

THE OPENING OF QUARRIES NEAR MURRAYSBURG

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

JUNE 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform the public of the intention of Barry Theron Contractor's Consultant to open two gravel quarries near Murraysburg. A Basic Assessment (BA) will be undertaken for the proposed activities and environmental authorisation sought. Public consultation is an essential part of the process. You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP). All comments from you will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities.

Chameleon Environmental was appointed by Barry Theron Contractor's Consultant to facilitate the BA and public participation process.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The quarries are situated on the following farms:

- Portion 2 of the farm Leeuwenfontein No 6-RD. The quarry will be 4.43 ha in extent with crushing facilities. The quarry is situated approximately 32 km North West of the town Murraysburg.
- Portion 2 of the farm Witteklip No 32-RD. The quarry will be 4.73 ha in extent with crushing facilities. The quarry is situated approximately 30 km North East of the town Murraysburg.

Both quarries fall within the Beaufort West Local Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality in the Western Cape Province (see locality plan attached).

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled and distributed for the following purposes:

- To notify Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed new development;
- To provide a brief project description;
- To describe the Basic Assessment process.

3. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be guided by the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, published on 4 December 2014 and environmental management principles and objectives of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Environment Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 came into effect on 8 December 2014 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

A Basic Assessment is a process involving consultation with regulatory authorities and other I&APs that serve to inform a decision on whether or not a development is environmentally acceptable.

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) in the Western Cape will be the final decision making authority with regard to this project.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of the BA process is to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts (biophysical and social) associated with the proposed development.

The following tasks are included as part of this process:

- Site visit and desk study of available information and identification of key issues;
- Identify and compile a list of I&APs;
- Compile and distribute a Background Information Document (BID) to I&APs;
- Advertise in the local newspaper notifying the public of the project;
- Synthesis issues for preliminary investigation;
- Compile a Draft Basic Assessment Report and make it available for public comment;
- Submit application form and draft BAR to authorities;
- Submit Final Basic Assessment Report to environmental authorities for approval.

It is anticipated that the following specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the BA process:

- Aquatic and vegetation study;
- Heritage Study;
- Paleontological Study.

Specialist consultants will be appointed to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

The aim of this specialist studies are for the specialist to assess the impact of the project actions on the environment. The specialists will analyse the current situation and will assess the potential impacts of the project actions (and feasible alternatives) on various aspects of the particular issue during the construction and operation phases of the proposed project.

The impacts will be assessed in terms of various criteria such as extent, duration, intensity and whether the impact is positive or negative. The significance of the impact will then be determined through a synthesis of the various criteria used. The specialist will also recommend mitigation actions that they believe can materially affect the significance rating of impacts.

5. AUTHORISATION

The DMR will consider the final BAR and will either issue an authorisation with or without conditions, or reject the proposed project. The authorisation issued by the DMR will be distributed to I&APs as part of the appeal period. An appeal period of 30 days will be provided. Formal, motivated appeals should be lodged with the Department. The results of the appeal process will then be made known to the public through the distribution of a final feedback letter.

6. COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

It is proposed that the project will be put out to tender once the authorisation is received from DMR. Construction cannot commence without authorisation from the environmental authorities. Any enquiries regarding the tender or employment opportunities should be directed to the applicant.

7. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Please contact Chameleon Environmental if you require further information on the application and or activity. Please submit your name, contact information, interest and relevant issue in writing before or on the 28TH of July 2021. The contact details are:

Chameleon Environmental Consultants

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