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## Londolozi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd

# Basic Assessment Report

for the development of 13 new roads with a cumulative distance of 5.39km, the upgrading and broadening of two existing roads with a cumulative distance of 7.05km and the development of a rural abattoir on Sparta Farms 259KU.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

February 2019

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment process;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

### WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

Londolozi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd are striving to ensure that their nature-based tourism operations meet environmental best practice and have assessed their game drive road network in order to optimise the network both from a game viewing and environmental management perspective. It has been recognised that some of the roads are poorly aligned and need to be closed and rehabilitated. To replace these, new routes have been identified based on best practice. In addition to this the assessment has shown that many of the existing roads need to be upgraded with two requiring broadening while the balance needs to be upgraded with no broadening.

Londolozi also wish to build and operate a rural abattoir within their existing camp footprint so as to facilitate the off-take and processing of game, primarily impala.

### WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The proposed developments include a number of interrelated components described as follows and illustrated in Figure 2 below:

1. The upgrading and broadening of two roads, one of 2.94km and another of 4.11km (green);
2. The development of 13 new roads totalling 5.39km (red);
3. The upgrading of 14 existing roads within their current footprint totalling 10.44km (blue); and
4. The closure and rehabilitation of 27 roads totalling 11.96km (yellow).
5. The development and operation of an 84m<sup>2</sup> (14m x 6m) rural abattoir with the daily throughput capacity of six animal units. Its proposed locality is within the current staff village footprint in the area zones for services at 24°47'51.34"S and 31°29'53.96"E (see Figure 3).

Note that items 1, 2 and 5 above are subject to this assessment, but items 3 and 4 do not require environmental authorisation. They have been included in this description to provide the full picture and context within which the proposal is being put forward.

Briefly the approach for these road developments and upgrades will be as follows:

- Use an External contractor with a road grader to re-establish the camber and drainage of the main road (marked green above) using material adjacent to and within 1m of the road.
- Relocate roads to more ecologically friendly positions that require less road maintenance using a tractor and scraper (marked red above).
- Use material from existing borrow pits to repair existing roads (marked blue above)
- Roads (marked yellow above) will be closed by disking the surface and brush packing.
- The entire process should take approx. 2-3 months and will be implemented in the dry season subject to if and when environmental authorisation is granted.

As far as the development of the abattoir is concerned this will be positioned so as to minimise its impact on untransformed vegetation and the building process will be limited to the development footprint while being closely monitored to ensure that it meets strict environmental management criteria. It will be constructed and operated strictly according to the veterinarian standards set by the Provincial Authorities. Solid organic waste will be used as feedstock for a biogas digester while liquid waste will be reticulated into the existing waste water treatment facility.

## WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?

The proposed development is planned to be located on the Marthly section of Sparta Farms 259KU on the Londolozi Game Reserve, within the Sabi Sands Game Reserve. The site is within the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and the Mpumalanga Province (see Figure 1).

