

APPENDIX C8
COMMENTS & RESPONSES REPORT



DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SOUTHWEST OF LUCKHOFF AND KOFFIEFONTEIN

FREE STATE PROVINCE

(DESTEA Ref no.: EMS/1(ii), 9(i)(ii), 19, 12(iv), 13, 15, 16/22/06)

(NEAS Ref no.: FSP/EIA/0000457/2022)

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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The Scoping Phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process for the Agricultural Development and Associated Infrastructure was initiated on **Friday, 03 June 2022**. The Background Information Document (BID) was distributed, and a notification letter served to invite Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register their interest in the project and to submit any comments / queries that they might have. All written comments received during the Scoping Phase of the EIA process have been included in the table below and in **Appendix C** of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The Scoping Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 03 June 2022** to **Monday, 04 July 2022**, and all written comments have been included in the table below and included in Appendix **C6** of the Scoping Report. The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) is available for review and comment from **Friday, 06 January 2023** to **Monday, 06 February 2023**. All written comments received during the 30-day review period will be included as **Appendix C** of the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Note: Comments received have been captured verbatim and have not been edited for typing or grammatical errors.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area	I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
C&R	Comment and Response	EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EA	Environmental Authorisation	BID	Background Information Document
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SR	Scoping Report
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act	S&EIR	Scoping and Environmental Impact Report

1. COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE SCOPING PHASE (INITIAL CONSULTATION & 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD)

1.1. Organs of State

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
1.	The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) - 'the Department' hereby accept the scoping report received on the 15th of July 2022 without conditions and advise the applicant to proceed or continue with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment as per regulation 22.	Ms. B. Mogorosi Environmental Officer Production Grade B: EIM Letter Date: 10 August 2022	
	The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority an environmental impact report as per regulation 23 (1) (a) or (b). Please also note that the activity applied for may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the CA.		
	Please also note that the activity applied for may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the CA.		
2.	As per regulation 21 (1) within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority the scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of atleast 30 days must be submitted and must reflect the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.	Ms. B. Mogorosi Environmental Officer Production Grade B: EIM Letter Date: 14 June 2022	
	Regulation 45 of the EIA regulations cautions that this application will be deemed as having lapsed by the Competent Authority (CA) in this case DESTEA, if the application fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these regulations, unless extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3 (7). Furthermore, potential		

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
	cumulative impacts of the activity applied for should be reflected within the EIA process.		

1.2. Key Stakeholders and I&APs

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
1.	<p><u>Reply Form Question</u> In terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), you are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the projects and to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application (add additional pages if necessary):</p> <p><u>Response</u> Ek is bekommerd oor hoe goedkeuring verkry is vir besproeiing van die grond. Dit is beslis nje bespreings grond nie., Daar sal op n' baie groot deel nie suksosvol met gewasse onder bespreiing geboer kan word nie</p> <p><u>Translated by Savannah Environmental</u> Concerned how approval was received for the irrigation of the ground. Because this is not irrigation grounds, on large portions of lands there will be no success irrigation for crops</p> <p><u>Reply Form Question</u></p> <p>Please list your comments regarding your project selection above (add additional pages if necessary):</p>	<p>Eppie Dalton</p> <p>Landowner</p> <p>Reply Form received:15 June 2022</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Response from the applicant: Based upon the soil studies done by Dr ELLIS and the ploughing certificate we received from the Department of Agriculture, the points raised are unsubstantiated.</p> <p>Response from Social Specialist: Appendix G provides a social-impact assessment report which assesses the socio-economic impacts of the study. The specialist has identified the extent of the impacts at scoping phase at local to national level to vary from low to high in significance. Both positive and negative impacts were identified to be associated with the construction and operation phase of the project. Impacts associated with the project will be further assessed in the EIA Phase of the process, and will include consideration of potential impacts associated with crime, and impacts on adjacent landowners.</p>

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
	<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Die gevog van bogenoemde sal wees, dat die volgende, mislukte projek sal wees end at dit sal veroorsaak dat daar 'n plakkerskamp met gevolglike diefstal, moor den rood sal ontstaan. Die menses al nie vir hulleself kan sorg op sulke swak grond nie</p> <p><u>Translated by Savannah Environmental</u> Because of the above the project would be a failure and a township/Informal settlement that comes with theft, and murder would come up. The people won't be able to take care of themselves on weak grounds like that.</p> <p><u>Comment by respondent at the bottom of the reply form:</u> Hierdie projek grens aan my grand</p> <p><u>Translated by Savannah Environmental</u> The project is adjacent to my property.</p>		