is prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;

ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;"

Therefore, a Basic Assessment is required.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a listed activity, an application must be made for environmental authorisation. The application must be supported by a report, which has been compiled as a result of an assessment procedure. After the competent authority, has made a decision on the application, an appeal may be made against the decision, or parts thereof.

Henwood Environmental Solutions (HES), as the independent Environmental Consultant, has been appointed by the proponent/applicant to compile the Basic Assessment Report, which will be reviewed by the relevant competent authority (e.g. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs) after a thorough public participation process has been conducted.

This includes the opportunity to review all draft documentation before submission to DARDLEA.

The phases of a Basic Assessment are:

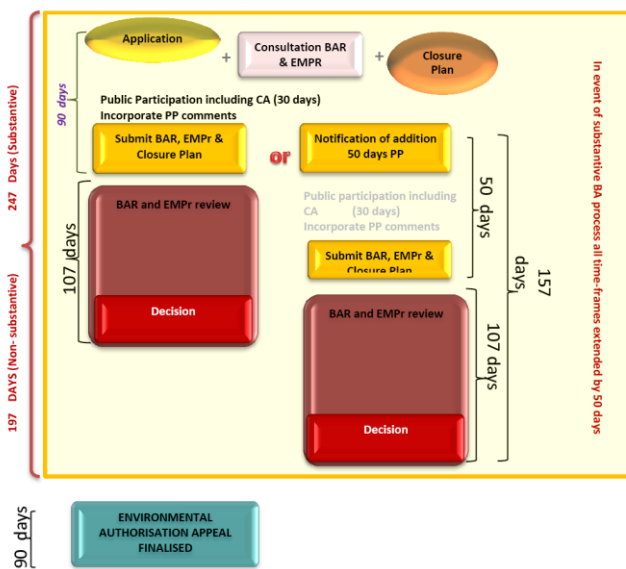


Figure 1

The aim of this report is to ensure that the environmental impacts are taken into consideration, to ensure stakeholder engagement, and to provide decision makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed activities.

The Record of Decision (RoD) as to whether the proposed project should proceed will be based on information provided in the Report.

Your comments will form part of the Report.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has the right to be informed about any activity that might have an impact, whether desirable or undesirable, on the environment.

The purpose of the public participation process is to inform, consult, involve, collaborate with, and empower stakeholders in the decision making process.

The objective of informing is to provide balanced and objective information to the public in order to assist with understanding of all existing issues.

Consultation will allow for feedback from stakeholders on alternatives and decisions that can inform the EIA process.

LOCATION

The farm Boskom 1025 JT. (see the locality map as attached).

GPS Coordinates:

25° 25' 18.8047" S, 30° 44' 49.8335" E

PROJECT BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

The applicant has initiated the EIA process in response to their wanting to expand their current agricultural business buy clearing and cultivating an area that is currently natural bush.

In this regard they intend to farm macadamia nuts. The desire to further extend their current fields, was precipitated by the fact that the most economically viable option available to the owner is to optimize the use of existing resources, while adding further value by extending and incorporating additional sections of arable land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:

- 19.6 ha in extent and constitutes indigenous vegetation.
- The area is adjacent to existing agricultural fields and large sections of the areas are already disturbed. The actual site however, is currently undisturbed, natural bush.
- The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
- The client wishes to plant the land to macadamias.
- No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
- The property is currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse.

See proposed layout plan for reference.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

An advertisement was placed under the classified section of the Hoedspruit Herald to notify the public of the proposed development:

Notice boards advertising the application have been placed at visible locations on and near the site.

Project information will be forwarded directly to registered interested parties and community leaders for their input.

PRESUMED ISSUES

Environmental issues that may be addressed in the Report could include the following:

- Ecology
- Visual
- Economic

Mitigation measures will also be developed for these issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

Consideration of Alternatives is one of the most critical elements of the EIA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making, based on the principle of sustainable development.

Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

HES not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urge the public to submit possible alternatives.

