



This document serves to provide you with information regarding the proposed Ntusi Dairy project in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga and invites you to get involved in the environmental impact assessment process.

Background to the Project

Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) and the National Empowerment Fund, plans to develop a dairy on portions 3 and 4 of the farm Klipspruit 137 in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga.

Ntusi Dairy (Pty) Ltd consists of the Ngema Family Trust, Mr. Mangaliso Ngema, who is the project champion, as well as the indirect beneficiaries, being the households residing on the Ngema family farm.

The project will be implemented on land owned by 57 direct beneficiaries belonging to the Ngema Family Trust. The experience and knowledge in dairy farming will be

brought in by Agricultural Consulting Services (ACS). ACS will be contracted to assist with the establishment, management of the entire dairy farm operation.

The farm will include a total herd of 650 cows in full operation; however this will be phased over the years with the capacity to produce a minimum of approximately 8,000 litres of milk per day. The project will include 400 cows at initial phase, and will be increased on an annual basis.

Project Description

The project site is approximately 350Ha in extent and is situated on portions 3 and 4 of the farm Klipspruit 137 in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga (please refer to locality plan attached).

This project includes the environmental impact assessment for the following activities:

- **Paddock outlay of 350 hectares**
- **Dairy parlour and Calf rearing unit**
- **Heifer rearing unit**
- **Feed storage / workshop and implement sheds:** The property has no facilities at all and all the shedding required will have to be built.
- **Staff housing and Slurry dams:** There will have to be a minimum of two staff houses built to accommodate herdsmen who will be responsible for the safe keeping of the cows. Management housing will have to be hired. Slurry dams will be required and are provided for in the capital budget. A slurry pump will be installed to enable spreading of slurry onto the pastures.
- **Access roads and cattle walkways / passages:** Roads and walkways with proper drainage will be built as they are critically important for a pasture based dairy operation.

Legal Requirement

The proposed project triggers activities listed in the National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998) (as amended) and the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 and therefore this project requires authorisation from the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (MDEDET) as well as the Mpumalanga Pollution and Waste Department (MPWD).

The following activities (and a description of each) as listed in GN R544 are triggered by the proposed project:

Activity 4

The proposed activity is expected to commence with an initial herd of 400 cattle thereafter targeting a total herd of 650 cattle phased in over a number of years. Activity 56 of Listing 1(i.e. "Phased activities for all activities listed in this schedule, which commenced on or after the effective date of this schedule, where one phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold") does not exclude activity 4 as triggered item, therefore increasing the herd size to 650 cattle renders activity applicable

Activity 8

The construction of a hatchery or agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2000 square metres or more. The area that will be transformed will be approximately 1ha in extent.

Activity 9

The construction of bulk water/effluent pipelines to/from the proposed development to a possible municipal connection point. Authorisation is needed when infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water or sewage exceeds 1000m in length and has a diameter of more than 0.36m or a peak throughput of more than 120lt per second. Authorisation would however not be needed if the infrastructure is located within a road reserve.

Activity 11

Possible construction of any structures or infrastructures within 32m of a watercourse.

Activity 22

The possible construction of new roads to and from this proposed Dairy Farm.

Activity 23

The transformation of vacant, undeveloped or derelict land outside an urban area that is bigger than 1 ha but less than 20 ha.

The exact area to be transformed is still unknown, but should this area be more than 1 ha, this activity will be triggered.

The following activities (and a description of each) as listed in GN R546 are also triggered by the proposed project:

Activity 12

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation which falls within a critical biodiversity area, where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

Accordingly, the proposed project will require the submission of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) as outlined in sections 21 to 25 of Regulations 543.

The following activities (and a description of each) as listed in GN R718 (Waste Activities) are triggered by the proposed project:

Category A

(10) The processing of waste at biogas installations with a capacity for receiving five

tonnes or more per day of animal waste, animal manure, abattoir waste or vegetable waste, including the construction of a facility and associated structures and infrastructure for such processing of animal manure and abattoir waste.

(11) The treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of more than 2000 cubic metres but less than 15000 cubic metres.

(17) The storage, treatment or processing of animal manure, including the composting of animal manure, at a facility that has a throughput capacity in excess of 30 tonnes per month (1 ton per day), including the construction of a facility and associated structures and infrastructure for such storage, treatment and processing.

(18) The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated activity).

Public Participation

You have been identified as a potential Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) for this project, either because you represent an affected organisation or because of your proximity/location to the proposed project. Public participation is a key component of this environmental process and will take place at various stages throughout the project. This process will include the following steps:

- Advertising the project in the local newspaper (**Isolezwe 27 April**)

2012 and Excelsior on 26 April 2012);

- Distributing this background information document to all identified stakeholders;
- Making the draft BAR available for review in the Public Library, on the Aurecon website and informing the public regarding the availability of the Draft BAR for a 40 day comment period for the EIA process and 60 days for the waste process during which the public has the opportunity to review the draft document and raise issues or concerns;
- Finalising the Draft BAR, taking cognisance of comments received from I&APs, key stakeholders and relevant organs of state;
- Making the Final BAR available in the Public Library and on the Aurecon website for a 21 day comment period;
- Inviting all I&APs to comment on the report via letters and/or e-mail; and
- Submitting the Final BAR to the MDEDET Environmental Impact management and Pollution and Waste management to inform their decision about the proposed development.

All comments received will be compiled in a Comments and Responses Report that will also be submitted to MDEDET.

Way Forward

If you would like to register as an I&AP for this environmental process or submit any issues and/or concerns on the Draft BAR, please submit your comments by fax, post or email to Aurecon, by no later than **24 May 2012**. If you have any queries, comments or require any other assistance, please contact Anne-Mari Venter of Aurecon at the details provided below.

Public Participation Office: Aurecon

Anne-Mari Venter

Tel: (013) 752 7055

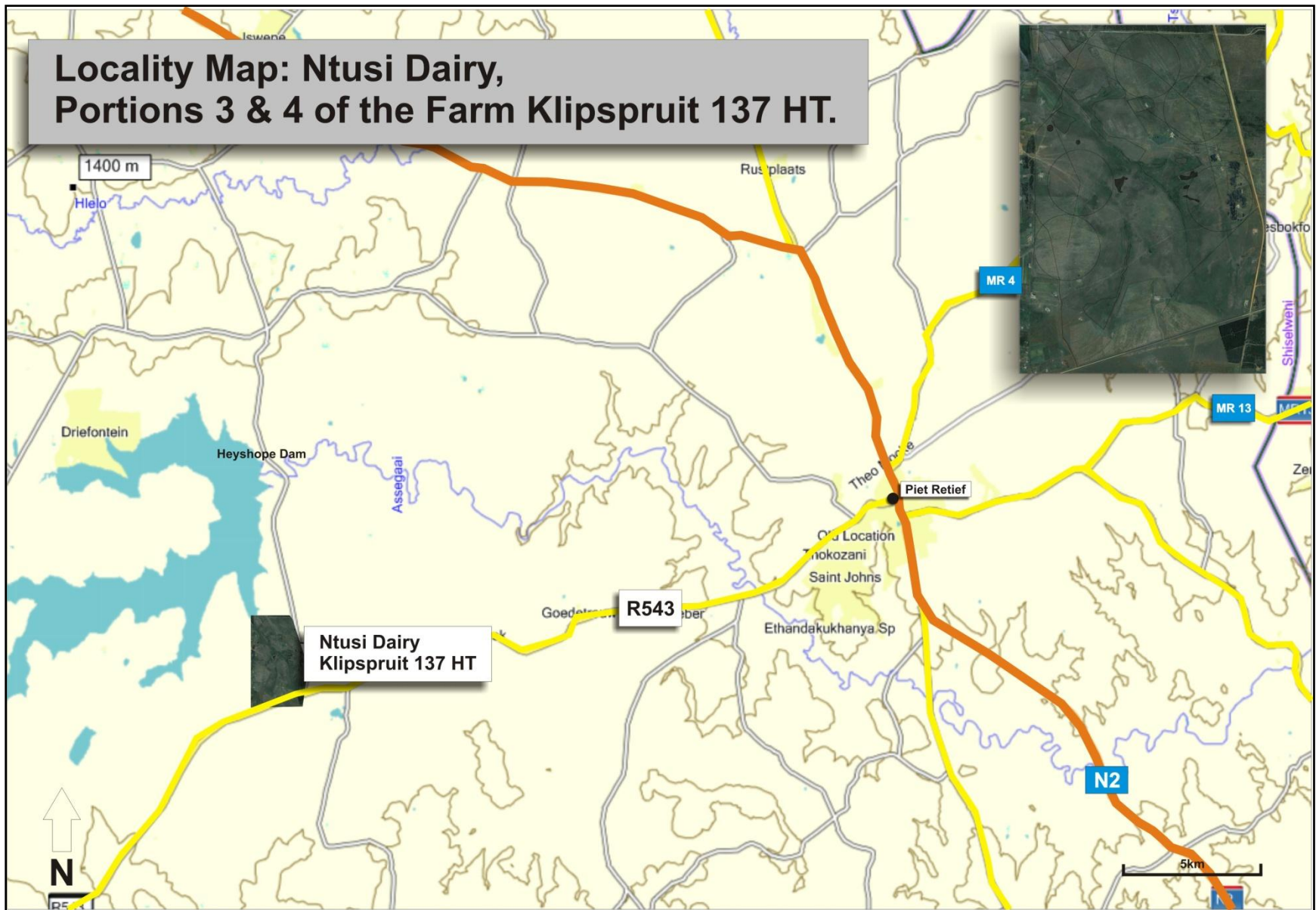
Fax: (013) 753 2216

Email: anne-

mari.venter@af.aurecongroup.com

PO Box 3135, Nelspruit, 1200

Locality Map: Ntusi Dairy, Portions 3 & 4 of the Farm Klipspruit 137 HT.



To the proposed Ntusi Dairy project-Piet Retief Mpumalanga

Leading. Vibrant. Global.
 MDEDET REF.No.: 17/2/3/GS-96
 MDEDET WASTE DEPT. REF
 No:17/4/WL/MP303/12/01
 AURECONs REF. NO.: 108199



Title _____ Name _____
 Surname _____
 Company Name/Interest
 group _____
 Postal or Residential
 Address _____
 Town/City _____
 Postal Code _____
 Tel () _____
 Cell _____
 Fax () _____
 E-mail
 address _____

In accordance with NEMA – Section 58 no. 1 – A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority, provided that (c) – the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

Please indicate with an x whether you would like to be kept informed of the EIA process

YES, I would like to informed.	YES
NO, I am not interested	NO

Should you know of anyone else who may be interested in obtaining information with regards to the development’s EIA process, please provide us with their contact details below:

- Name:** _____
Company: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
- Name:** _____
Company: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

Thank you for your participation!

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be

submitted to the decision-making authority

Please complete and return this response sheet to the Public Participation office:

P.O. Box 3135

Nelspruit

1200

Fax: (013) 753 2116

E-mail: anne-mari.venter@arecongroup.com

Feel free to phone us on (013) 755 2218, should you not have access to fax or e-mail