

**Proposed Establishment of a New Dairy, 650 000m³
 Dam and the Cultivation of an additional 15 ha of
 Virgin Veld, on The Farm Clovelly No. 16370,
 Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

December 2012



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The Applicant proposes to establish a new dairy, a 650 000 m³ dam, and to cultivate 15 ha of virgin veld on the Farm Clovelly No. 16370, Underberg, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

In terms of the EIA Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), certain Listed Activities are specified for which either a Basic Assessment (GNR 544 and 546) or a Scoping and EIA (GNR 545) is required. In terms of the National Environmental Waste Act (No. 718 of 2009), certain listed activities are specified for which either a Basic Assessment (Category A), or a Scoping and EIA Process (Category B) is required. The following Listed Activities are likely to be applicable to the proposed development:

GNR 544	Part 8	The construction of a hatchery or agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.
GNR 544	Part 11	The construction of:... (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; (x) buildings exceeding 50 square metres in size; or (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a water course, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.
GNR 544	Part 12	The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50000 cubic metres or more, unless such storage falls within the ambit of activity 19 of Notice 545 of 2010;
GNR 544	Part 18	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5 cubic metres from: (i) a watercourse;...
GNR 544	Part 31	The expansion of facilities for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that will exceed— (i) 20 square metres per large stock unit, where the expansion will constitute more than 500 additional units...

GNR 545	Part 14	<i>The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, except where such removal of vegetation is required for: (1) purposes of agriculture or afforestation inside areas identified in spatial instruments adopted by the competent authority for agriculture or afforestation purposes; (2) the undertaking of a process or activity included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the activity is regarded to be excluded from this list; (3) the undertaking of a linear activity falling below the thresholds in Notice 544 of 2010.</i>
GNR 545	Part 19	<i>The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall is 5 metres or higher or where the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 ha or more.</i>
GNR 718: Cat A	3	<i>The storage including the temporary storage of general waste in lagoons.</i>
GNR 718: Cat A	9	<i>The biological, physical or physico-chemical treatment of general waste at a facility that has the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons of general waste per day.</i>
GNR 718: Cat A	17	<i>The storage, treatment or processing of animal manure at a facility with a capacity to process in excess of one ton per day.</i>
GNR 718: Cat A	18	<i>The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this Schedule</i>
GNR 718: Cat A	19	<i>The expansion of facilities of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity, which requires an amendment of an existing permit or license or a new permit or license in terms of legislation governing the release of pollution, effluent or waste.</i>
GNR 718: Cat B	7	<i>The treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of 15 000 cubic metres or more</i>
GNR 718: Cat B	10	<i>The disposal of general waste to land covering an area in excess of 200m².</i>
GNR 718: Cat B	11	<i>The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category B of this Schedule.</i>

Thus a Scoping and EIA Process is required. The Applicant, Clovelly Farming Trust, has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed development.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Applicant currently has a herd size of 900 on the property. The Applicant proposes to increase the herd to 1 500 by establishing a new dairy. The Applicant also proposes to establish a 650 000m³ dam, which will supply water to the farm for irrigation. The project also includes the cultivation of an additional 15 ha of virgin veld.



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?