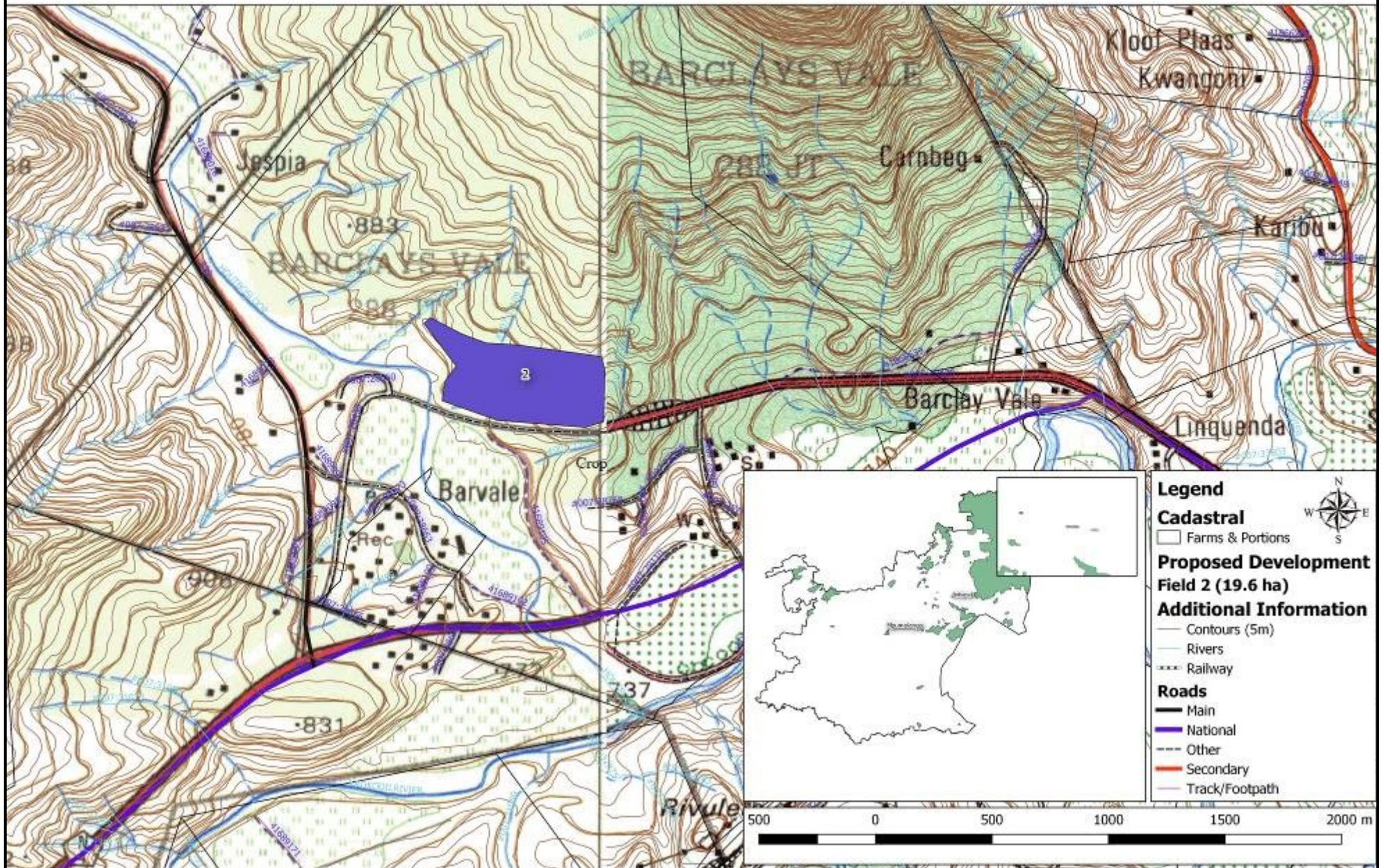
It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a possible course of action, in place of another, that would meet the same **purpose** and **need**.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable,
- Feasible,
- Relevant,
- Reasonable and
- Viable.

In order to ensure that you are registered as an interested and/or affected party, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given on the first page of this document.

Locality Map - The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the farm Boskom1025 JT.



REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

**For the clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha
on the farm Boskom 1025 JT.**

Title _____ **Name** _____
Surname _____
Company Name/Interest Group _____
Postal or Residential Address _____
Town/City _____
Postal Code _____
Tel () _____
Cell _____
Fax () _____
E-mail address _____

In accordance with NEMA – Regulation 56 of GN R 543 of the EIA Regulations – A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority, provided that (c) – the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

Please indicate with an **x** whether you would like to be kept informed of the EIA process

YES, I would like to be informed.	YES
NO, I am not interested	NO

If **YES**, how would you like to be informed? (please mark the appropriate block with an "x")

E-mail	
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

Thank you for your participation

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority

Please complete and return this response sheet to **HES**

**P.O. Box 12340
 Steiltes, Nelspruit
 1213**

E-mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za

Feel free to phone us on **078 672 3645**, should you not have access to fax or e-mail



Annexure D: Proof of given Background Information Document (BID)

Land Owner

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:57 AM
To: 'admin@lvt2001.co.za'
Cc: 'nico@lvt2001.co.za'
Subject: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT
Attachments: Boskom_BID.PDF

Our Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT/Stakeholder Notification
Your Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

24 April 2018

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE APPROXIMATELY 19.6 HA ON THE FARM BOSKOM 1025 JT.

Henwood Environmental Solutions (HES) has been appointed by Boschkom Estates (Pty) Ltd., to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 for the proposed activity.

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- * No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
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GPS Coordinates:

25° 25' 18.8047" S, 30° 44' 49.8335" E

See attached locality map as per BID attached.

Details of the applicant:

Project applicant: Boschkom Estates (Pty) Ltd.

Land Owner

Contact person: Nico Van Zyl
Email: admin@lvt2001.co.za
Telephone: 013 753 3962

In accordance with Regulation 16 of Government Notice 982, HES; on behalf of the applicant; hereby wishes to inform you of the proposed development and to obtain permission to continue with the Environmental Impact Assessment.

We trust that you will find the above in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any queries.

Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Nelspruit
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

MTPA

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:57 AM
To: Komilla Knarasoo (Komilla.Knarasoo@mtpa.co.za)
Subject: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

Our Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT/Stakeholder Notification
Your Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

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Details of the applicant:
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Contact person: Nico Van Zyl
Email: admin@lvt2001.co.za

MTPA

Telephone: 013 753 3962

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Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Nelspruit
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

grant casey

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:56 AM
To: 'grant.casey@telkomsa.net'
Subject: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT
Attachments: Boskom_BID.PDF

Our Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT/Stakeholder Notification
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Contact person: Nico Van Zyl

grant casey

Email: admin@lvt2001.co.za
Telephone: 013 753 3962

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Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Nelspruit
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

J&S

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:59 AM
To: 'gm@joubertenseuns.co.za'; 'citrus@joubertenseuns.co.za'
Subject: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT
Attachments: Boskom_BID.PDF

Our Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT/Stakeholder Notification
Your Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

24 April 2018

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Contact person: Nico Van Zyl

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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

Annexure E: Advertisement text

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Notice is given of a Basic Assessment in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, of intent to carry out the following activity:

Project name: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm Boskom 1025 JT

Project description: The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:

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Listed activities: GN 983, Listing Notice 1 of 2014 - Activity: 27
GN 985, Listing Notice 3 of 2014 – Activity 12

Location: Farm Boskom 1025 JT.

Proponent: Boschkom Estates (Pty) Ltd.

Consultant: Steven Henwood (HES)
P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes
NELSPRUIT, 1213
Tel: **078 672 3645**
E-Mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za
Contact: Steven Henwood

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party, please submit in writing your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given above within 30 days of publication of this advertisement.

Annexure F: Proof of placed advertisement

**0550
TOWNHOUSES /
SIMPLEXES /
CLUSTERS / DUP**

FRANKLIN PLACE
Well maintained,
3 bed, 3 bath, study,
LUG, extra parking
space & alarm
system

Anrine:
084-285-3887
083-278-3572
ML032889

GOLFVIEW
Neat 2 bed duplex.
Small garden, no
pets. R6,250 pm +
dep. Available 1 May.

Ferdi
082-611-9316
ML032865

TO LET

COLLFIN:
• **House in Fairlands Estate**
3 Bed, 2 bath,
2 garage.
Alarm system.
R13,500 pm.
Available from 1 May.
• **Smalltown Apartment**
2 Bed, 2 bath.
R6,000 pm.
Available now.

**RUBICON
RETIREMENT
VILLAGE:**
• 2 Bed, 1 bath,
garage.
From R8,800 pm.
Available now
• **New Phase V**
1 Bed, 1 bath,
carport. New air-
conditioned units.
From R6,900 pm.
Available now

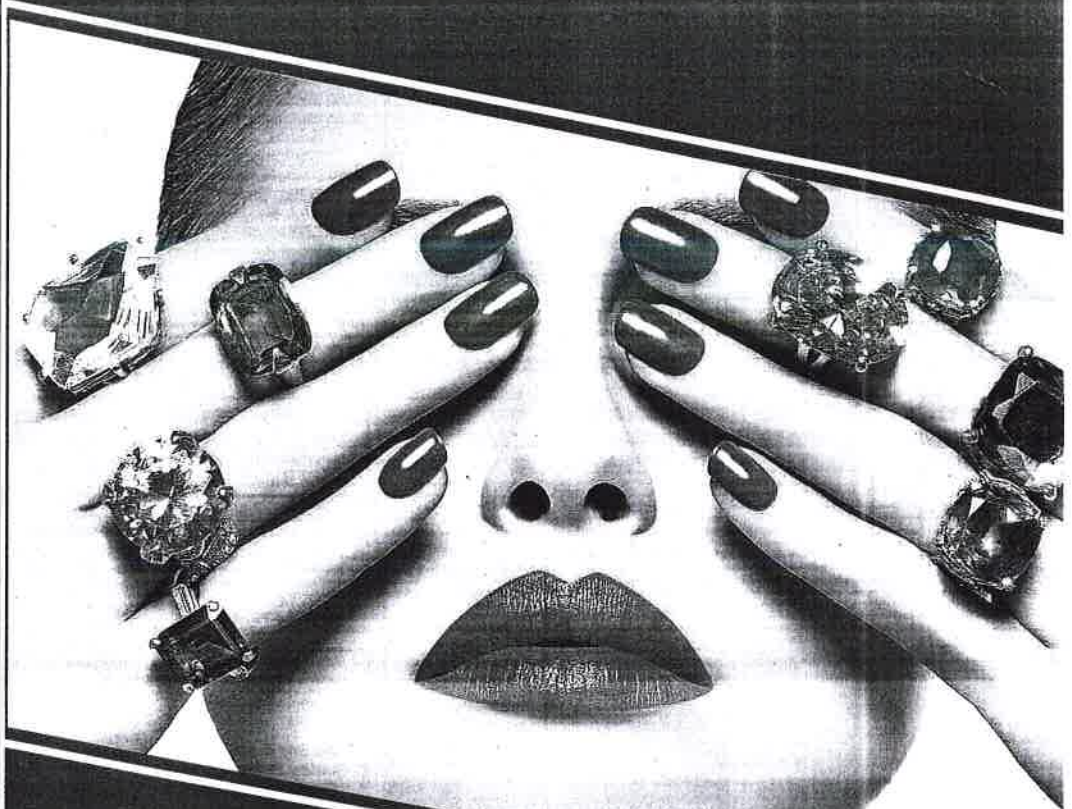
Marié: 084-400-7026
enquiries@
collfin.co.za
IR018795

**0905 Auctioneers
0910 Public & Legal
Notices
0915 Sales In
Execution
0920 Tenders
0925 Estates
0930 Liquidations
0935 Town Planning
0940 General**

**0910
PUBLIC / LEGAL
NOTICES**

**NOTICE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS**
Notice is given of a Basic
Assessment in terms of Chapter
6 of the National Environmental
Management Act, 1998 (NEMA)
1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as
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Impact Assessment Regulations,
2014, of intent to carry out the
following activity:
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Farm Boskom 1025 JT
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site however, is currently
undisturbed, natural bush.
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Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -
Activity: 27
GN 985, Listing Notice 3 of
2014 - Activity 12
Location: Farm Boskom 1025
JT
Proponent: Boschkom Estates
(Pty) Ltd.
Consultant: Steven Henwood
(HES)
P.O. Box 12340, Stellenbosch
NELSPRUIT, 1213
Tel: 078-672-3645
E-Mail: shenwood
@web.co.za
Contact: Steven Henwood
In order to ensure that you are
identified as an interested and/or
affected party, please submit in
writing your name, contact
information and interest in the
matter to the contact person
given above within 30 days of
publication of this advertisement.
TA005693

IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL SOMEONE BREAKS A NAIL



FIND YOUR LOCAL
SALON, HEALTH SPA,
NAIL PARLOUR AND
MORE...



biz.lowvelder.co.za

LEGALS

Contact
Tanya to
advertise your
Legals in this
newspaper.
013-754-1669



Annexure G: Letter of notification of EIA



Our Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm
Boskom 1025 JT/Stakeholder Notification
Your Ref: The clearing and cultivation of approximately 19.6 ha on the Farm
Boskom 1025 JT.

24 April 2018

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See attached locality map as per BID attached.

Details of the applicant:

Project applicant: Boschkom Estates (Pty) Ltd.

Contact person: Nico Van Zyl

Email: admin@lvt2001.co.za

Telephone: 013 753 3962

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HES
Henwood Environmental Solutions



Steven Henwood (*Nat Dip. Nature Conservation*)

PO Box 12340

Steiltes

Nelspruit

1213

086 719 6216 (Fax to e-mail)

078 672 3645 (Cell)

shenwood@mweb.co.za

Henwood Environmental Solutions
Postal: P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes, Nelspruit, 1213.
Telephone: 078 672 3645
Fax to email: 086 719 6216

Annexure H: Proof of given Letter of notification

Land Owner

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:57 AM
To: 'admin@lvt2001.co.za'
Cc: 'nico@lvt2001.co.za'
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Telephone: 013 753 3962

In accordance with Regulation 16 of Government Notice 982, HES; on behalf of the applicant; hereby wishes to inform you of the proposed development and to obtain permission to continue with the Environmental Impact Assessment.

We trust that you will find the above in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any queries.

Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Nelspruit
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

Annexure I: List of registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)

Departmental

Name	Department	Postal Address	Telephone	email	Registered IAP	Invite sent	Attend meeting	Minutes sent	Draft Scoping sent	Comment received
Komilla Narasoo	MTPA	MTPA		Komilla Knarasoo <knarasoo@mtpa.co.za>						
Frans Krige	MTPA (EIA)		0842322902	frans@mtpa.co.za franskrige@telkomsa.net						
Johann Burger	Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM)		082 460 4498	jburger@ledc.co.za						
Johan Bothma	Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM)		082 460 4228	jbothma@ledc.co.za						

Annexure J: Comments and responses.

Person	Issue	Person	Response
INITIAL PPP			
Frans Mashabela (Agriculture)	Due to the cultivation practices around this area, is clear this will contribute to the food reserves of the country. The clearing should not have severe negative impacts on areas outside the required area. The natural resources are scarce resources that cannot be renewed and must be preserved in an environmental responsible manner.	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted.
Frans Mashabela (Agriculture)	The farm Boskom 1025 JT is situated on an open hills or ridges with sloping percentages ranging from 8.0 to 12.0 %. This type of slope is vulnerable to water erosion; therefore, a great care is required during clearing. The season of the year is also important, when clearing this area; the safe period is during dry season when the rainfalls are scarce, like in the winter months. This will give the land user a good time to prepare his land; construct conservation measures that may prevent soil erosion. The drainage lines should not be disturbed, and this will minimizing erosion. The soil in this area is lacking strong texture, this may pose a threat to erosion; therefore the conservation measures must be adequate in time.	Steven Henwood (EAP)	<p>Noted. Slope has been taken into consideration when choosing the preferred site alternative. In this regard a slope analysis was conducted with the following conclusions:</p> <p>“The topography of the two proposed development areas comprises hills with moderate to steep slopes. Field 1 – 9.7% average slope; Field 2 – 6,2% average slope; Filed 3 6.6% average slope; and Filed 4 – 10.2% average slope. Elevation within the Study Area ranges between 750 and</p>

