

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)**

THE FORMALISATION OF WARBURTON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED ON PORTION 15 OF THE FARM FERNIEHAUGH 70 IT WITHIN MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNDER GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

### **INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT.**

## **PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT**

This Background Information Document (BID) briefs Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be undertaken for the proposed Township Establishment. The authorisation processes are subjected to a public participation process. The BID supplies project information and indicates how you can become actively involved in the project and raise issues that may concern and / or interest you. You can achieve this by:

Registering as an I&AP by completing the attached Comment & Registration Form, contact us / by sending us an email; Reviewing of the BID giving comments, raising concerns and / or issues about the project.

The EIA decision making authority is Mpumalanga Department: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MPDARDLEA)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Global Geo Enviro Specialists Pty Ltd was appointed by Mahlori Development Consultants on behalf of Msukaligwa Local Municipality to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process in an effort to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the proposed township establishment. Formalisation of Warburton informal settlements and the proposed township establishment is located on Portion 15 of the farm Ferniehaugh 70 IT within Msukaligwa Local Municipality under Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga Province. The development triggers listed activities under the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) (NEMA) EIA Regulations of 2014 as amended. As a result, Msukaligwa Local Municipality requires Environmental Authorisation from the MPDARDLEA before it can commission the project. listed activities applied for: Activities under GN R983: Activity 9,10 28 and 67 Listing Notice 1 and GN R984: Activity 15 Listing Notice 2.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:**

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

**Table 1: Locality of the proposed township development**

MUNICIPALITY		FARM NAME	COORDINATES		DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT (Ha)
District	Gert Sibande District	Portion 15 of the Farm Ferniehaugh 70 IT	Latitude	26° 13'51.16"S	42 Hectares
Local	Msukaligwa Local Municipality		Longitude	30° 29'7.42"E	

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended), the project requires an Environmental Authorisation (EA). GNR 983 and 984 of the regulations which require EA. The project triggers activities under the above-mentioned relevant notices and is subject to full Environmental Impact Assessment Process. The following listed activities are triggered in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014:

**Table 2: Listed activities triggered by proposed housing development**

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITY NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	PROJECT COMPONENT
Listing Notice 2 of GNR 984,	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 purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The development requires the clearance of indigenous vegetation of approximately 42 hectares.
Listing Notice 1 GNR 983, 9	Activity 9 The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 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	The proposed development will require the construction of bulk water. The diameter for the proposed pipelines to be confirmed during the EIAR phase.

	<p>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.</p>	
<p>Listing Notice 1 of GNR 327, 10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activity 10</p> <p>The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 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.</p>	<p>The proposed development will require the transportation of sewage effluent. The estimated sewage flow to be confirmed during EIAR phase.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 1 of GNR 327, 28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activity 28</p> <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	<p>The proposed development will be developed on land that was used for agricultural purposes and occurred outside an urban area.</p>

<p>Activity 67 Listing Notice 1, GNR 983</p>	<p>Activity 67</p> <p>Phased activities for all activities- i. listed in this Notice, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Notice; or ii. similarly listed in any of the previous NEMA notices, which commenced on or after the effective date of such previous NEMA Notices; where any phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold;</p>	<p>The Warburton settlements commenced before the effect of NEMA regulations 2014</p>
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*Table 1: : Listed activities triggered by proposed development*

## **THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

The following potential environmental impacts have been identified for the project:

- Impacts on surface and groundwater resources
- Impacts on ecology including flora, fauna, avifauna and water features including wetlands and other hydrological features
- Impacts on heritage resources (i.e. archaeology and palaeontology)
- Impacts on the socio-economic environment and traffic
- Impacts on soil and land capability

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers I&APs (Interested & Affected Parties) the opportunity to become involved in the EIA process from the outset. Comments and inputs from I&APs are encouraged during the draft scoping report to ensure that all potential impacts are considered throughout the EIA process. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is made available to I&APs for review.
- I&APs participation is facilitated such that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project.
- Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the EIA Reports.

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY**

In terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in the EIA process you must register yourself on the project database.
- You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.
- You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed project.



