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14 November 2016

Ms. Weziwe Tshabalala  
Archaeology Administration Officer  
Amafa AkwaZulu Natali  
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Dear Ms. Tshabalala

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AUTHORISATION**

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A POULTRY FARM NEAR MTUBATUBA, UMKHANYAKUDE  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL.**

The Kevin Lawrie Family Trust is planning to establish a poultry production farm (egg laying) on a 2.2 Ha property near Riverview within the Mtubatuba Local Municipality (Figure 1).

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The proposed development will entail the revamping of an existing storage facility into chicken houses, the construction of an additional shed where chickens will be placed and the construction of a small abattoir for the processing and packing of chickens that have become unproductive (no longer produce eggs). A total of 25 000 chickens will be stocked on site during Phase 1 of the proposed development and an additional 25,000 chickens will be stocked on the farm during Phase 2 of the proposed development. At peak production the poultry operation will be able to accommodate 50,000 chickens.

A small abattoir will also be constructed as part of the layer poultry project for the processing and packing of chickens that have become unproductive (no longer produce eggs). It is expected that the abattoir will process up to 3,000 – 4,000 chickens per month.

During the operational phase of the Layer Poultry farm, point of lay pullets (young females which are about to start laying eggs) will be purchased at about eighteen weeks old at which point the birds are ready to start laying eggs. Chickens typically lay eggs for about eighty weeks, after which the chickens significantly decline in productivity. In order to maintain productivity on the farm the unproductive chickens will be removed from the layer operation and replaced with new point of lay pullets. The unproductive chickens will then be processed and packed in the small abattoir on site and then sold.

Kevin Lawrie Family Trust - Proposed Establishment of a Layer Poultry Farm Near Mtubatuba  
Background Information Document

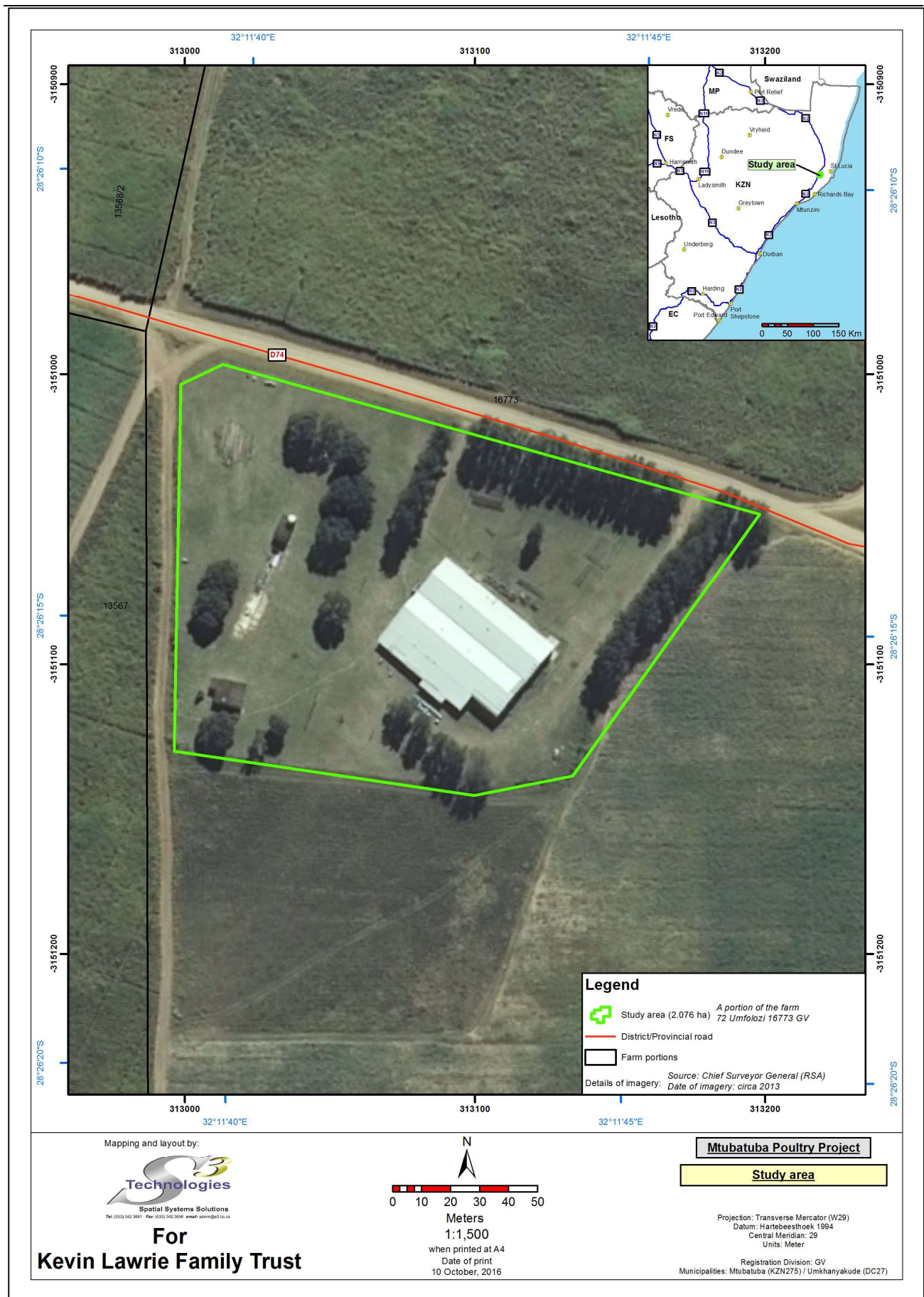


Figure 1 Locality map of the proposed development.

