

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: BELFAST MALL AND MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

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

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform you, as a potentially Interested and Affected Party, of the proposed application for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Belfast Mall and Mixed Use Development. The Environmental Authorisation application will be lodged with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (the Competent Authority) 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). A Water Use Licence application in terms of Chapter 4 and Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended, will also be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

Labesh (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant, the Mlangeni Family Trust, in terms of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GNR. 982 of 4 December 2014), as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) tasked with conducting the above mentioned application processes. Labesh complies with the necessary requirements of Regulation 13 of GNR. 982 of 4 December 2014.

BACKGROUND OF THE APPLICANT

The owners of the Mlangeni Family Trust are well known farmers in the Belfast area and also own most of the farm land surrounding Belfast.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT OPERATIONS

Agriculturally related buildings are currently present at the project site and agricultural activities, such as livestock grazing, take place on site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will entail a mixed land use development consisting of the following land uses:

- Medium density residential;
- High density residential;
- Agriculture;
- Institutional;
- Mixed use;
- Industrial;
- Open space;
- Utilities; and
- Streets/public roads.

The two project properties are 117.5729ha in extent. Of this land, 11.4324ha will be used as "open space" and 52.2357ha will remain as "agricultural" land. The area of land that will be developed is therefore 53.9048ha.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Remainder of the Farm Bergendal 981, J.T. and the Remainder of Portion 12 of the Farm Wemmershuis 379, J.T. The project location is 3km to the South-east of Belfast, in the Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. A locality map is attached to this BID.

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:

- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 12, 24, 28, 45, 46, 48, 49, 56 and 67;
- GNR. 984 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 2): Activity No. 6 and 15; and
- GNR. 985 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 3): Activity No. 2, 4, 6, 12, 14, 18, 23 and 26.

The above mentioned activities require a full Scoping and 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 to I&APs upon its receipt from the Competent Authority.

The following proposed water uses require Water Use Registration and/or Licence applications in terms of Chapter 4 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998):

- Section 21(a): Taking water from a water resource – potential abstraction of groundwater from boreholes;
- Section 21(b): Storage of water – the storage of clean water in a reservoir;
- Section 21(c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse – development/construction within 500m from the boundary of a wetland;
- Section 21(e): Engaging in a controlled activity, identified as such in Section 37(1)(a): Irrigation of any land with waste or water containing waste generated through any industrial activity or by a waterwork – Irrigation of land with treated water from the package plant;
- Section 21(f): Discharge of waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer or other conduit – Potential release of treated water from the sewage package plant into ponds or the environment;
- Section 21(g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource – The treatment of sewage in a proposed sewage package plant; and
- Section 21(i): Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse - development/construction within 500m from the boundary of a wetland.

The Water Use Registration and/or Licence applications will be submitted to the relevant office of the Department of Water and Sanitation in due course.

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

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

An Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) report, as per the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998, and the relevant IWWMP guidelines, is applicable to the Water Use Licence application.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

The public participation processes for the above mentioned applications are conducted according to the requirements of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations of 4 December 2014.

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.



Labesh
ability to sustain

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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.

As required in the EIA Regulations, site notice boards have been placed on the project property boundary and a newspaper advertisement was placed in the Middelburg Observer Newspaper on the 28th of October 2016.

The draft Scoping Report will be made available to the public for review and commenting for a period of 30 days, early on in 2017 (exact dates will be communicated to registered I&APs). 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

