

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: PROPOSED COMMANDPARK EXTENSION 4 TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT**

### **EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: TO BE CONFIRMED UPON SUBMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform you, as a potential Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), of the application for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Commandpark Extension 4 Township Establishment project. The Environmental Authorisation application will be lodged with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (the Competent Authority [CA]) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (Regulations in terms of Sections 24(5) and 44 of the NEMA, 1998), as amended.

Labesh (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant, N&H Golden Miles Village Close Corporation, in terms of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GNR. 982 of 4 December 2014), as amended, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) tasked with conducting the abovementioned application processes. Labesh complies with the necessary requirements of Regulation 13 of GNR. 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended.

### **DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT OPERATIONS**

Portion 563, 565 and Remaining Extent of Portion 25 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS, is currently open vacant land. Portion 562 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS consists of a scatter of industrial related structures that include overhead electricity cables and towers.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Mixed land use township establishment comprising of 41 industrial erven, 1 business erf, 1 transport service erf and 3 tourism erven. The industrial erven will accommodate light industrial activities. The business erf will be used to accommodate a shopping centre, while the tourism erven will be used to accommodate a hobby park comprising of 4x4 trials, paintball, hiking, cycling, birding, archery, fishing, picnics and camping. The transport service erf will be used to accommodate a truck stop.

Proposed Development Footprint: 123, 4524 Hectares

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

Portion 562 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS; GPS Coordinates: 25°58'16.41"S; 29°16'43.29"E

Portion 563 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS; GPS Coordinates: 25°58'41.17"S; 29°16'54.12"E

Portion 565 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS; GPS Coordinates: 25°58'36.49"S; 29°17'19.20"E

Remaining Extent of Portion 25 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS; GPS Coordinates: 25°58'21.18"S; 29°17'14.11"E

The project site falls within the eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

### **LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT**

The proposed project requires Environmental Authorisation for the following listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended:

- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 9: The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 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 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.

- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 10: The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1000 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 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.
- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 12: The development of (i) canals exceeding 100 square metres in size; (ii) channels exceeding 100 square metres in size; (iii) bridges exceeding 100 square metres in size; (iv) dams, where the dam, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres in size; (v) weirs, where the weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres in size; (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures exceeding 100 square metres in size; (vii) marinas exceeding 100 square metres in size; (viii) jetties exceeding 100 square metres in size; (ix) slipways exceeding 100 square metres in size; (x) buildings exceeding 100 square metres in size; (xi) boardwalks exceeding 100 square metres in size; or (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;
- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 13: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50000 cubic metres or more, unless such storage falls within the ambit of activity 16 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014.
- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 25: The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2000 cubic metres but less than 15000 cubic metres.
- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 26: Residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments of 1000 square metres or more, on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes; excluding- (i) where such land has been remediated in terms of part 8 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies; or (ii) where an environmental authorisation has been obtained for the decommissioning of such a mine or industry in terms of this Notice or any previous NEMA notice; or (iii) where a closure certificate has been issued in terms of section 43 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) for such land.
- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1), as amended, Activity No. 28: 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.
- GNR. 984 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 2), as amended, Activity No. 9: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex, excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length; c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.

- GNR. 984 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 2), as amended, Activity No. 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.
- GNR. 985 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 3), as amended, Activity No. 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

The above-mentioned activities require a Full Scope & Environmental Impact Assessment process to be conducted in support of the Environmental Authorisation application. The application will be submitted to the Competent Authority, the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in due course. Upon acceptance of the application, the Competent Authority will issue a reference number for the application. This reference number will be communicated upon its receipt from the Competent Authority.

The following reports are applicable to this application for Environmental Authorisation:

- A Scoping Report in accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014; and
- An Environmental Management Programme in accordance with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES**

The public participation processes for the above-mentioned application are conducted according to the requirements of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations of 4 December 2014, as amended. Registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) for the Environmental Authorisation application will be available from 26 November 2021 to 17 January 2022. Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the proposed project and subsequently be kept informed of the progress of the project and all public participation opportunities as the application process proceeds, please complete the "Interested and Affected Party" registration form that forms part of this BID. Completed "Interested and Affected Party" registration forms should please be submitted to the EAP for the project, Lourens de Villiers, at the contact details provided below. Alternatively, you may also submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter, in writing, to the EAP at the contact details provided. Please send the registration information to the EAP before or on the **17<sup>th</sup> of January 2022**.