			975 m amsl.²¹
Frans Mashabela (Agriculture)	The ecosystem in the area is threatened because is vulnerable to harm due to on-going developments activities in the valley, therefore good technical measures are required to sustain it	Steven Henwood (EAP)	<p>The initial scope of the Ecological Report covered the entirety of both Barclay Vale and Montrose. The scope was later reduced to talk to the proposed site only, however the report relating to both properties was still included. This may have resulted in some misunderstanding and ambiguity.</p> <p>There are definitely sections on Montrose and adjacent subdivisions of Barclay Vale that have had riparian vegetation cleared. However, apart from the legal removal of alien vegetation I (the EAP) am unaware of any large scale illegal clearing on the property section</p>

			that contains the proposed site.
K. Malele (MTPA)	The sensitivity if the above mentioned farm was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity was assessed in terms of a terrestrial and freshwater assessment. In the MBSP, sensitive areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered. Therefore no form of mining or development is permitted on those areas (Mining and biodiversity guideline)	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted.
K. Malele (MTPA)	The terrestrial assessment , which was also included in your Ecology study and Biodiversity Value Assessment shows that there are <i>CBA Irreplaceable areas</i> within the proposed 17.46 HA of the proposed development. The MTPA would therefore recommend that if possible, the clearing be done on the other natural areas in order to conserve the functionality of the <i>CBA Irreplaceable areas</i> . However, the assessment has shown that the vegetation within the study area has been encroached by indigenous and alien woody species. There are also patches of Barberton Serpentine Sourveld which are very small and fragmented which are said could be lost to bush encroachment in the next few years.	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted. The entire 14.6ha is located within an area designated as CBA Irreplaceable. However of all the possible alternative fields , the areas proposed have poorer biodiversity rating as were thus accepted as the most feasible alternative location.
K. Malele (MTPA)	The freshwater assessment showed that there is a CBA River, and that the area is within an <i>ESA Important Sub-catchment</i> . This wetland has been delineated and no clearing should occur within the delineated zone. According to the Aquatic Delineation and Risk Assessment proposed development areas no 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are recommended for development while development area no 5 is not recommended. This because the proposed development in this area could destroy a patch mosaic of seasonal and episodic Hillslope Seepage Wetlands that are in a Natural Present Ecological State (Category A).	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted. Only the least sensitive area in terms of the Aquatic assessment have been incorporated into the preferred layout. All Sensitive aquatic systems and

			areas have been excluded and buffered according.
K. Malele (MTPA)	<p>During the clearing operation, the reptiles, mammals and birds must be allowed to move freely into new safer habitats.</p> <p>All invasive alien plants must be eradicated using correct methods.</p> <p>All the negative environmental impacts that could arise as a result of this project should be avoided, minimized, mitigated or rehabilitated to its pre-development land use or to the standards agreed to with the land owner.</p> <p>The applicant must effectively implement and adhere to all the conditions of the EMP and all the action plans</p>	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted. All of these requirements have been taken into consideration in the EMP and impacts and mitigation section of the BAR.
M Masango (DARDLEA)	<p>1. Please note that this department will not consider authorising the removal of indigenous vegetation from land that is not arable. Land that is not arable due to inter alia, lack of sufficient water for irrigation, rockiness, steepness, excessive wetness, incorrect soil type., must be identified and excluded accordingly. In this light, this office further refers to the ecological study dated May 2018, in which it was recommended that the slope analysis be done to determine which area are too steep for crop planting. Please confirm how slope analyses informed the layout.</p>	Steven Henwood (EAP)	<p>Noted. Slope has been taken into consideration when choosing the preferred site alternative. In this regard a slope analysis was conducted with the following conclusions:</p> <p>“The topography of the two proposed development areas comprises hills with moderate to steep slopes. Field 1 – 9.7% average slope; Field 2 – 6,2% average slope; Filed 3 6.6% average slope; and Filed 4</p>

			<p>- 10.2% average slope. Elevation within the Study Area ranges between 750 and 975 m amsl."</p> <p>Potential fields within the study area that exhibited an average slope greater than 12 % were excluded. Moreover, rock outcrops within the proposed fields were excluded due to lack of arable soils and slope excessiveness. The current layout has excluded all areas where slope is greater than 12%. Any slopes below this were deemed arable with strict erosion mitigating measures being enforced.</p>
<p>M Masango (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>2. Comments from MTPA must be included in the final basic assessment report.</p>	<p>Steven Henwood (EAP)</p>	<p>Noted. These have been included.</p>

