

The Proposed Establishment of a 1000 Head Dairy on Sub 28 of the Farm Welgevonden No. 969, Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

June 2013



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;
- ◆ 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?

The proposed establishment of a 1000 Head Dairy on Sub 28 of the Farm Welgevonden No. 969 is located in the Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal.

The entire property is approximately 36 223 ha, and will feature an operational dairy consisting of 1000 head of cattle.

In terms of Regulation 54 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2010, under Section 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998), published in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 2010 and of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No 59 of 2008) and published in Government Notice No. R. 718 of 2009, the proposed development triggers the following Listed Activities which require a Basic Assessment process to be conducted:

GNR 544	Part 4	<i>The construction of facilities for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that will exceed... i. 20 square meters per large stock unit and more than 500 units , per facility</i>
GNR 544	Part 8	<i>The construction of ... agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2000 square metres or more.</i>
GNR 718	Category A: 3	<i>The storage, including the temporary storage of general waste in lagoons</i>
GNR 718	Category A: 7	<i>The recycling or re-use of general waste of more than 10 tons per month.</i>
GNR 718	Category A: 17	<i>The storage, treatment or processing of animal manure at a facility with a capacity to process in excess of one ton per day.</i>
GNR 718	Category A: 18	<i>The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this Schedule.</i>

Under Government Notice No R. 543 of 2010, the Applicant, Colbourne Farming CC, is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The Applicant has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basic Assessment process for the proposed development.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The proposed development will comprise of the following:

- ◆ A new dairy to milk a total of 1000 cows;
- ◆ A transformer will be installed for electricity supply;
- ◆ Effluent will be piped to an existing effluent lagoon via a new pipeline; and
- ◆ A Concrete Effluent Storage Tank will be installed and will have capacity to store two days worth of effluent.

There is adequate water available onsite. The dairy is located at the following GPS coordinates:

29° 20' 36.20" S
30° 15' 51.04" E



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?



Figure 1: Aerial map showing the location of the proposed dairy expansion and the surrounding land uses. (Google Earth).



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)?

The Basic Assessment 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 DAEA with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE EIA PROCESS FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. Application Form:
An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This Form 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 and relevant Authorities are notified of the proposed development through newspaper adverts, site notices and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but has not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the adverts and site notices.
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. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures.
6. Reporting
The Basic Assessment Report and Draft EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Basic Assessment Report.
7. Authority Decision
The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by DAEA 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 EIA Process:

- ◆ Effluent management and disposal;
- ◆ Impacts on environmental biodiversity, and
- ◆ Potential for groundwater contamination.