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

The proposed Layer Poultry Farm development will be established on a sub division of land approximately 2.2 Ha in size known as portion A of the farm Pasena No. 17671. This portion of land was previously used for the sorting and packing of agricultural products e.g. vegetables and sugarcane and includes the following infrastructure which will be converted for the proposed Layer Poultry Farm:

- ☐ 1,703 m<sup>2</sup> storage facility (existing pack shed)
- ☐ Soak pit and septic tank system
- ☐ Existing Eskom electricity supply network
- ☐ Existing cottage (7 m x 9 m in size) with a soak pit and septic tank system.
- ☐ Borehole and water supply system



**Figure 2 Site location and existing infrastructure on site.**

The following activities will be undertaken on site to construct and operate the proposed Layer Poultry Farm development:

- ☐ Upgrading and electrifying the existing fences around the property.
- ☐ Converting the existing 1,703 m<sup>2</sup> storage facility into chicken houses. This will include breaking down the interior walls, putting up netting, extractor fans and the construction of a small office and a sorting and dispatch area. All the chicken houses will be established in the existing shed that will be divided into two separate but adjoining units to accommodate the two planned phases of the development. Phase one will include constructing four tier vertical cages to house approximately 25 000 chickens; phase two will include placing an additional 25 000 chickens in the adjoining unit.
- ☐ The construction of a small abattoir for the processing and packing of meat from chickens that have become unproductive. It is estimated that approximately 100 to 150 chickens will be processed in the abattoir on a daily basis.
- ☐ The installation of automated feeders, drinkers, egg collectors and manure removal machinery.
- ☐ The construction of a small guard house.
- ☐ The upgrading of the existing ablution facilities and septic tank systems.
- ☐ The upgrading of the existing cottage.



- ❑ The installation of seven 5,000 liter Jojo tanks for the harvesting of rainwater which will be used during operations to supplement the water supplied from the borehole.
- ❑ The relocation of the existing entrance to the property at the north-eastern corner to the north-western corner as per the request from the Department of Transport (DOT).

## **ASSOCIATED AND EXISTING SERVICES**

The following services are currently present on site:

- ❑ Electricity for the proposed development will be sourced from existing Eskom supply on the property.
- ❑ The site is currently serviced by a water pipeline from a dam to the east of the property and a borehole located on the property. Seven 5000 liter Jojo tanks will be installed to store harvested rainwater which will be used to supplement the water provided from the water pipeline and borehole on site.
- ❑ The site is accessible via existing farm and district roads that connect the surrounding farms and homesteads. As such, no new access roads will be constructed for the proposed development.
- ❑ The on-site septic tanks and soak-away system will be used for the treatment of grey water and waste water generated during operations. These systems will however be upgraded during the construction phase of the proposed development.

## **WASTE AND EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT**

The floors of the chicken houses will be strewn with loose material such as straw or woodchips which will absorb the chicken manure and allow for easy collection. This loose material and chicken manure will be removed from the chicken house regularly and utilised for fertilizer on the Kevin Lawrie Family Trust farms.

The manure will be collected via the automated collection system inside the chicken houses and transported on a conveyor to a storage facility inside the building. The manure will only be stored in the facility for a maximum period of 48 hours before being packed, loaded and transported off site. Before being transported, the manure will be dried, thus limiting the potential for it to become significantly hazardous and limiting the potential for unpleasant odours to develop.

General waste such as paper, plastic, glass etc will be collected and disposed through the municipal waste stream as operated by the Mtubatuba Local Municipality.

## **CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

In terms of the amended EIA Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, the proposed poultry development triggers Listed Activity 3 and 5 of Listing Notice 1 (No. R. 983 of Dec 2014), in terms of section 24(2) and 24D and 44 of NEMA, which requires environmental authorisation via the undertaking of a Basic Assessment.

### **Listing Notice 1: No. R. 983 of December 2014:**

**Activity 3:** *The development and related operations of facilities or infrastructure for the slaughter of animals with a product throughput of -*

- (i) *Poultry exceeding 50 poultry per day;*

**Activity 5:** *The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of;*

- (ii) *More than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days.*

Based on the current regulations the Basic Assessment (BA) process must be completed within 197 days of acceptance of the Application for Authorisation by DEDTEA. Should a Water Use Licence be required, an application will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of "Chapter 4 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998), in particular, Section 41".

Exigent has been appointed by the Kevin Lawrie Family Trust as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Basic Assessment and associated public participation for the proposed Layer Poultry development and to submit the required applications and supporting documentation to DEDTEA for consideration and decision-making.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you, as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), background information on the proposed development and to invite you to submit concerns, issues or suggestions regarding the proposed development. These will inform the assessment and application to the competent authority. I&APs will be afforded the opportunity to review the Basic Assessment Report prior to its submission to DEDTEA.

Please complete the enclosed comment sheet and return it to the Exigent Public Participation Office by **14 December 2016**.

Please contact the Public Participation Office to obtain further information:

<p><b>EXIGENT</b></p> <p>Charleen Smuts</p> <p>PO Box 9514, Richards Bay 3900</p> <p>Tel: 035 788 0398</p> <p>Fax: 086 614 7327</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:charleen@exigent.co.za">charleen@exigent.co.za</a></p>
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Your participation is valued and will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Smuts  
**EXIGENT**  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner