



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED REIGER PARK EXTENSION 25 ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 4 OF THE FARM KLIPPOORTJE 112 IR

REF NR GAUT 002/19-20/E2490

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR PROPOSED REIGER PARK EXTENSION 25

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1. Introduction

Rand Leases Properties (Pty) Ltd appointed Lokisa Environmental Consulting CC to obtain authorisation from the relevant Environmental Authority for the proposed development of a mixed-uses residential township with associated uses on the Remaining Extent of Portion 4 of the Farm Klippoortje No.112 IR measuring 37.214 hectares in extent.

The Scoping and Environmental Impact reporting process (S&EIR) will apply to this application. The process is done in terms of Government Notice Regulations (GNR) No. 982, 983, 984 and 985 of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended). The EIA Regulations were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act ('NEMA', Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended).

2. Purpose of this document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed Reiger Park Extension 25 development.

I&APs are invited to engage in the S&EIR process by submitting their viewpoint and constructive suggestions to the project team. I&AP participation will help in identifying potential environmental and social impacts to be assessed as part of the S&EIR process for this application.

3. Locality

The site is situated approximately 740m to the south of Commissioner Street, to the east of Elsburg Road, and north of the existing Reiger Park residential area.



Figure: Locality map

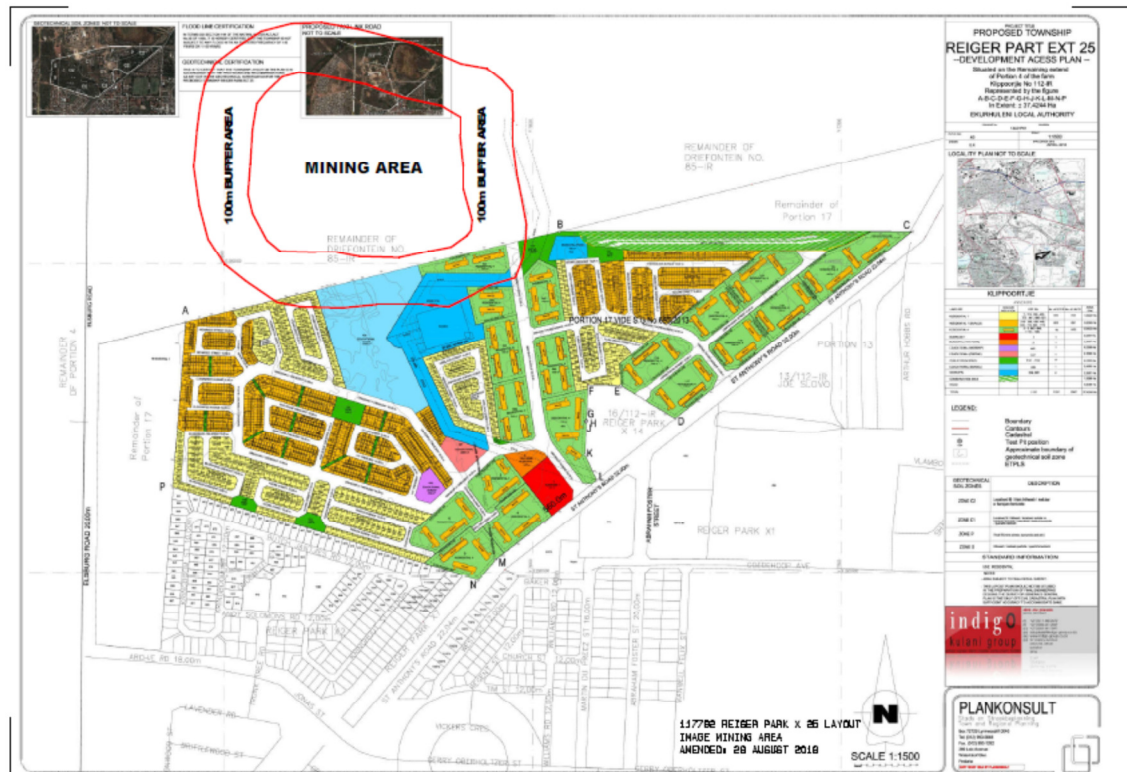
4. Project Description

The proposed development is to include the following uses:

- Residential;
- Business
- Private and Public Open Space,
- Institutional/Educational
- Municipal
- Taxi rank

The related services that will be required include:

- roads and access,
- storm water reticulation, and
- sewage reticulation.



