

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

### **Proposed establishment of a Piggery on Erf 189 Weenen, Umtshezi Municipality, northern KZN**

*November 2012*



#### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?**

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs) about the proposed project and request their participation;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Basic Assessment Process.



#### **WHAT IS PROPOSED?**

Mr Kwazi Bhengu wishes to establish a piggery on his 12.9 ha property in Weenen. The proposed piggery would comprise a 160 sow unit, with additional buildings to house weaners and growers. The effluent produced within the piggery buildings would be directed to effluent ponds / lagoons. It is likely that liquid effluent would be irrigated onto the cultivated lands on site and solids that have settled out would be used as compost. It is likely that there would be an over-supply of solid and liquid effluent, as the small size of the property would not be able to accept all the effluent. Thus solid and liquid effluent would be available for sale to local farmers as fertiliser.

Mortality pits are also proposed, to dispose of any carcasses from the proposed piggery during the operational phase. The project, if approved, is to be funded with the assistance of the Agri-Business Development Agency (ADA).



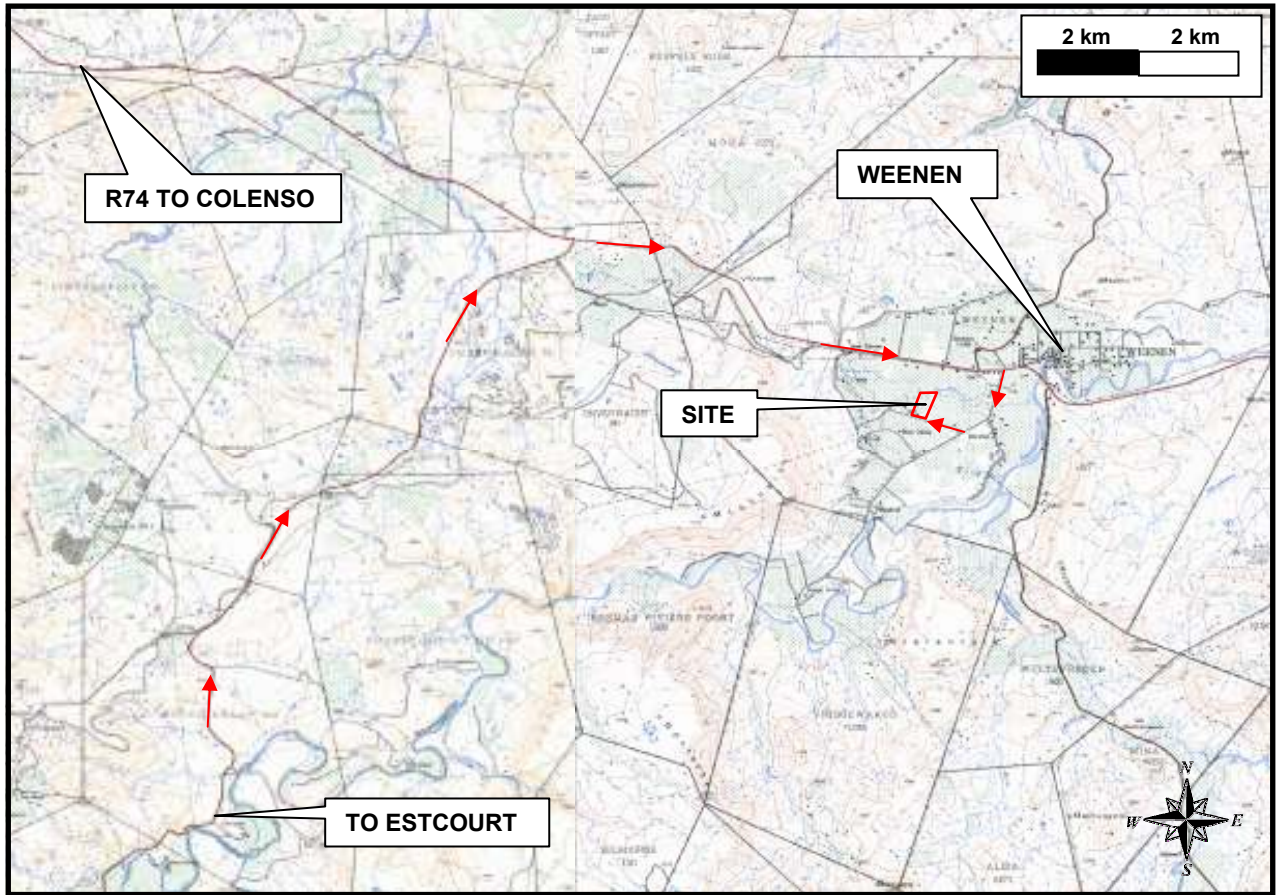
#### **WHERE IS THE PROPOSED SITE?**

The property, Erf 189 Weenen is located in Weenen, approximately 35 km from Estcourt. It features a homestead and shed (used previously for poultry production) and is currently cultivated for chicory, beetroot, butternut, maize and cabbages. The property is 12.9 ha in size. Directions to the site are as follows:

