

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE GA-RANKUWA CEMETERY IN GA-RANKUWA, TSHWANE, GAUTENG INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

AURECON REFERENCE NO: 111378

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties in the Basic Assessment process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed project.

The purpose of the Basic Assessment is to identify and evaluate feasible alternatives and potential impacts, and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The decision-making authority is the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

Please register yourself as an interested and affected party and submit your comments on the proposed project.

Either complete a Response Form, write a letter, call or e-mail the public participation office.

Public Participation office

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YOUR COMMENT IS IMPORTANT

Your comment on any aspect of the proposed project, the Basic Assessment, its public participation process and issues that need to be investigated, will help focus the process and assist the authorities in their decision-making.

Background

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality - Environmental Management Services Department to provide environmental services for the Basic Assessment (BA) for the proposed expansion of the existing cemetery site located on the Remainder of Portion 3 of the farm Sjambok Zyn Oude Kraal 258 JR in Ga-Rankuwa. The proposed site is currently operating as a cemetery; however, the existing cemetery has reached full capacity. The proposed area of expansion measures approximately 11.83 Ha.

Legal Requirements

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Regulation GN 983 of 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), lists activities which may not commence without a BA process and environmental authorisation from the competent authority, in this case the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD).

The relevant listed activities read as follows:

- **GN 983 of 2014, Activity 44:** "The expansion of cemeteries by 2500 square metres or more".

What is a Basic Assessment?

A BA is a short environmental impact assessment process used to identify and assess potential negative and positive consequences of a proposed project and recommend ways to enhance positive impacts and to avoid or reduce negative impacts. The BA process will include:

- a) Stakeholder engagement;
- b) Assessment of current site conditions;
- c) A description of the proposed activity;
- d) Description of the environment which may be affected;
- e) Description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity and identification of alternatives.

Authority and stakeholder comment incorporation into documentation will occur between phases e) and f).

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f) Description and assessment of the significance of environmental impacts.

Authority decision-making process and a public appeal opportunity will occur after this phase.

Process to be followed

The BA process as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014 is to be undertaken for this project. During this phase (which is currently running) it is usual to consult with:

- Relevant authorities at various levels;
- Relevant stakeholders;
- The proponent; and
- The public at large.

The following activities will be utilised to achieve the aforementioned objectives:

- Advertising on-site and in local newspapers (The Citizen and Noweto Rekord);
- Supplying all affected parties with the opportunity to comment and register; and
- Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) opportunity to comment of the Draft BA Report (BAR) prior to submission.

Once the authorisation has been received letters will be sent out notifying the registered I&APs of the authorisation and where it will be available to view.

Please note that some project details may change as engineering investigations proceed.

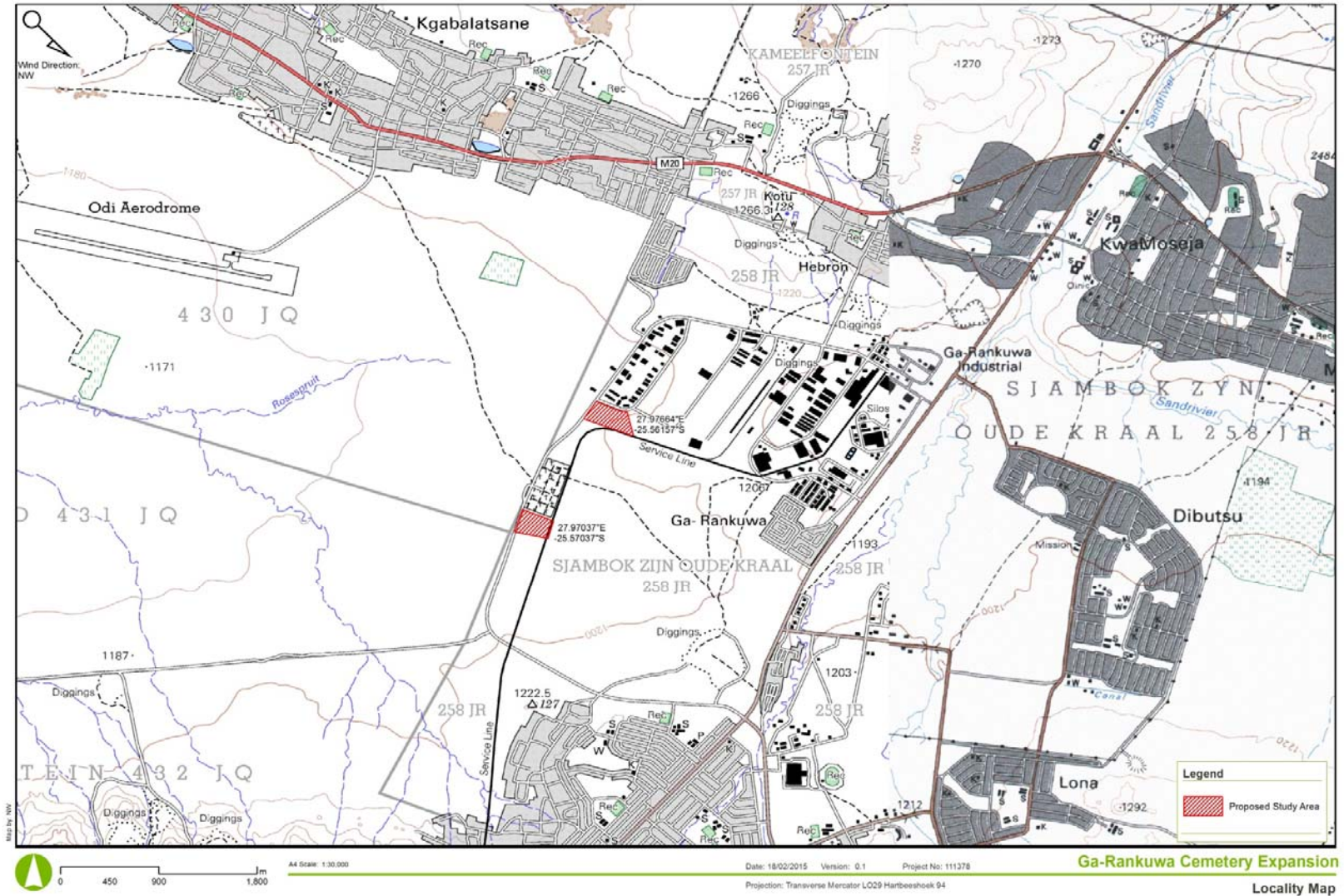


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Ga-Rankuwa cemetery expansion

Environmental Basic Assessment for the
Proposed expansion of the Ga-Rankuwa Cemetery in Ga-Rankuwa,
Tshwane, Gauteng
INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT, March 2015

Please complete and return to Aurecon in order to be included in the
public participation process:

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Natanya.whitehorn@aurecongroup.com

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NUMBER		FAX NUMBER	
CELL NUMBER			
E-MAIL			

Yes, I would like to participate in this Basic Assessment YES

No, I am not interested NO

COMMENTS: (please use separate sheets if you wish)

1. The following issues must be considered in the Basic Assessment process:

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2. Please add the following people / organisations to the mailing list:

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We thank you for your participation