

## 10. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

### 10.1 Availability of draft Environmental Impact Report

The draft Environmental Impact Report (dated: November 2015) was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs on 6 November 2015 (letter dated: 6 November 2015; Appendix 17).

The draft Environmental Impact Report (dated: November 2015) was also submitted/couriered to the following authorities for evaluation (40-day period):

- Department of Water Affairs (Bronkhorstspruit office) – letter dated: 10 November 2015; Appendix 17;
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency – letter dated: 10 November 2015; Appendix 17;
- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality – letter dated: 10 November 2015; Appendix 17.

The draft Environmental Impact Report was loaded (16 November 2015) onto SAHRIS (South African Heritage Resources Agency website) for comment (Appendix 17).

A copy of the draft Environmental Impact Report (dated: November 2015) was made available at the Gerard Sekoto Public Library (Middelburg) and at the main site office on Portion 52 Rondebosch 403 JS (old Tower Motel) for evaluation purposes by interested and affected parties. The notices displayed and the register are attached in Appendix 17.

An e-mail (dated: 13 November 2015; Appendix 17) was forwarded to government departments, stakeholders and interested and affected parties (see interested and affected party list) informing them that the document was available for evaluation purposes from 16 November 2015 to 15 January 2016.

A copy of the document was also provided on the Clean Stream Environmental Services website ([www.cleanstreams.co.za](http://www.cleanstreams.co.za)) for download. A copy of the webpage printouts is provided in Appendix 17.

The following interested and affected parties/stakeholders/government departments were notified of the said report:

<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY LIST</b>	
<b>Organisation / Property</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Government Departments</b>	
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs – Witbank	O. Fakude
Department of Water and Sanitation – Bronkhorstspruit	S. Maliaga; M. Lubambo
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration – Directorate: Land Use and Soil Management – Ermelo	J. Venter
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Pretoria	F. Mashabela

<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY LIST</b>	
<b>Organisation / Property</b>	<b>Name</b>
Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)	M. Look
Department of Mineral Resources – Witbank	S. Mathavhela
Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport	B. Viljoen
Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation	S. Singh
Mpumalanga Provincial Heritage Resources Authority	B. Moduka
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	N.D. Nkambule
South African Heritage Resources Agency	N. Khumalo; C. Scheermeyer
<b>Other Organisations</b>	
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency	F. Krige; K. Narasoo
South African National Roads Agency	M. Yorke-Hart
Eskom (Distribution)	F. Fkhangale
Middelburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry	A. Ott
Telkom	B. Tsatsi
Transnet	T. Mavulwana
Trans African Concessions Limited (TRAC)	R. Nkosi
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa – Witbank	L. Betha
Transvaal Landbou Unie	D. du Plessis
Mpumalanga Agriculture	H. Laas
Distriklandbou Unie Middelburg	J.P.J. Schmahl
<b>Municipalities</b>	
Nkangala District Municipality	S. Links
Steve Tshwete Local Municipality	M. Mahamba
Ward Councilor	B.D. Skosana; D.M. Longman
<b>ADJACENT LANDOWNERS/USERS IDENTIFIED</b>	
Portion 2 (Figure 4.2)	Little Olifants Estate (Pty) Ltd. (B. Kane-Berman)
Portion 6 (Figure 4.2)	Zowitzky Trust (Mr. Zowitzky)
Portion 7 (Figure 4.2)	CSP Landgoed cc. (D. Martin)
Portion 11 (Figure 4.2)	G.L.P. Joubert
Portion 13 (Figure 4.2)	Portion 13/Middelburg x34, 35 and 36 – Crosspoint Trading 36 (Pty) Ltd (R. Noble)
Portion 14 (Figure 4.2)	M.C. de Klerk
Portion 19 (Figure 4.2)	Richard Prinsloo Investment Trust (R. Prinsloo)
Portions 23 and 51 (Figure 4.2)	J.C. Weilbach
Portion 47 (Figure 4.2)	Riverside Estate (R. Joubert)
Portion 50 (Figure 4.2)	M.J. Hamersma

<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY LIST</b>	
<b>Organisation / Property</b>	<b>Name</b>
Portion 53 (Figure 4.2)	Bill & Febe Wilson Familie Trust (B. Wilson)
Rents part of Portion 53 (Figure 4.2)	Mlaki Business Enterprise (Thalita Mathebula)
Rents part of Portion 53 (Figure 4.2)	Bhaneelog (R. de Villiers)
Rents part of Portion 53 (Figure 4.2)	Bhao Bhao Tree Transport (G. Burger)
Rents part of Portion 53 (Figure 4.2)	BotPier Construction cc (P. Botha)
Portion 54 (Figure 4.2)	Off-Road Racing Middelburg cc (W. van Wyk)
Portion 55 (Figure 4.2)	F.G. Wesson
Portion 56 (Figure 4.2)	H.A. Mahomed
Portion 58 (Figure 4.2)	Pot 58 Middelburg cc. (R. Prinsloo)
Portion 59 (Figure 4.2)	Protuss Inv. (Pty) Ltd. (R. Prinsloo)
Portion 60 (Figure 4.2)	J.J. Mokwena
Portion 61 (Figure 4.2)	M. Singleton (R. Spencer)
Portion 62 (Figure 4.2)	W.J.E. Hoole
Portions 15 and 85 (Figure 4.2)	Nogwatsha Communal Property Association (P. Shabangu)
Portion 88 (Figure 4.2)	N.J. Smit; E. van der Berg
Portion 94 (Figure 4.2)	K. Prinsloo

