

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

FOR

THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND EXPANSION OF THE
BURGERSDORP CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, WALTER SISULU
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

BASIC ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

DEA REF: PENDING

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1. INTRODUCTION

Terratest (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by BVi Consulting Engineers Eastern Cape (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of the National Department of Public Works (DPW), to conduct an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA), subject to the undertaking of a Basic Assessment process, for the proposed upgrade and expansion of the existing correctional facility located in Burgersdorp, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will comprise the following elements:

- Expansion of the facility through the construction of new holding areas and bachelor housing;
- Establishment of two new soccer fields;
- Relocation of the vegetable growing activities currently occurring on the site;
- Construction of a new low-level river crossing over the existing stream which is situated on the south-western side of the existing prison;
- Demolition of the existing storage dam and its relocation to the site where it is proposed to establish the new vegetable gardens;
- Upgrade of water reticulation infrastructure, comprising:
 - New elevated water storage tank;
 - New borehole top structure;
 - New pump main from borehole to the proposed vegetable garden site;
 - New potable reticulation ring main for the existing prison as well as the new development;
 - New fire water reticulation ring main for the existing prison as well as the new development;
- Sewer expansion and refurbishment comprising:
 - New sewer reticulation network for the existing prison as well as the new development;
 - Pressure jetting to clean the existing sewer reticulation underneath the existing prison building;
- Roadworks and parking upgrades, including:
 - Reconstruction of all existing internal roads and parking areas;
 - Construction of new internal roads and parking areas;
- Stormwater infrastructure upgrades, including:
 - Pressure jet cleaning of all existing stormwater pipes;
 - Replacement of existing, damaged half-round channels; and
 - Construction of new stormwater pipelines.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed development triggers Listed Activities listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The applicable activities are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Listed Activities triggered by the proposed development

NOTICE	NUMBER	LISTED ACTIVITY
GNR 983 as amended	12(iii)(c)	<p><i>The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more; where such development occurs within 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</i></p> <p>The establishment of an access road to the agricultural field is proposed to take place within 32 meters of the edge of a watercourse running through the property.</p>
GNR 983 as amended	19	<p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse.</i></p> <p>The construction of an access road across a watercourse located on the property, will require EA.</p>

GN R 983 as amended	27	<p><i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares, of indigenous vegetation.</i></p> <p>An area of indigenous vegetation, exceeding 1 ha in extent, will need to be cleared to make way for the proposed expansions.</p>
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As the proposed development triggers activities listed in Listing Notices 1, an application for Environmental Authorisation, subject to the undertaking of a Basic Assessment process is required.

The application for EA will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations published in GN R 982 as amended, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

Section 21 (a) – (k) contained within the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998, as amended) describes activities defined as a water use under the Act. These activities may only be undertaken subject to the application for, and issue of, a Water Use License (WUL) or General Authorisation (GA). The Competent Authority in this regard is the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

A Water Use Authorisation (WUA) is required for any construction activity within the extent of a watercourse (i.e. riparian and instream habitat (or within 100 m of the watercourse or drainage line) or the 1:100 year floodline; whichever is the greatest) or within 500 m of a wetland in terms of the following triggers from the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) - Section 21 (c) and/or (i). The relevant WUA must be obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) prior to commencement of construction via the e-WULA system and must be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 40 and 41 of the Act. This application process will run parallel with the EA process.

4. PROJECT ROLE-PLAYERS

The role players in the project are:

APPLICANT	Department of Public Works
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER	Terratest (Pty) Ltd
PROJECT ENGINEERS	BVi Consulting Engineers Eastern Cape (Pty) Ltd
COMPETENT AUTHORITY	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

5. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The property proposed for development is located along the R58 provincial road, just outside the town of Burgersdorp, in the Walter Sisulu Local Municipality. The property on which the development is proposed to occur is Erf 1262, Burghersdorp, and measures approximately 85.6 ha in extent.

The location of the site is indicated in Figure 1.