5. Biophysical Environment

Climate

The climate of the area is warm-temperate with a summer-rainfall. Summer temperatures are high whilst severe frost frequent occurs in winter (Mucina & Rhuterford, 2006).

Geology and soils

According to the 2628 East Rand geotechnical map the site is underlain by Alluvium and partially by quartzite, conglomerate, shale and Central Rand.

According to the Wetland and Vegetation Assessment undertaken by Spatial Ecological Consulting CC (SPEC) during 2014 the site is located in quaternary catchment C22B. The catchment includes the Boksburg lake and the Elsburgspruit. The Angelo Pan is located adjacent to the site, to the north. An old furrow enters the pan on the northern side.

No wetlands are present on the site although some of the artificial depressions on site contain some wetland species. A large pan is located adjacent to the site to the north. A road has been constructed along the northern boundary of the site, between the site and the pan and the road appears to be raised. Sewage from a leaking line flows along the eastern border of the site and into the pan. The sewage dams up a bit against the road along the northern boundary.

The pan is indicated as an Ecological Support Area, with a few patches indicated as Important Area. The pan is very disturbed and less importance as an Ecological Support Area and as an Important Area.

Vegetation

The site is situated within the Soweto Highveld Grassland vegetation type. According to Mucina & Rutherford (2006) this vegetation type is classified as Endangered and Vulnerable in the NEMBA list (2011).

6. Infrastructure and services

The proposed development is to be supplied with roads, sewage reticulation, electricity, and potable water.

7. Environmental issues identified

Environmental impacts will be identified and assessed in terms of their significance. Potential environmental impacts will be identified for the construction and operational phases.

Potential construction impacts.

Contamination of surface water;
Contamination of groundwater;
Air pollution: dust;
Traffic impact of construction vehicles;
Job creation during construction period;
Safety & Security;
Noise.

Potential operational impacts.

Erosion;
Colonisation of disturbed areas by alien invasive plant species;
Compatibility of development with surrounding land uses;
Job creation during the operational phase;
Visual impact;
Sense of place;
Service provision.

Management guidelines will be developed for these issues and incorporated in an Environmental Management Programme.

Interested and Affected Parties are welcome to comment on this list and provide additional anticipated issues and possible impacts which should be addressed.

8. Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The NEMA activities which are triggered by the proposed development require an application for an Environmental Authorisation in the form of a S&EIR process and a Scoping Report (SR) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted to GDARD. All activities under Notices GN R983 and GN R985 which require a Basic Assessment (BA) will be included as part of the full S&EIA process. The listed activities linked to these interventions are as follows:

Activity listed under GN R983:

Activity 9 - The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water- (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more; excluding where - (a) such infrastructure is for bulk transportation of water or storm water or storm water drainage inside a road reserve or railway line reserve; or (b) where such development will occur within an urban area.

Activity 10 - The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, waste water, return water, industrial discharge or slimes - (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more; excluding where - (a) such infrastructure is for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, waste water, return water, industrial discharge or slimes inside a road reserve or railway line reserve; or (b) where such development will occur within an urban area.

Activity listed under GN R984:

Activity 15 - The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance

Activity listed under GN R985:

Activity 12 - The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. (i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; (ii) Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans.

9. Process to be followed

Pre-application:

- A pre-application consultation between the consultant and the client was held to determine the extent of the application.