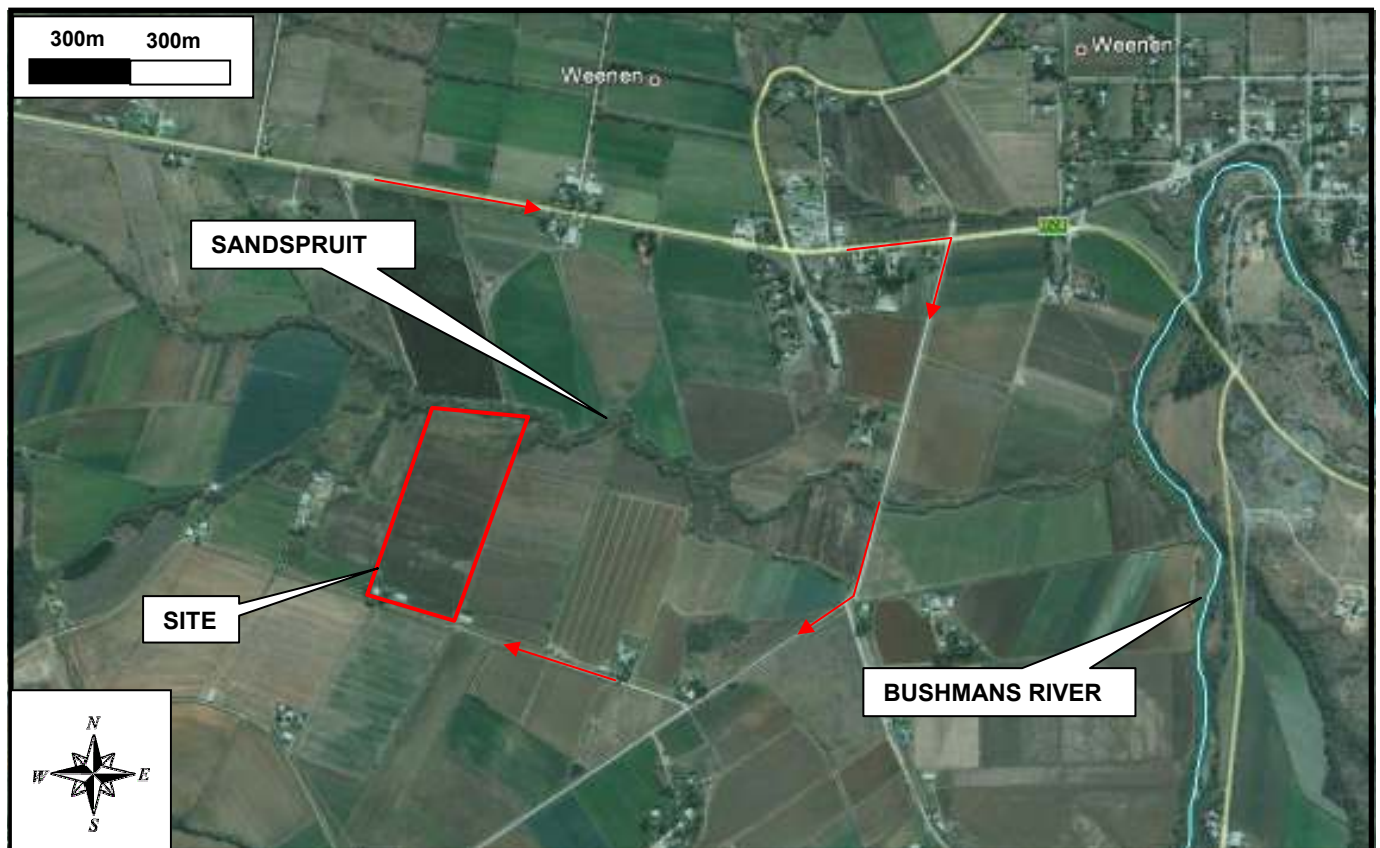
From Pietermaritzburg, travel north on the N3 Freeway towards Harrismith. Travel through Mooi River and take the Estcourt off-ramp (Exit 168). Turn right and travel to Estcourt. Proceed through Estcourt and continue on the R103. Approximately 2km from the Estcourt CBD, turn right towards Weenen and travel for approx 25 km, past Weenen Game Reserve. At the T-Junction, turn right towards Weenen. Travel for approx 8km and then turn right in Buys Road. Travel for 1km then veer right at the fork and continue for 500m, then turn right into Robert Buchan Street. Travel for 800m - the site is located on the right. Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 for the topographic map and aerial photo.

