

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**MAY 2014**

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 2 DAMS AND AGRICULTURAL FIELDS ON PORTION 3 OF THE FARM SUNNYMEAD 600JT, BARBERTON, UMJINDINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

#### THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT


The purpose of this document is to provide all the people who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed development with sufficient information about the project and how they can meaningfully participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) for this project. The Public Participation Process is an integral part of the EIA and is mainly undertaken by:

Placing EIA notifications on site and in the local media; distributing the Background Information Document (BID) & Notification Letters to adjacent property owners; Conducting public hearings and meetings with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); and Providing registered I&APs with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis.

#### BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The farm Sunnymead 600JT, Portion 3 is 30km from Barberton and 10km from Glenthorp turn off. The farm is neglected invade by *Eucalyptus* trees that grow in the existing stream, there are vacant agricultural fields and for the last 8 years alien vegetation has taken over the derelict areas. There is an existing registered dam with a capacity of 50m<sup>3</sup> on the farm that was used for sugarcane production under irrigation. The dam is surrounded with eucalyptus and alien vegetation. It is silted up and can only store a capacity of 30m<sup>3</sup>. It is better to irrigate the Macadamia orchards from a dam than to pump water directly from the nearby stream and it is also economically viable, Long Creek Farming Pty (Ltd) saw it necessary to construct a dam of 300m<sup>3</sup> to provide sufficient irrigation water. Long Creek Farming Pty (Ltd) bought the farm in November 2012 and began with the rehabilitation of the areas that have *Eucalyptus* trees.

Mr Willem Moller from Long Creek farming is a well-known farmer in the Nkomazi area. The company decided to expand their operations in the Barberton area and bought Portion 3 of the farm Sunnymead to produce macadamia nuts. Portion 3 of the farm Sunnymead has 30ha irrigation rights from the Suid Kaap River. To produce healthy and good quality macadamias, the irrigation process has to be managed with care. The most effective way to manage the irrigation process is to irrigate the trees with stored water.

Applicant	Environmental Consultants
<p style="text-align: center;">LONG CREEK FARMING PTY (LTD)  <b>WILLEM MOLLER</b>  P.O.BOX.856  <b>MALELANE</b>  1320  Tel: 082 727 8202  Fax: 086 578 2127  E-mail: <a href="mailto:dwmoller@lantic.net">dwmoller@lantic.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wandima Environmental Services  P O Box 1072, Nelspruit, 1200  <b>Tel: 013 752 5452</b>  <b>Fax: 013 752 6877</b>  <b>Cell: 078 406 9595</b>  <b>Contact Person: Mduduzi Mamba</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mduduzi@wandima.co.za">mduduzi@wandima.co.za</a></b></p> 

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

You have the right to participate in this process by registering as an interested and or affected party. You may request further information, inform the consultant of your concerns, provide input to the proposed development, or lodge a formal objection regarding the proposed activity. You may register yourself, or through someone who speaks on your behalf. Please feel free to inform others whom you think may be interested and/or affected by the development, and encourage them to register and attend all public meetings where details of the project will be presented and discussed. You can register at any stage of the study, but it is important to register as early as possible.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Proposed construction of 2 dams covering 16 hectares and establishment of agricultural fields covering 12 hectares.

### PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed two dams and agricultural fields are to be situated on Portion 3 of the Farm Sunnymead 600JT in Barberton, Umjindini Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. The farm is located 30km from Barberton and 10km from Glenthorp turn off.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The area is situated in Barberton on the Lowveld of Mpumalanga and falls within the Legogote Sour Bushveld vegetation type within the Savanna Biome. The Lowveld is subtropical, due its proximity to the warm Indian Ocean and latitude. The summers are hot while the winters are cold and dry. Average daily temperatures ranges above 29°C in summer and are lower than 23°C in winter. Due to the topography, rainfall varies considerably according to altitude and compass direction. The project site is on an area zoned agricultural. The project site is surrounded by *Eucalyptus* trees.

### MAP/ILLUSTRATION:



# SUNNY MEAD 600 JT / WHITE HILLS 599 JT



## PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA is a planning and decision making tool. It allows the potential environmental consequences (i.e. impacts) associated with a proposed project to be identified (i.e. scoping phase), assessed (i.e. EIA phase) and reported, whether positive or negative, and these identified impacts to be managed and mitigated through the environmental planning and control processes.

The applicant, **LONG CREEK FARMING PTY (LTD)**, has appointed **WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** as independent consultants, to undertake the EIA process. Relevant specialists will be consulted so as to objectively assess all potential environmental impacts.

### SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

For the project, the following studies may be undertaken as part of the process:

- Ecological Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Wetland and WULA

## TIMETABLE TO BE FOLLOWED