Public Participation Process will include the following:

- The proposed development will be advertised in a local newspaper and on site;
- The adjacent landowners, tenants and resident's associations are to be informed directly, in writing, of the application for environmental authorization for the proposed development;
- Interested and affected parties and Stakeholders is to be given a 30 day period within which to lodge any objections;
- After the 30 day period has expired a report is to be written on how any objections and/or comments raised by interested and affected parties together with an indication as to how the objections will be addressed, if at all.

Scoping Report:

- The report provides a description of the activity, description of property and location and a description of environment, legislation, need and desirability, significant impacts and management as well as mitigation.
- A description is given of the public participation process.
- The report explains the methodology used in assessing impacts, which specialist studies and specialised processes were undertaken.
- A draft copy of the Scoping Report along with the plan of study for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be sent to all I&AP's for review. I&AP's will be given a 30 day period to comment on the report.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

- The report contains details as well as the expertise of the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP), a description of the activity, description of property and location, description of environment, legislation, need and desirability, advantages and disadvantages, significant impacts and management as well as mitigation.
- A description is given of the public participation process.
- The methodology used to determine the significance of impacts is explained, comparative assessment alternatives are reviewed, there is a summary of findings & recommendations of specialist reports, environmental issues and the assessment of impacts is also discussed. The report also contains a description of assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.
- A draft copy of the report and an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be sent to all I&AP's for their comments. I&AP's will be given a 30 day period to comment on the report.

10. Time schedule for the S&EIR

The following allowances have been made for time in terms of the S&EIR process:

- Public participation process which includes providing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) **30** days to register.
- Compile draft Scoping Report
- Submit the draft Scoping Report to I&APs and State Departments and provide **30** days for comment.
- Compile final Scoping Report after receipt of comments.

- Submit Application form to GDARD.
- Submit final Scoping Report with comments received to GDARD within **44** days of submission of Application form to GDARD.
- Within **43** days of receipt of Scoping Report, GDARD to accept or reject the report.
- Compile draft EIAR
- Submit the draft EIAR to I&APs and State Departments and provide **30** days for comment.
- Submit final EIAR with comments received to GDARD within **106** days of acceptance of Scoping Report.
- Within **107** days of receipt of S&EIR, GDARD to grant or refuse environmental authorisation.

Role of the Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's)

Registered I&AP's have the right to bring to the attention of the Environmental Authority any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application.

The rights of the I& AP's are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

- I & AP's must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the competent authority, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP);
- A copy of comments submitted directly to the competent authority must be served on the applicant or EAP; and
- Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application must be disclosed.

The roles of I&AP's in a Public Participation Process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assist in the identification and prioritization of issues that need to be investigated;
- Make suggestions on alternatives and means of preventing, minimizing and managing negative impacts and enhancing project benefits;
- Assist in/ or comment on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contribute information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contribute local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verify that their issues have been considered.

In order to participate effectively, I&AP's should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible;
- Register as I&AP's by responding to the relevant newspaper advertisements and/or BID;
- Provide your full contact details

- Advise the EAP of other I&AP's who should be consulted;
- Follow the process once it has been accepted;
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved;
- Provide timeous responses to correspondence;
- Be respectful and courteous towards other I&APS;
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements, and
- Recognize that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.

Name and contact details of the EAP

For Further information on this application, please contact: Mrs. Elaine Minnaar and Ms. Faith Makena of Lokisa Environmental Consulting CC at P.O. Box 219, Groenkloof, 0027 Tel: 012 346 7655 Fax: 012 346 6074 Email: elaine@lokisa.co.za and faith@lokisa.co.za.

In order to ensure that you are identified as Interested and/or Affected Party and wish to receive future correspondence regarding the proposed development, please submit in writing the following:

- Contact name,
- Email address, Telephone and Fax Numbers & Postal Details,
- Your interest in the project, and
- Any comments you may have.
- To the contact people given above within the timeframe provided.

The Closing Date for registration as an Interested and/or Affected Party is 14 December 2019