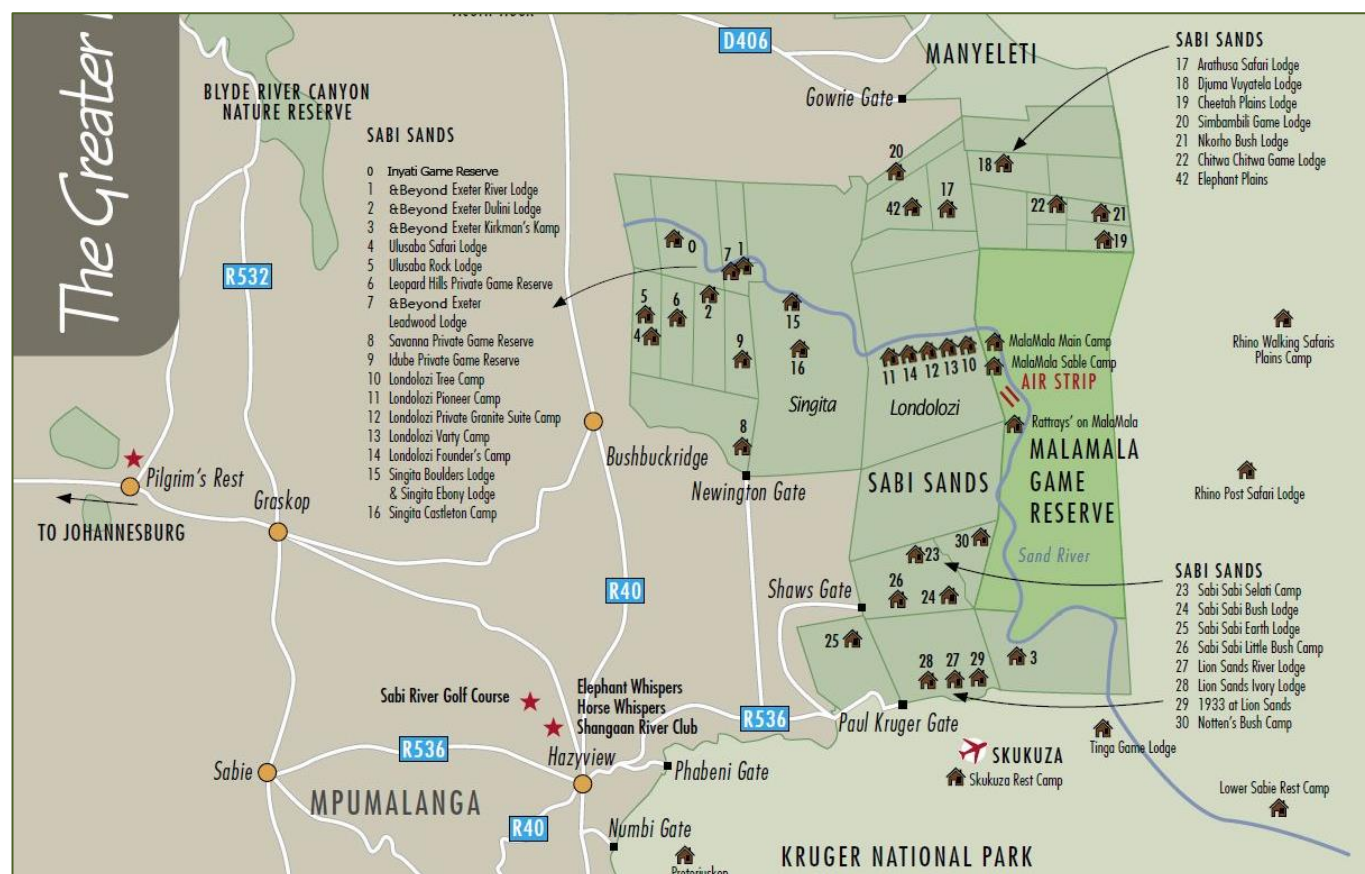


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development on the property Marthly on the Londolozi Game Reserve in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve.

