

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE BREEZIE FARM DAM ON THE FARM THE BREEZIE NO. 6921, RAMSGATE, RAY NKONYENI MUNICIPALITY, KZN.

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and Affected Parties “I&APs” regarding the proposed construction of the Breezie Farm Dam located on the Farm Breezie, no. 6921 near Ramsgate, KZN. Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, KZN. Any person, company, authority or other entities that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity can register as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP). This includes, but is not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, NGOs and conservation groups. This document further indicates how you can become involved in the project, receive information, or raise issues which may concern and/or interest you. Green-Scene Environmental was appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner “EAP” for the proposed project.

### STUDY AREA

The proposed project is located on the farm The Breezie no. 6921, Ramsgate, Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, KZN. The site is dominated by commercial agricultural activities. These activities relate to the growing of banana plantations and macadamia nut orchards on land previously used for growing of sugar cane. The areas to the south and northeast of the study area consists of the residential areas associated with Ramsgate area. Access to the proposed site is via existing farm access roads on site.

Dam impoundment area:				
Latitude /Longitude		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South		30	52	24.49
East		30	21	7.19
Dam wall:				
Latitude /Longitude		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
Start	South	30	52	19.02
	East	30	21	9.50
End	South	30	52	25.57
	East	30	21	11.35
Water supply pipeline (from the abstraction point to the proposed dam)				
Latitude /Longitude		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
Start	South	30	52	6.00
	East	30	21	2.17
End	South	30	52	18.88
	East	30	21	9.64



Figure 1: Google Image showing the proposed Breezie Farm Dam.



Figure 2: Google Image showing the proposed project layout.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Doveton Farm (Pty) Ltd is currently expanding their existing macadamia orchards which has resulted in an increase water demand for irrigation. To satisfy this increased demand, the Doveton Farm proposed the construction of a dam and associated infrastructure to supply water for the irrigation of the macadamia orchards.

The proposed project will involve the activities:

- The construction of a dam wall a height of approximately 11.5 m and a length of approximately 200 m spanning an open valley in a northwest / southeast direction.
- The water supply to the dam will be from seasonal tributary of the uVuzana River as well as an existing abstraction point (existing pump and weir) along the uVuzana River from which water will be pumped into the impoundment. The developer has indicated that it is his intention to pump water only during the rainy season or at other times when flow in the uVuzana River is high.
- A new 688 m water supply pipeline from the abstraction point to the proposed Breezie Farm Dam will be constructed along existing gravel farm access roads.
- The capacity of the impoundment area is approximately 250 000 m<sup>3</sup> and will have surface area of approximately 4 ha.

The land use within and surrounding the site is dominated by commercial agricultural activities. These activities relate to the growing of banana plantations and macadamia nut orchards on land previously used for growing of sugar cane. The areas to the south and northeast of the site consists of the residential areas associated with Ramsgate area. Access to the proposed site is via Alford Avenue and existing farm access roads on site.

Surrounding environment as assessed in the Wetland and Ecological assessment conducted by Terratest, dated July 2020.

### Vegetation

The vegetation around the site is classified as KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland (CB3) (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006) which has an original distribution in a broad strip along the KwaZulu-Natal coast, from an area near Mtunzini in the north, past Durban and Margate, to an area in the vicinity of Port Edward in the south. This vegetation type is closely associated with coastal regions and occurs at altitudes below 450 m above sea level. The original extent of the vegetation type has been severely fragmented along this coastal strip due to the cultivation of sugarcane, commercial timber plantations and the establishment of formal and informal urban developments. This fragmentation is very evident in the study area with the disturbances typically being the clearing of vegetation for the establishment of residential houses, associated infrastructure and the establishment of subsistence agricultural fields. The dominant vegetation within the study areas is directly related to the commercial agricultural activities (bananas and macadamia nuts) as well as the remnants of the old sugar cane plantations. A large number of alien invasive species are also present in the disturbed areas and includes *Chromolaena odorata* (Triffid Weed), *Melia azedarach* (Syringa), *Solanum mauritanum* (Bug Weed) and *Psidium guajava* (Guava). The riparian vegetation along the small tributaries of the uVuzana River consists of stands of woody vegetation consisting of *Bridelia micrantha* (Mitzeeri Sweetberry), *Phoenix reclinata* (Cape Date Palm), *Syzygium cordatum* (Umdoni Tree), *Albizia adianthifolia* (Flat-crown Albizia), *Antidesma venosum* (Tassel Berry) and *Voacanga thouarsii* (Wild-frangipani). However, the forest is a Coastal Type (FOz 7), and is not Swamp Forest.

### Freshwater:

The study area is located in an open valley that is drained by small tributaries of the uVuzana River in a south-easterly direction. The valley runs in a west to east direction with the confluence of the small tributaries and the uVuzana River located approximately 700 m upstream of the river's estuary. The runoff from the catchment associated with the study area has been significantly impacted by the presence of large infrastructure (the R61 National Road) and intensive commercial agricultural activities. There are several wetland patches upslope of the dam and which will not be affected, and two within the dam basin. The site is within the catchment of the uVuzana River which is a small system which has perennial flows only at the point close to where it enters its estuary. The wetlands within the basin are thought to be remnants of a single Channelled Valley Bottom site which has been drained and fragmented as a result of agricultural activities, including production of sugar cane and bananas, over a time period of many years. Their combined area is 1.4 ha and they were modelled as a single site with a PES in Category E (Seriously Modified). Inspection found that the old herringbone drains

are still functional and that wet areas are restricted to just some of these. The wetland system is situated on a non-perennial tributary of the uVuzana River.

***The proposed Breezie Farm Dam triggers Listing Notice 1, Activity 12, Activity 19 and Activity 27. Listing Notice 2 Activity 11 and Activity 16. Listing Notice 3 Activity 12 and Activity 14 as per the NEMA 2017 EIA Regulations. As the proposed Breezie Farm Dam is situated within a watercourse a Water Use Licence applied for under Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36, 1998). The project potentially triggers two listed activities 21 (b): Storage of water; 21(c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse and 21(i): Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a water course.***

## REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

Your contributions are important, you can get involved in the process by:

1. Responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. Completing the attached comment form and e-mailing, posting or faxing it to Green-Scene Environmental;
3. In writing contacting or telephoning consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information
4. Reviewing and commenting on the Draft BA Report within the allowed 30-day review period.
5. In terms of the NEMA Regulations (GN 549), you are invited to formally register as I&AP.

# GREEN-SCENE ENVIRONMENTAL



REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM			
Kindly complete this form in detail and return it to: <b>Felicity Swanepoel</b> (071 355 0266) (felicity@green-scene.co.za)			
<b>Personal details (I&amp;AP)</b>			
Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interest		E-mail	
<b>Signature:</b>			
Please tick the appropriate circle:			
1	I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the Environmental process for this project.	YES	NO
2	Non-stakeholder: I would like you to take me off your distribution sheet for the Proposed. I would not like to receive any further information regarding this process.	YES	NO
If answered Yes to question (1), Please answer the questions below.			
What is your main area of interest with regards to the proposed project?			
Do you have any points of concern regarding the proposed project? If "yes", please describe below			
Are there any additional stakeholders who you feel should be consulted with regards to the proposed project? If "yes" please list their names and contact details below:			

*Please note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), I&AP's need to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please register by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.*

**Please add more pages or supporting documentation if necessary**