M Masango (DARDLEA)	2. Comments from I&APs must be included in the final basic assessment report. 3. The final basic assessment report must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&APs, including these comments.	Steven Henwood (EAP)	Noted. These have been included.
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Ref: LUA 18/2187
Unit: LUA/SS
Enquiries: K. Malele
E-mail: khumbelomalele@gmail.com
Tel/Fax: 013 - 235 2395 Ext. 222

Mr. S.J Henwood

Henwood Environmental Solutions
P O Box 12340
Steiltes 1213
Email: shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Mr. Henwood

HEREWITH MTPA'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED CLEARING AND CULTIVATION OF NATURAL LAND FOR IN TERMS OF NEMA ACT, 1998 (ACT NO, 107 OF 1998), IN RESPECT OF THE FARM BOSKOM 1025 JT, SITUATED WITHIN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

MTPA has no objection to the application for the change in land use on the farm.

1. The sensitivity if the above mentioned farm was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity was assessed in terms of a terrestrial and freshwater assessment. In the MBSP, sensitive areas are identified in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered. Therefore no form of mining or development is permitted on those areas (Mining and biodiversity guideline).
2. The terrestrial assessment, which was also included in your Ecology study and Biodiversity Value Assessment shows that there are *CBA Irreplaceable areas* within the proposed 17.46 HA of the proposed development. The MTPA would therefore recommend that if possible, the clearing be done on the other natural areas in order to conserve the functionality of the *CBA Irreplaceable areas*. However, the assessment has shown that the vegetation within the study area has been encroached by indigenous and alien woody species. There are also patches of Barberton Serpentine Sourveld which are very small and fragmented which are said could be lost to bush encroachment in the next few years.
3. The freshwater assessment showed that there is a CBA River, and that the area is within an *ESA Important Sub-catchment*. This wetland has been delineated and no clearing should occur within the delineated zone. According to the Aquatic Delineation and Risk Assessment proposed development areas no 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are recommended for development while development area no 5 is not recommended. This because the proposed development in this area could destroy a patch mosaic of seasonal and episodic Hillslope Seepage Wetlands that are in a Natural Present Ecological State (Category A).

4. During the clearing operation, the reptiles, mammals and birds must be allowed to move freely into new safer habitats.
5. All invasive alien plants must be eradicated using correct methods.
6. All the negative environmental impacts that could arise as a result of this project should be avoided, minimized, mitigated or rehabilitated to its pre-development land use or to the standards agreed to with the land owner.
7. The applicant must effectively implement and adhere to all the conditions of the EMP and all the action plans.

Kind Regards



Mr. J.J Eksteen
Manager Scientific Services

Date: 13 August 2018 .



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Departement van Landbou,
LandelikeOntwikkeling,
Grond en Ongewing Sake

umNyangoweZelimo
UkuThuthukiswakweeNdawozemaKhaya,
iNarhaneeNdabazeBhoduluko

EHLANZENI DISTRICT

Enquiries : M.Masango
Telephone : (013) 759 4150
Reference : 1/3/1/16/1E-164
NEAS : MPP/EIA/0000434/2018

Steven Henwood
Henwood Environmental Solutions
P O Box 12340
Steiltes
1213

Email : Shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Sir,

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT: THE CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATION ON THE FARM BOSKOM 1025 JT, CITY OF MBOMBELA

The draft basic assessment report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 20 July 2017 refers. The Department has considered the content of the report and has the following comments:

1. Please note that this department will not consider authorising the removal of indigenous vegetation from land that is not arable. Land that is not arable due to inter alia, lack of sufficient water for irrigation, rockiness, steepness, excessive wetness, incorrect soil type., must be identified and excluded accordingly. In this light, this office further refers to the ecological study dated May 2018, in which it was recommended that the slope analysis be done to determine which area are too steep for crop planting. Please confirm how slope analyses informed the layout.
2. Comments from MTPA must be included in the final basic assessment report.
3. The final basic assessment report must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&APs, including these comments.

You are reminded of the requirements of Regulation 21(1), and that if such requirements are not met the application will lapse in terms Regulation 45.

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Sincerely,

Ms. R. LUYT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 21/08/2018.



