

Background Information Document (BID)

Basic Assessment for the proposed expansion of a pig production and vegetable enterprise on the Portion 56 of the Farm Houtpoort 392 in Heidelberg, Gauteng

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Lwando Piggery is a small scale commercial farming enterprise; this enterprise is proposing to expand its pig production enterprise on the Portion 56 of the Farm Houtpoort 392 in Heidelberg, Gauteng (Co-ordinates: 26.575351 and 28.380101). The current land-use of the Farm is agriculture, with the presence of approximately 60 pigs. There currently is basic infrastructure which includes pig facilities, staff housing and a house. The proposed development entails the plantation of chillies on 0.7 ha of land and expansion of the pig enterprise by developing a 0.6 ha pig facility with a throughput capacity of 1000 pigs. There is a guaranteed market for pork meat in South Africa. The demand for pork meat has increased by 24% since 2007, while the domestic use of pork products has increased by almost 12% between 2010 and 2012. However the number of pigs produces has decreased by 14.41% from 2011 to 2012. The demand for pork meat continues to escalate, which allows Lwando Piggery to realistically gain substantial milestones in the domestic market.

The development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, Government Regulations (GNR) 324 and 327 of April 2017 promulgate under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act no 107 of 1998). The development also triggers listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEMWA) (Act no 59 of 2008). In terms of these Regulations, a Basic Assessment (BA) and an application for a Waste Management Licence should be undertaken for the proposed project. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) who will be managing the process.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations published in GNR 324, 326 and 327 on the 7 April 2017 Government Gazette Number 38282, a BA process is required as the project triggers the following listed activities (detailed in Table 1 below).

Table 1: Listed activities to be triggered

Relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :	Description of each listed activity as per the Government Notice:
GN. R 324, 7 April 2017	12 (c)(ii)	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. (a) In Gauteng (I) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such list, within an area that has been
GNR 327, 7 April 2017	27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except 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 327, 7 April 2017	39 (ii)	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that will exceed- (ii) 8 square meters per small stock unit, where the expansion will constitute more than; (b) 250 additional pigs, excluding piglets that are not yet weaned;
GNR 921, 29 November 2013	Category (A) 1 a	The storage of general waste in lagoons

These listed activities require Environmental Authorisation the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), the BA process that will be undertaken for this project is summarised in the following steps below:

Step 1: Notify Authorities and potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) (30 days) (current stage)

The first stage in the process entails notifying all potential I&APs of the proposed project, by sending out a Background Information Document (BID), and providing I&APs with an opportunity to register as an I&AP. I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database within 30 days (in order to be included from the outset of the BA process) and/or raise issues or concerns.

Step 2: Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for Public Comment (30 days)

The BA process is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the project. Mitigation and management measures will be identified to reduce potential negative impacts and will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for this project. The BAR will include comments received from all I&APs to date on this Report and findings of the specialist study. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the 30-day comment period for the BAR.

Step 3: BAR to be submitted to GDARD for decision-making

The BAR will be finalised following the 30-days comment period. The comments and issues raised following the release of the BAR will be incorporated into the final version of the BAR and will be submitted to GDARD for decision-making. All I&APs will be provided with written notification whether the project has been granted or refused EA and about the appeal process.


HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding to our invitation for your involvement as advertised in the local newspaper.
2. By mailing, emailing or faxing a comment form to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner indicated below.
3. By telephonically contacting the Environmental Assessment Practitioner if you have a query, comment, or require further project information.
4. By reviewing the various reports and provide comments within the stipulated comment periods provided (i.e. the BID and BAR).

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

To register as an I&AP or to comment on the project, please complete the Comment/Registration Form that has been included with this BID and kindly send to **Ms. Reinett Mogotshi** on or before July 2017.

Ms. Reinett Mogotshi

 Email: rmogotshi@csir.co.za

 Tel: 021-888-2432

 Fax: 021-888-2473

 Address: CSIR, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599

 Website: <http://www.csir.co.za/ems/specialneeds/>



Legend

-  Proposed Development Site
-  Main Road
-  National Freeway
-  Other Access

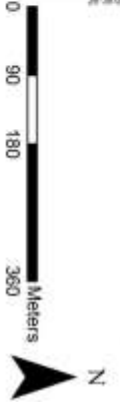


Figure 1: The location of the proposed expansion of the pig production enterprise on the Portion 56 of the Farm Houpoort 392 in Heidelberg, Gauteng