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**PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE 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**

Ref No: DC/0002/2013

Applicant: The Clovelly Farming Trust

Purpose of this Public Meeting is to:

- Provide information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the proposed project.
- Describe the Environmental Authorisation Process.
- Present the major concerns raised to date regarding the proposed development.
- Give I&APs an opportunity to raise any additional issues which should be addressed.

Property Description

- The Farm Clovelly No. 16370, Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal.
- The property is approximately 809 ha in extent.
- The property is bound on the north by the R617 Road, on the east by the D163 Road, on the west by the railway track, on the northwest by a mountain / hill and a railway track.
- The site is accessed via the R617 Road.

Development Description

- 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.

Legislation

- In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under Section 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) published in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 2010, the proposed development triggers Listed Activities published in Government Notice No R. 544 and of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No 59 of 2008) and published in Government Notice No. R. 718 of 2009:

GNR 544	Part 8	<i>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.</i>
GNR 544	Part 11	<i>The construction of:...</i> <i>(i) canals;</i> <i>(ii) channels;</i> <i>(iii) bridges;</i> <i>(iv) dams;</i> <i>(x) buildings exceeding 50 square metres in size; or</i> <i>(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.</i>
GNR 544	Part 12	<i>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;</i>
GNR 544	Part 18	<i>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> <i>(i) a watercourse;...</i>
GNR 544	Part 31	<i>The expansion of facilities for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that will exceed—</i> <i>(i) 20 square metres per large stock unit, where the expansion will constitute more than 500 additional units...</i>
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:</i> <i>(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;</i> <i>(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.

Service Provision

- **Water**
 - The farm has existing water rights.
- **Electricity**
 - Electricity is already available on the property and will be extended from established overhead power lines.
- **Waste and Refuse Removal**
 - The disposal of refuse will be the responsibility of the Applicant. The Environmental Management Programme will ensure that waste is recycled where possible, and all non-recyclable waste will be transported to the nearest permitted landfill site.
- **Sewage / Waste Water**
 - Septic tanks and soakaway systems.
 - Slurry Lagoon.

Public Participation to Date

Adverts

- Adverts were placed in the Witness (English) and in the Echo (Zulu) on Thursday, 15 November 2012.

Site Posters

- Site posters, in both English and Zulu, were placed at the entrance to the property and on the main road on 14 November 2012.

Background Information Document

- A Background Information Document (BID) was circulated on 11 December 2012 informing all Interested and Affected Parties that a Basic Assessment Process was to be undertaken in respect of the proposed development.
- The BID provided details of the aims and processes involved as part of the Basic Assessment Process and invited all Interested and Affected Parties to register on the project and provide preliminary comments on the proposal.
- A number of comments were received in response to the adverts, site posters and BID. These are tabulated and responded to below.

COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE CIRCULATION OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, ADVERTS AND SITE POSTERS.

I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>Andrew Ferendinos KZN Crane Foundation 18 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please register the KZN Crane Foundation as an Interested and Affected Party. • The area of veld to be transformed is fairly small, although this will be happening on a farm which is already fairly extensively cultivated. • The KZN Crane Foundation is aware that at times fairly large numbers of Crowned Cranes can at times be found on neighbouring properties (not sure of this farm). • Perhaps wrongly I believe that the development proposal is unlikely to alter this situation. • We are however, concerned about the loss of possible nesting sites for Cranes since dams are almost always located in wetlands - which are prime habitat for Cranes. • We are further concerned that the loss of wetland habitat in particular will accelerate climate change. Wetlands are regarded as being amongst the most important natural carbon sinks known. According to an economic evaluation of the ecosystem services of the World's major natural biomes undertaken by the economist Costanza (and others) some wetland types even outperform forests in terms of the value of the ecosystems goods and services they provide free to society. • It is within this context that we recommend to the applicant and his professional team that they provide a thorough evaluation what can be done to mitigate the dams potential environmental impacts, particularly on the natural environment. • We can make any number of suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islands for bird roosting, - Earthworks to create shallows where water loving vegetation can thrive, - Not planting so many trees next to the dams edge, - Retaining some natural veld near the dams for wildlife (especially birds) to forage in. • No doubt you will be able to do a more professional job than I of identifying practical mitigatory measures and we look forward to reviewing the Basic Assessment Report in this regard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • A Biodiversity Assessment will be commissioned as part of the EIA Phase. • Noted. A Wetland Assessment will be commissioned as part of the EIA Phase. • See above responses. Specialist input will be available during the EIA Phase. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. The EIA Report will provide mitigatory measures. We are not doing a Basic Assessment Process.