## **10.2 Comments received**

### **10.2.1 Government Departments**

#### **Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs**

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs acknowledged receipt of the draft Environmental Impact Report on 17 November 2015 (Appendix 17). No further comment was received.

#### **Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport**

A completed comment sheet (dated: 23 November 2015; Appendix 17) was received from Mr. B. Viljoen (Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport). The following was indicated:

"Apply for any service within the building restriction of 95 meters of the road."

*Response:*

*The necessary applications will be made should any services be located within 95 meters of the R104 provincial road.*

### **10.2.2 Other organisations**

#### **Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency**

A letter (dated: 15 December 2015; Ref: LUA 15/1792; Appendix 17) was received from Mr. J.J. Eksteen (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency). The following was indicated:

"MTPA has no objection to the proposed development on the proposed site and supports the land use change. It is however recommended that the small section as indicated by the MBSP terrestrial biodiversity map in Figure 1, that is regarded as a critical biodiversity area, be excluded from development and that it is zoned as an open space during the design of the layout plan."

Response:

*The small section along the northern boundary of the site, which is regarded as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA), falls within the 25 m road reserve of the R104 provincial road. The area will thus not be developed. However, it should be noted that the vegetation along the northern boundary of the site and adjacent to the R104 provincial road has been heavily impacted as indicated in Section 5.7 of this report. No plant species of conservation concern are known to occur on site.*

**Trans African Concessions Limited (TRAC)**

The following was indicated in an e-mail (dated: 16 November 2015; Appendix 17) from Mr. R. Nkosi:

"Based on the fact that the proposed development is about 7 km (linear distance) away from the N4, it is not expected to have any environmental impact on the N4. TRAC would not have any issues on the proposed development regarding environmental issues."

Response:

*Noted.*

**Eskom Distribution (Land and Rights)**

A letter was received from Eskom Distribution (Land & Rights) (dated: 1 December 2015; Ref: LD-INV/E/FK/169/2015; Appendix 17) indicating that the proposed project will affect the Rockdale-Doornkop 22 kV and Rockdale-Middelburg 22 kV distribution lines.

Eskom indicated that there is an 9 meter building and tree restriction on either side of the centre line of the 22 kV powerlines, which must be respected.

A number of other conditions were also specified by Eskom (see Appendix 17), which must be noted and adhered to by the applicant.

Eskom Distribution (F. Khangale) requested that Annexures D and E (Appendix 17) be completed by the applicant and returned to Eskom should the applicant accept the conditions.

Response:

*The letter from Eskom Distribution will be forwarded to the applicant for review. Should the applicant accept the conditions, the applicant will forward the signed and completed Annexures D and E to Eskom Distribution.*

*The following is indicated in Section 8.5.2 (Environmental Management Plan) of this report:*

*"The rights and conditions of Eskom (Appendix 7) with regards to their powerlines must be respected and adhered to at all times."*

### **10.2.3 Local municipality and municipal councillor**

No comment was received on the Environmental Impact Report (dated: November 2015) from the local municipality or the councillor.

### **10.2.4 Community**

No comment was received from any community members on the Environmental Impact Report (dated: November 2015).

## **10.3 Evaluation of final Environmental Impact Report**

A copy of the final Environmental Impact Report (dated: January 2016) will be made available to interested and affected parties and stakeholders for comment (21-day comment period), whereafter it will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs for final decision making.

## **10.4 Informing Interested and Affected Parties of the Environmental Authorisation**

On receipt of the Environmental Authorisation and Record of Decision (positive or negative decision), all identified interested and affected parties will be informed by means of facsimile, e-mail or telephonically that the Environmental Authorisation and Record of Decision with regards to the project have been issued. Information w.r.t. the appeal procedure will also be provided.

An advertisement in this regard will also be placed in the Middelburg Observer, in order to inform I&APs of the decision.

A copy of the Environmental Authorisation and Record of Decision will be made available on the company website ([www.cleanstreams.co.za](http://www.cleanstreams.co.za)).

## **10.5 Conclusion**

As previously indicated, it is felt that based on the findings of this environmental impact assessment, the development of the proposed residential area can proceed subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) provided in Section 8 of this report.

Of particular importance is the development of a storm water management plan based on the recommendations of Grobler (2015) and ensuring that services provided (especially sewage) have sufficient capacity (i.e. does not result in the pollution of the surrounding environment).

The applicant would also have to adhere to the conditions stipulated by Eskom and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.