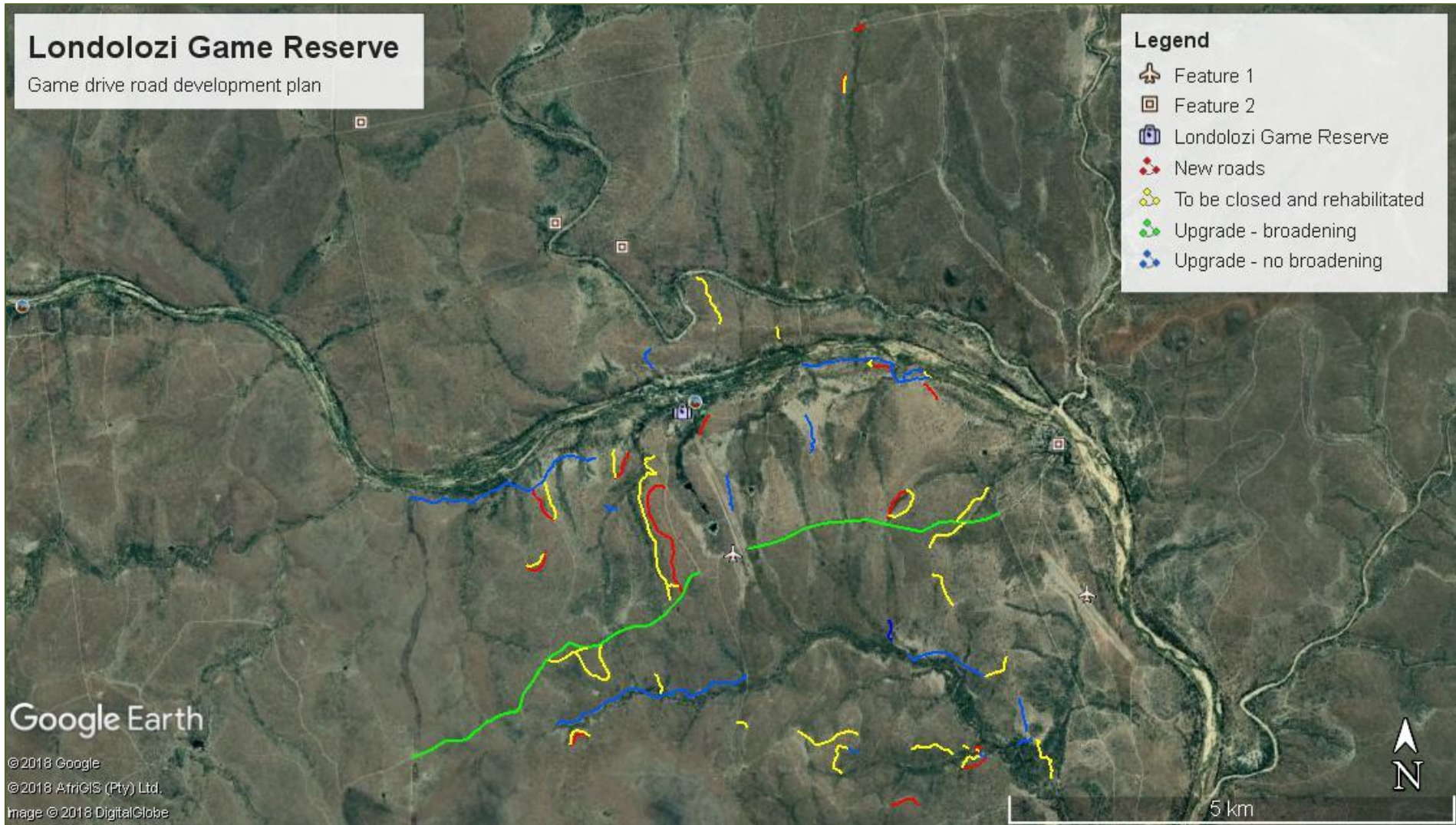


Figure 2: The proposed road developments on the Londolozi Game Reserve

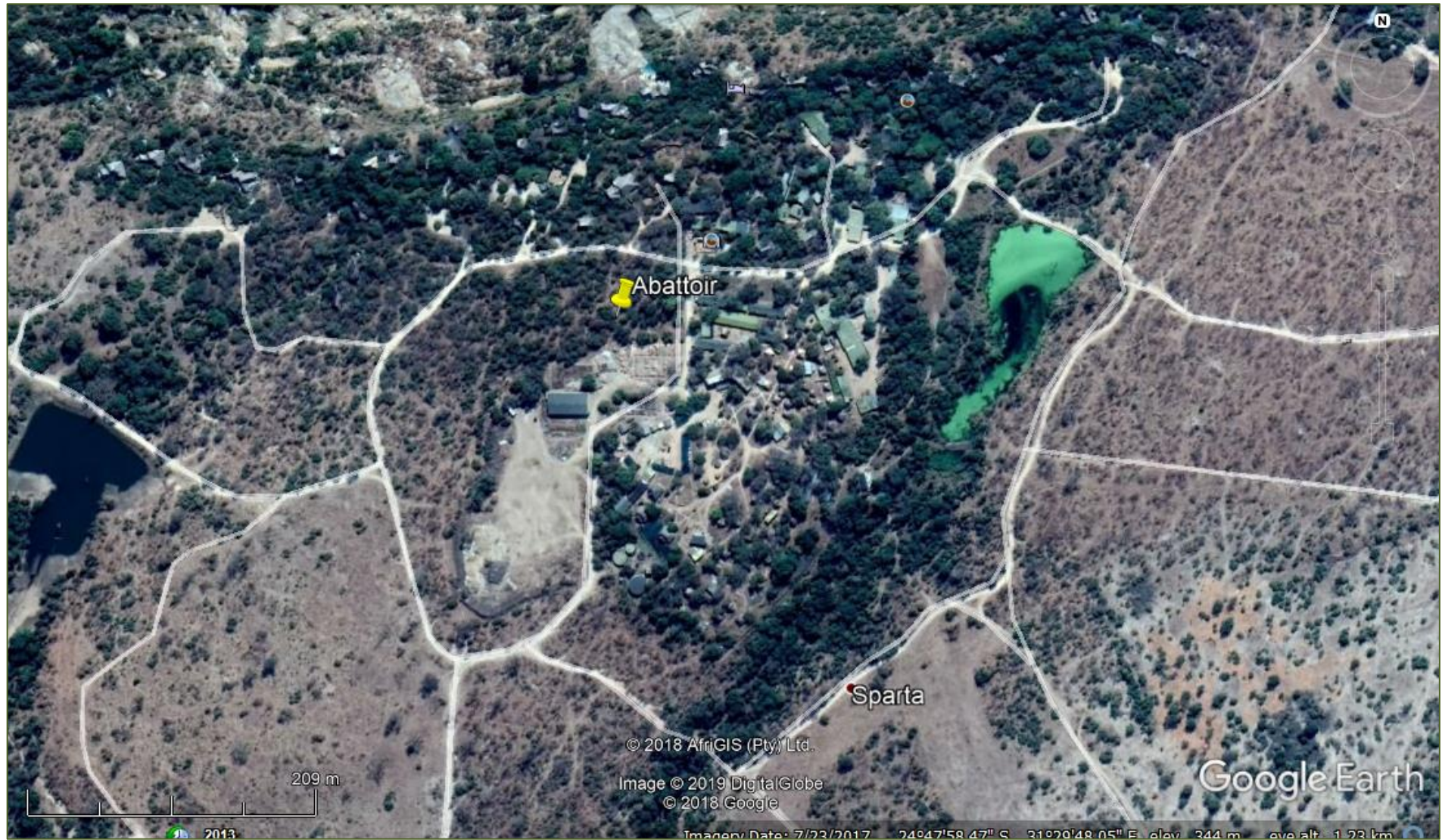


Figure 3: The location of the proposed rural abattoir within the fenced area of the lodges and staff village at Londoloz

## WHY IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT NECESSARY?

The following Listed Activities have been identified as being relevant to the proposed developments discussed above:

**Activities under Listing Notice 1** (National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, GN No. 983, GG 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended in GG 40772, GN No. 327 of 7 April 2017):

**Listed Activity 19:**

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;

**Activities under Listing Notice 3** (National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, GNR 985, GG 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended in GG 40772, GN No. 324 of 7 April 2017):

**Listed Activity 12:**

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation  
f. Mpumalanga

iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning or proclamation in terms of NEMPAA.

**Listed Activity 14:**

The development of (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs-

- (a) Within a watercourse;
- (b) In front of a development setback; or
- (c) If no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; -
  - i. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies

**Listed Activity 23:**

The expansion of (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs—

- (a) within a watercourse; in Mpumalanga:
  - i. Outside urban areas:
    - (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.

**Listed Activity 26:**

Phased activities for all activities-

- i. Listed in this Notice and as it applies to a specific geographic area, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Notice; or
- ii. Similarly listed in any of the previous NEMA notices, and as it applies to a specific geographic area, which commenced on or after the effective date of such previous NEMA Notices- Where any phase of the activity was below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold. All the areas as identified for the specific activities listed in this Notice.

In addition to the above some of the proposed developments are considered to be water uses under the National Water Act 36 of 1998, Section 21. Water uses:

- (c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

## WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)?

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially interested and affected parties (I&APs) 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 further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE EIA PROCESS FOR A BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The EIA Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. Application Form:

An official Application Form is required to be completed and circulated with the Draft Basic Assessment Report to a number of authorities including Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency, the Local & District Municipalities, etc. It provides information on the property, a description of the proposed development and lists the relevant listed activities which are triggered by this proposed development.

2. Public Participation:

The general public are notified of the proposed development through newspaper adverts (Mpumalanga News and the Lowvelder) and site notices placed at Newington and Shaw's Gates and through direct consultation. This Background information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the advert and site notice and a contacts data base will be compiled and maintained throughout the process.

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 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. Reporting

The draft Basic Assessment Report and any other Specialist Reports, such as a Heritage Impact Assessment, will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated draft Basic Assessment Report.

7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by the Mpumalanga DARDLEA as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed development should be approved or not.

## WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ No significant impacts during the planning phase;
- ◆ During construction: limited disturbance to indigenous vegetation and wildlife.
- ◆ Negative impacts during the operation phase: limited disruption to the hydrology of non-perennial water courses and potential contamination of the water table.

## HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The need for the involvement of interested and affected parties (I&APs) is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed development. Comments can be communicated to the EAP by post, telephone, fax or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated into the draft Basic Assessment Report, please ensure that you register and we have received your comments by the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. Please use the structure below to guide your inputs into this process. You will be notified when other related reports are available for review and comment as well as to other steps in the process.



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Organisation:	Designation:		
Address:			
Postal Code:			
Tel No:	Cell No:		
Fax No:	E-mail:		

**COMMENTS:**

1. The following issues must be addressed in the basic assessment of the proposed development:

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2. Please add the following persons to your list of interested and affected parties:

Name:	Organisation:
Telephone:	
Address:	
Name:	Organisation:
Telephone:	
Address:	

3. Any other comments:

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*Thank you for your participation.*