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Land Use & Soil Management, P.O. Box 8806, NELSPRUIT, 1200
27 Brown Street, 2nd Floor

Tel: (013) 754 0730 ☐☐ Fax: (013) 754 0735 ☐☐ e-mail: FransMas@nda.agric.za
Enquiries: Frans Mashabela Ref: LUSM 19/7/3/1/NIs/ MP
Henwood Environmental Solutions (pty) Ltd

Henwood Environmental Solutions (pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 12340
Steiltes
NELSPRUIT
1213

06 August 2018

Dear Sir

Att: Mr. Henwood Steven

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE CLEARING AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM BOSKOM 1025 JT, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MBOMBELA: MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

You're Ref: 01

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Directorate: Land Use and Soil Management administer the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) (CARA) and makes the provision for the conservation of the natural agricultural resources through maintaining the production potential of land.

Due to the cultivation practices around this area, is clear this will contribute to the food reserves of the country. The clearing should not have severe negative impacts on areas outside the required area. The natural resources are scarce resources that cannot be renewed and must be preserved in an environmental responsible manner.

Desktop study

During the desktop study, the following were identified.

Slope of the area.

The farm Boskom 1025 JT is situated on an open hills or ridges with sloping percentages ranging from 8.0 to 12.0 %. This type of slope is vulnerable to water erosion; therefore, a great care is required during clearing. The season of the year is also important, when clearing this area; the safe period is during dry season when the rainfalls are scarce, like in the winter months. This will give the land user a good time to prepare his land; construct conservation measures that may prevent soil erosion. The drainage lines should not be disturbed and this will minimizing erosion.

The soil in this area is lacking strong texture, this may pose a threat to erosion; therefore the conservation measures must be adequate in time.

Biodiversity

The ecosystem in the area is threatened because is vulnerable to harm due to on-going developments activities in the valley, therefore good technical measures are required to sustain it.

Recommendation

Application for cultivation of virgin soil

Regulation 2 of CARA bounds you to apply for permit to clear that piece of land because is virgin land.

Clearing and Stockpiling

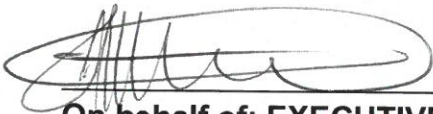
- Minimize compaction of soil as far as possible.
- No material should be stockpiled within the drainage lines or in close proximity to any sensitive area.
- Alien vegetation, the yellow flag in the area should be combated as to avoid spread.

Rehabilitation

- Areas impacted negatively during clearing should be rehabilitated especially those outside required area for production.
- If there is any hydrocarbon contamination, the contaminated soil should be removed.
- All temporary access roads should be scarified in order to provide suitable conditions for grass germination and minimize water disturbance in areas outside cultivated areas.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Directorate Land Use and Soil Management support this project but reserves the right to alter or amend its viewpoint based on forthcoming studies, documentation and information, which may become available as the process progresses.

Kindly regards



**On behalf of: EXECUTIVE OFFICER: ACT NO. 43 of 1983
DIRECTORATE: LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT**



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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Enquiries : **M.Masango**
Telephone : **(013) 759 4150**
Reference : **1/3/1/16/1E-164**

Steven Henwood
Henwood Environmental Solutions
P O Box 12340
Steiltes
1213

Fax : 086 719 6216
Email : shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Sir,

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: THE CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATION ON THE FARM BOSKOM 1025 JT, CITY OF MBOMBELA

The Department confirms having received the application form for environmental authorisation and the Draft Basic Assessment Report for the abovementioned project on 20 July 2018.

The application has been assigned the reference number **1/3/1/16/1E-164**. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. The responsible officer is **Millicent Masango** and all correspondence must be directed to: The Deputy Director, Environmental Impact Management, Ehlanzeni District Office, marked for the attention of the responsible officer. Please note that you must, within 90 days from 20 July 2018, submit to this office a final basic assessment report - inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr - which has already been subjected to a public participation process, and was provided to registered interested and affected parties for a period of at least 30 days for comment, and which reflects the incorporation of any comments received, including any comments from this office. In this regard you are referred to the requirements of Regulation 40(3).

Please note that in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45, this application will lapse, and this office will deem the application to have lapsed, if the applicant fails to submit the basic assessment report within the timeframe specified above.

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. R. LUYT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 20/07/2018