As required in the EIA Regulations, site notice boards will be placed on the project property boundary and a newspaper advertisement will be placed in the Witbank Newspaper on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

The Scoping Report will be made available to the public for review and commenting for a period of 30 days (exact dates will be communicated to registered I&AP's). Electronic copies of the report will be provided to registered Interested and Affected Parties via email or registered post. Please inform us should you require a hard copy of the report.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the EAP at the details provided below.

**Labesh (Pty) Ltd** – Lourens de Villiers

Tel: 082 789 6525

Email: [info@labesh.co.za](mailto:info@labesh.co.za)

Fax to Email: 086 552 6837



Postnet Box 469, Private Bag X504, Sinoville, 0129

Tell: 087 230 8462

Cell: 082 789 6525

Email: [info@labesh.co.za](mailto:info@labesh.co.za)

Postal Address: PostNet Box #469, Private Bag X504, Sinoville, 0129

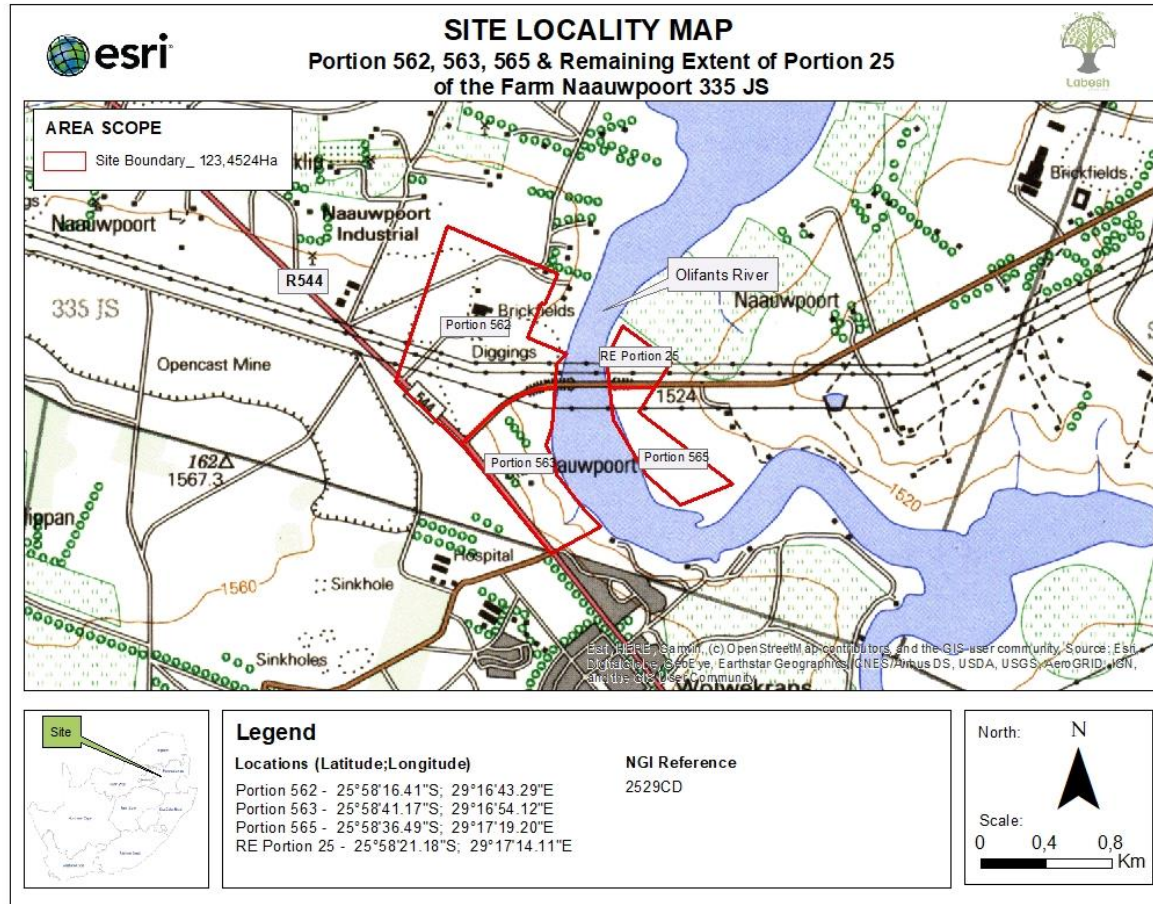


Figure 1: Site Locality Map