I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a matter of interest it would be appreciated if you could advise as to Mr Turner's involvement in conservation matters, is he a member of a local conservancy? • Does he take any steps to protect the natural areas on his farm, etc? • It may seem nosy but it helps an environmental organisation like our own to determine if it is likely the applicant will implement any measures contained in an Environmental Management Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be established during the EIA. • This will be established during the EIA. • An EMP is a legally binding document, thus Mr. Turner will abide by the contents of the EMP.
<p>Rosanne Clark Sani Wildlife 26 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We in Sani Wildlife wish to express concerns about the breaking up of any veld. We feel that this is a fast diminishing biome and needs to be kept intact where ever possible. Although we are sympathetic to the needs of farmers and their need to expand we would urge them to look at other areas which could be leased, where veld has been degraded and/or existing arable land not being used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be investigated as part of the EIA Phase.
<p>Carolyn Schwegman WESSA 11 February 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed activities require environmental authorization following scoping and an environmental impact assessment – please keep WESSA informed throughout the process. • While recognizing the importance of an economically sustainable farming enterprise cumulative impacts of cultivation of virgin veld and loss of wetlands is a concern and the loss of habitat and ecosystem services needs to be offset. With respect to specific requirements for critically endangered species such as Cranes WESSA supports the suggestions put forward by the KZN Crane Foundation in its email dated 18 January 2013 with respect to recreating habitat around the new dam. In addition we offer the following – • Wetland offsets must be looked and WESSA supports Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal in its 'no net loss' policy; • Cultivation. The loss of 15 ha of virgin ground must be looked at not only from species diversity within an altered landscape but also how loss of the area impacts on connectivity and ecological linkages. Again, a no net loss should be the aim; • Waste Management. While it is generally acknowledged that harnessing biogas is the way of the future it appears not to have been readily accepted to date, and understandably costs may be high, however the state of the environment indicates a need for change and best practice options must be fully evaluated with a demonstrated intention to implement such options. We 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. • Noted. Animal waste is re-used on the property. The lands on which it is applied is not in close proximity to a water course.

I&AP	COMMENT	RESPONSE
	<p>trust that re-use of animal waste after treatment is already practiced with monitoring for impacts on water resources undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We look forward to receiving further information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted.



Specialist Studies

A number of specialists will have input into the identification and assessment of impacts associated with the proposed development.

- **Wetland Assessment** – determination of the boundaries of wetlands and drainage lines and assessment of the ecological functioning of the wetland system;
- **Cultural Heritage Assessment** – assessment of the possible presence of graves, archaeological relics, cultural objects and San Rock Art (subject to request from Amafa KwaZulu-Natal, the Provincial Heritage Authorities);
- **Biodiversity Assessment** – the assessment of the presence of key faunal species and important habitats e.g. nesting, breeding, foraging areas as well as assessment of the site in terms of indigenous botanical diversity, species composition and identification of endangered vegetation communities;
- **Engineers Design Report** – for both the dairy expansion and the dam;
- **Geotechnical Report** – to confirm that the dairy is suitably placed; and
- **Stormwater Management Plan** – to ensure appropriate management of stormwater from the Dairy.

Way Forward

A summary of the comments received and responses given at this Public Meeting will be compiled and circulated to all I&APs. Opportunity will be provided for I&APs to comment on this document. A summary of the comments received and responses given at this Public Meeting will be compiled and included in the Scoping Report.

- Following this, a Draft Scoping Report will be compiled. This document will be made available for comment to all registered I&APs for a period of forty days.
- All comments received will be responded to and included in a final version of the Scoping Report, which will then be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA).
- Once the Scoping Report has been accepted, the EIA phase will commence. A second Public Meeting will be held as part of the EIA Phase, during which the results of all Specialist Studies will be presented.

Thank you for your attendance.

Please forward any comments or queries to Roxanne Oelofse

(roxanne@greendoorgroup.co.za).