ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The assessment of the impacts has been conducted according to a synthesis of criteria required by the integrated environmental management procedure. (From DEAT Guideline Document)

NATURE OF IMPACT

This is an appraisal of the type of effect the proposed activity would have on the affected environmental component. It's description should include what is being affected, and how.

EXTENT

The physical and spatial size of the impact. This is classified as:

Local
The impacted area extends only as far as the activity, eg a foot print.
Site
The impact could affect the whole, or a measurable portion of the above mentioned properties.
Regional
The impact could affect the area including the neighbouring farms the transport routes and the adjoining towns.

DURATION

The lifetime of the impact; this is measured in the context of the life-time of the proposed base.

Short term
The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through natural process in a span shorter than any of the phases.
Medium term
The impact will last up to the end of the phases, whereafter it will be entirely negated.
Long term
The impact will continue or last for the entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter.
Permanent
The only class of impact which will be non-transitory. Mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.

INTENSITY

Is the impact destructive, or benign. Does it destroy the impacted environment, alter it's functioning, or slightly alter it. These are rated as:

Low
The impact alters the affected environment in such a way that the natural processes or functions are not affected.

Medium
The affected environment is altered, but natural, cultural and social functions and processes continue, albeit in a modified way.

High
Natural, cultural and social functions or processes of the affected environment are altered to the extent where it will temporarily or permanently cease.

This will be a relative evaluation within the context of all the activities and the other impacts within the framework of the project.

PROBABILITY

This describes the likelihood of the impacts actually occurring. The impact may occur for any length of

time during the life cycle of the activity, and not at any given time. The classes are rated as follows:

Improbable
The possibility of the impact to materialise is very low, due either to the circumstances, design or experience.
Probable
There is a distinct possibility that the impact will occur
Highly probable
It is most likely that the impacts will occur
Definite
The impact will take place regardless of any prevention plans.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance is determined through a synthesis of impact characteristics. Significance is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both physical extent and time scale, and therefore indicates the level of mitigation required.

The classes are rated as follows:

No significance
the impact does not influence the proposed development and/or environment in any way;

Low significance
the impacts will have a minor influence on the proposed development and/or the environment. These impacts do not require modification of the project design or alternatives modification.

Medium significance
the impacts will have a moderate influence on the proposed development and/or the environment. The impacts can be ameliorated by modification in the project design or implementation of effective mitigation measures.

High significance
the impacts will have a major influence on the proposed development and/or the environment. These impacts could have the “No-Go” implication on portions of the proposed development regardless of any mitigation measures that could be implemented.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts result in an additive impact where they add to the impact which is caused by other similar impacts, or an interactive impact i.e. where a cumulative impact is caused by different impacts that combine to form a new kind of impact