Co-ordinates for the centre of the site are as follows:

28° 51' 37.5" S and 30° 03' 39.0" E



**FIGURE 1:** Location of Proposed Weenen Piggery Site, Umtshezi Municipality  
(Extracted from 1:50 000 topographical maps 2829DD and 2830CC)



**FIGURE 2:** Location of Proposed Weenen Piggery Site, Umtshezi Municipality  
(Extracted from Google Earth)



## WHAT IS THE APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION?

### **The EIA Regulations**

In terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations** promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), certain Listed Activities are specified for which either a Basic Assessment (GNR 544 and 546) or a Scoping and EIA (GNR 545) is required.

The following Listed Activities in Government Notice (GN) R 544 (Listing Notice 1) and GN R 546 (listing Notice 3), requiring a Basic Assessment (BA) Process will be applicable to the proposed piggery:

- ◆ *G NR 544 - Item 4: The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that exceed 8 square meters per small stock unit and (b) more than 250 pigs per facility excluding piglets that are not yet weaned;*
- ◆ *G NR 544 - Item 8: The construction of a hatchery or agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2000m<sup>2</sup> or more; and*
- ◆ *G NR 546 – Item 16: The construction of (iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 square metres in size; or (iv) infrastructure covering 10 square metres or more, where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line, (a) in KwaZulu-Natal (ii) outside urban areas, in (hh) areas within 10km from national parks or world heritage sites or 5km from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.*

It is not anticipated that any Listed Activities under GN R 545 (Listing Notice 2), requiring an EIA Process, will be triggered.

### **The Waste Act**

Furthermore, in terms of the **National Environmental Management: Waste Act** (NEMWA, Act 59 of 2008, "the Waste Act"), there are certain Listed Activities related to the re-use, storage, treatment and disposal of waste that require either a Basic Assessment (Category A) or an EIA Process (Category B) to be conducted as part of the Waste Management Licence Application ("Waste Licence"). The Listed Activities applicable to this project are:

#### **Category A:**

- ◆ *Item 11: The treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres;*
- ◆ *Item 17: The storage, treatment or processing of animal manure at a facility with a capacity to process in excess of one ton per day; and*
- ◆ *Item 18: The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this Schedule.*

No Listed Activities under Category B are anticipated to be applicable. Thus a Basic Assessment Process and Waste Management Licence Application will be required. The Waste Management Licence Application will be compiled during the Basic Assessment Process and will be submitted together with the final Basic Assessment Report for review and consideration by the DAEA. The Applicant is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. JEC Environmental Services has been appointed as the EAP.



## WHAT IS THE AIM OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

The Basic Assessment Process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potential IAPs of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct any necessary specialist studies; and
- ◆ Provide the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



## **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?**

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The Basic Assessment Process can be described as follows:

### ***1. Submission of Application Form:***

The EAP will complete the official Application Form and submit it to the relevant DAEA office. This Application Form includes relevant maps and declarations from the EAP and Applicant. The DAEA will acknowledge receipt of the Application Form and will assign the application a reference number.

### ***2. Public Participation:***

The public and relevant Authorities will be notified of the proposed development through adverts, site posters and direct consultation. This Background Information Document forms part of this stage.

### ***3. Identification of Impacts and Alternatives***

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with the Applicant, authorities and the public.

### ***4. Impact Evaluation***

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

### ***5. Mitigation and Management Measures***

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report.

### ***6. Environmental Reporting***

The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for review and comment by all IAPs and relevant Authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report will be compiled including all comments received on the Draft Basic Assessment Report and submitted to the Competent Authority (DAEA) for consideration.

### ***7. Authority Decision***

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used as the basis for the decision, by DAEA on whether the project should be approved or not. The DAEA can refuse permission or grant permission with conditions.



## **WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?**

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The following potential impacts have been identified and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Air quality (odour) impacts;
- ◆ Impacts of piggery effluent on natural water resources;
- ◆ Additional traffic on access roads; and
- ◆ Visual impacts.