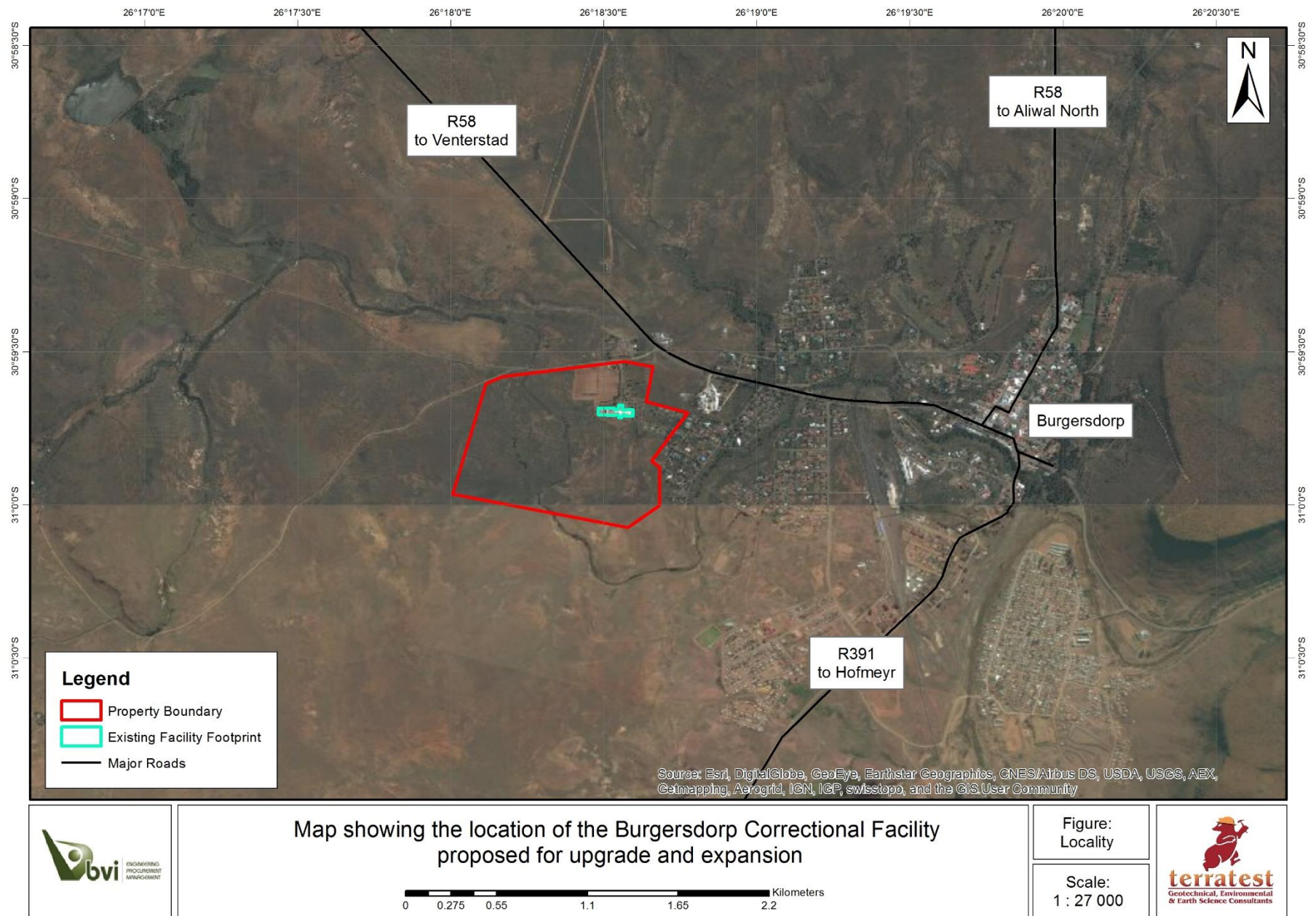


Figure 1: Aerial photo showing the location of the Burgersdorp Correctional Facility proposed for upgrade and expansion.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPE OF WORK

The required Basic Assessment process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of NEMA and the EIA Regulations (2014 as amended).

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) is required to conduct the license application process and manage the public participation process, which is currently underway. As part of this process, Terratest (Pty) Ltd will perform the following:

1. Identify and notify key stakeholders, authorities and municipalities, environmental groups, neighbours and interested or affected parties, hereafter referred to as Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs);
2. Compile a detailed Background Information Document (BID) (this document) for the proposed development, providing details to IAPs of:
 - a. The listed activities that trigger the Licencing process;
 - b. The scope of work;
 - c. The locality and current land use at the site;
 - d. A detailed site description;
 - e. The Basic Assessment process to be followed; and
 - f. The opportunity for IAPs to comment on the project.
3. Advertise the environmental application in a newspaper applicable to the region;
4. Place a notification poster/posters on and surrounding the site;
5. Obtain consent from the landowner to undertake the application process (if necessary);
6. Attend Public Liaison Committee (PLC) meetings and workshops, where necessary;
7. Host a Public meeting, if necessary, providing details of issues identified by the EAP, stakeholders and IAPs;
8. Record all comments of IAPs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by Terratest (Pty) Ltd, in a full Comments and Responses Report, for inclusion into the Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to DEA for decision-making; and
9. Circulate all IAP comments to the project team.

The Basic Assessment Report will be made available to all relevant stakeholders and registered IAPs for comment, before being submitted to the DEA for review and decision-making.

7. HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Every proposed development has the potential to significantly affect the natural, social and economic environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed site. For this reason it is imperative that you as a stakeholder or an IAP comment on the proposed project and **highlight any issues or concerns** that you feel need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation processes.

Should you wish to register as an IAP or should you have any comments regarding the proposed development, please **state your interest** in the proposed development along with any **comments or queries** you may have, on the form provided.

Please return these comments, via email, fax or post to the EAP listed below, making use of the contact details provided.

EAP: Kim Brent
Tel: 041 390 8730
Fax: 041 363 1922
Email: brentk@terratest.co.za

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REGISTRATION FORM
Name: Surname Postal Address: Postal Code: Tel No: Fax No: Cell No: E-mail :
Please state your interest in the proposed project:
Comments: (add extra pages should you need)
Do you require any additional information?
Other parties which you think should be included in the process:
<i>Your comments are highly appreciated, and will be included in the final report to be submitted to the decision-making authorities.</i>
<u>PLEASE RETURN TO:</u> Kim Brent Terratest (Pty) Ltd P.O. Box 27308, Greenacres, 6057 Phone (041) 390 8730 Fax (041) 363 1922 Email: brentk@terratest.co.za

Please Detach and Return to Terratest