



# MP STREAM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY PLANNERS (PTY) LTD

Reg No: 2021/318370/07

19 January 2023

Mr. J.J Terblanche  
Terblanche Orange (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 256  
Karino  
1204

Dear Mr. Terblanche

## **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FARMING ACTIVITIES ON PORTION 5 OF THE FARM DUMA 201-JU, CITY OF MBOMBELA, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

With this letter we acknowledge receipt of your comments received on 17 October 2022 and confirm that your comments have been included within the Draft Scoping Report which will be distributed for public review and comment during the course of January 2023.

With regards to the concerns raised, a meeting was undertaken with the applicant in order to provide response to some of the concerns raised. Please see below response to the formal correspondence received:

### Access:

The applicant confirmed that the servitude road exists over your property in order to access Portion 5 of Duma 201-JU and it was confirmed that a meeting was held between Terblanche Orange (Pty) Ltd and Aeonik Farms Sequoia (Pty) Ltd to discuss and resolve the concerns. Aeonik Farms Sequoia (Pty) Ltd agreed to assist with the maintenance of the access road from the house upwards. The applicant also indicated that the harvesting of nuts would only be taking place three – five years from today which will result to increased traffic on the access road for which there is a servitude. Aeonik Farms then indicated that further agreement for more frequent maintenance will then be undertaken.

### Safety and Security:

Your concern regarding safety and security is duly noted and Aeonik Farm is in agreement that safety and security is of high importance. Aeonik Farms indicated that brief discussions were held with Terblanche Orange (Pty) Ltd and confirmed that the same Security Company will be appointed for Portion 5 of Duma 201-JU, which is currently appointed for Terblanche Orange. This appointment will be undertaken within the next year and cameras will also be extended. Aeonik Farms also indicated

that ID Cards for all staff have been issued to confirm employment by the company. The applicant indicated that the company is currently at the start of their development and is in the process of taking active steps to improve the safety and security for all.

Water:

The applicant currently has 48 000m<sup>3</sup> of water rights per annum and indicated that with the current cultivated areas, only 11 232m<sup>3</sup> per annum is being used for irrigation. It was noted that most of the orchards were planted on a semi-dry principle where most of the irrigation is being done from March – September. Sufficient rainfall is received from October to February and therefore orchards are not irrigated during this period. At present, the applicant is only irrigating for 4 months during the year which results to 2 808m<sup>3</sup> per irrigation month, and 11 232m<sup>3</sup> per annum. Based on this irrigation principle, Aeonik Farms still have 36 768m<sup>3</sup> per annum available for irrigation. It must also be noted that macadamia trees have a water withholding during in May/June for the trees to hibernate from 4 years onwards. With most of the orchards planted on a semi-dry principle and the correct implementation of water management measures, sufficient water would be available for the expansion of the orchards as proposed.

Ecology:

An Ecological Assessment was undertaken as part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment currently being undertaken and this report will form part of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be shared for public comment during the month of March 2023. This Ecological Assessment led to the identification of specific areas within the proposed development area, which could be considered for agricultural purposes. Aeonik Farms also confirmed that the remainder of the 140Ha of land will be rehabilitated for wildlife and game and all alien invasive species will be removed and maintained for this purpose.

Soil:

As part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process, an application was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for the cultivation of virgin soil on the areas proposed for agriculture. The DALRD issued an approval for the cultivation of the areas proposed as the DALRD found the soil slope of the specified areas to be suitable for agricultural purposes. Confirmation of the statement above will be included within the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

We trust that the above response provides some clarity to the concerns raised.

Yours sincerely



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**Sibusiso Langa**

*Environmental Consultant*