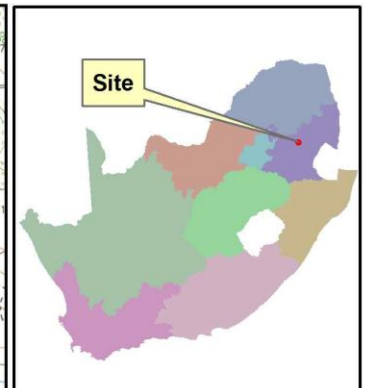
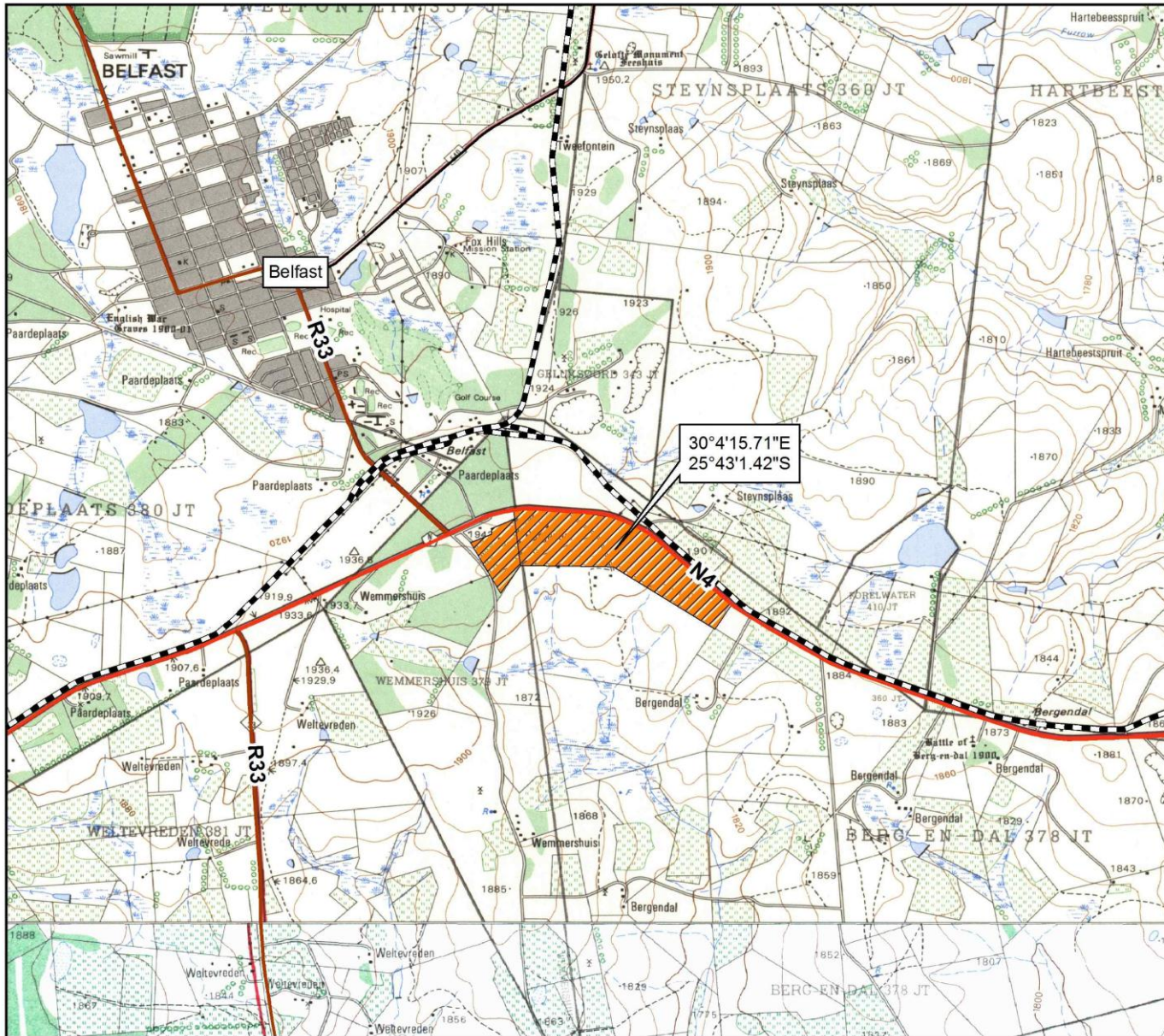
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**BERG EN DAL
LOCALITY MAP**

Legend

-  Railway Lines
-  National Route
-  Arterial Route
-  Main Road
-  Site

References:
Topo Map: NGI



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