

15 July 2015

Dear Stakeholder,

**WRITTEN NOTICE TO ALL POTENTIAL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF THE SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING (S&EIR) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH SPEED PROVING GROUND FOR VEHICLE TESTING BY MERCEDES BENZ SOUTH AFRICA, UPINGTON NORTHERN CAPE.**

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982 (04 December 2014) and Section 24(J) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) of the S&EIR being undertaken, to all potential interested and affected parties (I&APs), including:

- i. The owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;
- ii. The occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
- iii. Owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
- iv. The municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;
- v. The municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
- vi. Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
- vii. Any other party as required by the competent authority.

Mercedes-Benz South Africa (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop a High Speed Proving Ground for vehicle testing for the Mercedes-Benz Research and Development Team in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. It is proposed that the Proving Ground will operate six months of the year (October to April) and will be used for heat-relevant vehicle tests. The establishment of the facility will enable Mercedes Benz to undertake testing of vehicles under hot climate conditions in parallel to the European Winter Season under specified technical conditions in terms of testing modules.

Prior to the commencement of the proposed project, the following legal requirements must be met:

- An Environmental Authorisation for activities identified in terms of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 (04 December 2014) of the NEMA;
- A Water Use License for activities identified in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998);
- A Mining Right in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA);

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

Notice is provided as per Regulation 41(2) of GNR 983, GNR 984 and GNR 985 that an S&EIR process has been applied for. The listed activity numbers associated with the Project are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain the details of these listed activities, please consult the Site Notice or contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), details provided below.

### **WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

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Legislative Framework	GNR	Activity	Activity Description
NEMA	GNR 983	Activity 14	The development of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.
		Activity 24(ii)	The development of a road with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres
	GNR 984	Activity 15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation
		Activity 17	Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining right as contemplated in section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource, including activities for which an exemption has been issued in terms of section 106 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002).
		Activity 21	Any activity including the operation of that activity associated with the primary processing of a mineral resource including winning, reduction, extraction, classifying, concentrating, crushing, screening and washing but excluding the smelting, beneficiation, refining, calcining or gasification of the mineral resource in which case activity 6 in this Notice applies.
	GNR 985	Activity 11(iii)	The development of tracks or routes the testing, for recreational use or outdoor racing motor powered of vehicles excluding conversion of existing tracks or routes for the testing, recreational use or outdoor racing of motor powered vehicles. <b>Northern cape:</b> Within areas of indigenous vegetation outside urban areas.
NWA	Section 21	Water Use a	Taking of water from a water resource
		Water Use b	Storing Water
		Water Use c	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course
		Water Use i	Altering the bed, bank, course or characteristics of a watercourse
		Water Use g	Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
NHRA	Section 38 (1)	Activity a	The construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length.

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		Activity c	Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent;</li> <li>■ Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or</li> <li>■ Involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or</li> <li>■ The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority</li> </ul>
		Activity d	The re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m <sup>2</sup> in extent.

WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by the General Planner IngenAix GmbH on behalf of Mercedes-Benz South Africa as the independent EAP to undertake the S&EIR Process in an independent, diligent and transparent manner. The purpose of this notification is to provide you (as an identified stakeholder/I&AP) with sufficient details of the application and to encourage participation in the stakeholder engagement process for the project.

Please refer to **Appendix A** for a locality map of the proposed project. Should you wish to receive additional information regarding the proposed project or have any queries, please respond with your name, contact details and interest in the project on the Registration and Comments Sheet attached as **Appendix B** and return to WSP at the contact details provided below.

Kind regards,

Name: Claire Dendy  
Tel: +27 11 361 1334  
Fax: +27 11 361 1381  
Email: Claire.Dendy@wspgroup.co.za  
Address: PO Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152

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## Appendix A - Locality Map