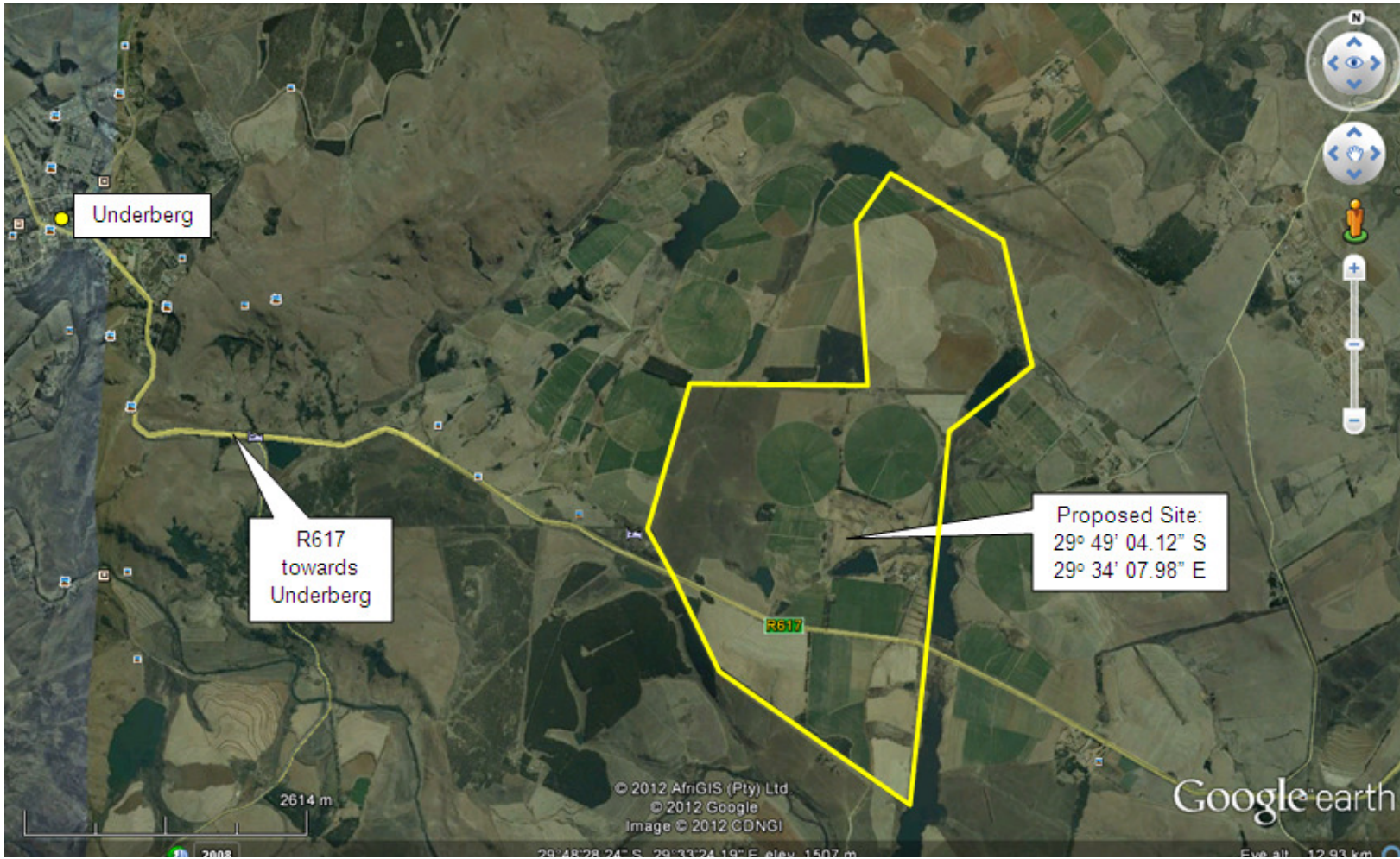


Figure 1: Aerial map showing the location of the property proposed for development and its surrounding land uses (Source Google Earth).



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)?

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS ?

The EIA process can be described as follows:

Submission of Application Form:

Consultation will take place between the EAP and the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA). Following this, their official Application Form will be completed. This, together with relevant maps and declarations from the applicant, EAP and landowner, will be submitted to the DAEA.

Waste License:

The official Waste License Application will be completed.

Scoping Phase:

The purpose of the Scoping process is to identify all potential environmental impacts (positive and negative) associated with the proposed development. This will be achieved by site visits to the property and consultation with the public and relevant Authorities.

The public and relevant Authorities will be notified of the proposed development through adverts, site posters and direct consultation. This will involve meetings and the review of documentation (Draft Scoping Report (DSR)) and invitation to comment. A Final Scoping Report will be compiled and will include comments received on the DSR and a Plan of Study for EIA. This will be forwarded to the DAEA, who will then instruct the EAP to proceed with the EIA Phase, based on the Plan of Study.

EIA Phase:

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be investigated using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature and assessment of concerns from Authorities and the public.

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence. Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the EIA Report. The EIA Report will be circulated to I&APs for comment and a final version of the EIA Report will then be submitted to the DAEA.

Authority Decision

The EIA Report will be used as the basis for the decision, by DAEA, on whether the project should be approved or not. The DAEA can refuse permission, or grant permission for the development to proceed.



WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the EIA Process:

- ◆ Biodiversity impacts;
- ◆ Downstream impacts from dam construction;
- ◆ Soil erosion; and
- ◆ Stormwater management.