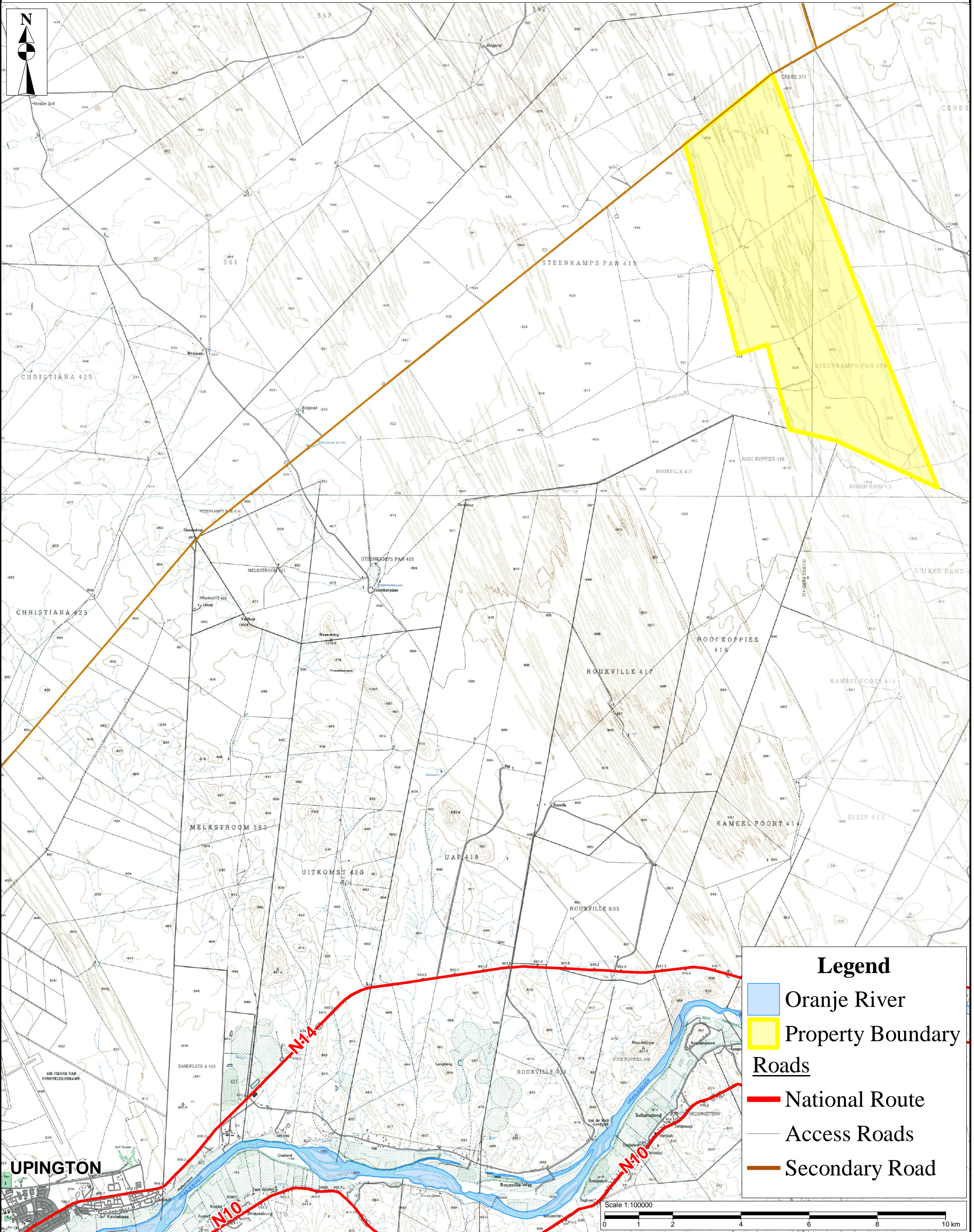
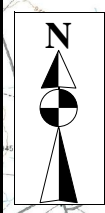
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MERCEDES BENZ SOUTH AFRICA - HIGH SPEED PROVING GROUND



**Legend**

- Oranje River
- Property Boundary

**Roads**

- National Route
- Access Roads
- Secondary Road

Project:	Mercedes Benz S.A. High Speed Proving Ground
Project No :	019606.P
Drawn by :	Estelle McBeth
Reviewed by :	Claire Dendy

<b>Data Source :</b>	South African Department of Rural Development and Land Reform - Chief Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information
<b>Projection:</b>	TVM Lo21

<b>Date:</b>	2 July 2015
<b>Figure No: 1</b>	Locality



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## Appendix B - Registration and Comments Sheet

**WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

WSP House  
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# Registration and Comments Sheet

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH SPEED PROVING GROUND FOR VEHICLE TESTING  
BY MERCEDES BENZ SOUTH AFRICA, UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE**

To be a registered stakeholder and ensure all comments and queries regarding this project are accurately documented and addressed please forward your comments and contact details with the attached response sheet to:

**Claire Dendy**  
**WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd**  
**Address:** P.O. Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152  
**Tel:** 011 361 1334    **Fax:** 011 361 1381  
**Email:** Claire.Dendy@WSPGroup.co.za

*Please insert your personal details below:*

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Organisation &amp; Designation:</b>				
<b>Address:</b>				
<b>Tel:</b>				
<b>Fax:</b>				
<b>E-mail:</b>				
<b>I would like my notifications by: (please tick the appropriate box)</b>	Letter (mail)	E-mail	Fax	Telephone

*In terms of GNR 983 (EIA process regulations) please disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in the granting or rejection of the application for environmental authorisation:*

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*Please list your interest in the project and comments below:*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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