

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: HAMBA KAHLE CEMETERY**

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

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform you, as a potential Interested and Affected Party, of the proposed application for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Hamba Kahle Cemetery. A new 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).

Labesh (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant, CJNS Melkery 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.

### **DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT OPERATIONS**

The project site is currently used for agricultural purposes and open pastures.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project will entail the following:

- The establishment of a cemetery and chapel for memorial services;
- The cemetery will comprise of 31 737 graves and a memorial garden;
- The cemetery will be divided into five sections:
  - Entry level graves;
  - Tree graves;
  - Family plots;
  - Up-market graves; and
  - The memorial garden.
- Parking areas;
- A number of toilet blocks;
- A sewage package plant; and
- An internal road network.

The two project properties are 478.7249ha in total. The area of land that will be developed is 18ha.

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

Remaining extent of Portion 1 of the farm Vlakfontein 388 IS; and the Remaining extent of Portion 6 of the farm Vlakfontein 388 IS. The project location is 3km north of Standerton, in the Lekwa Local Municipality, Gert Sibande 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. 23:** The development of cemeteries of 2500 square metres or more in size.
- **GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 27:** The clearance of an area of 1 hectares 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. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 28:** Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture 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.

The above mentioned activities require a Basic 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 Basic Assessment Report in accordance with Appendix 1 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. 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.

As required in the EIA Regulations, site notice boards will be/have been placed on the project property boundary and a newspaper advertisement will be placed in the Standerton Advertiser Newspaper on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.

The **Basic Assessment Report** is available to the public for review and commenting for a period of 30 days (registration of I&AP and commenting on the Basic Assessment Report is available until the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2019). Electronic copies of the report is available at the following link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/814oap6evg9nzi5/AACEvJneJBeDWRD1PI3RiVhta?dl=0>. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the EAP at the details provided below.



**Labesh**  
ability to sustain

**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

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

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)

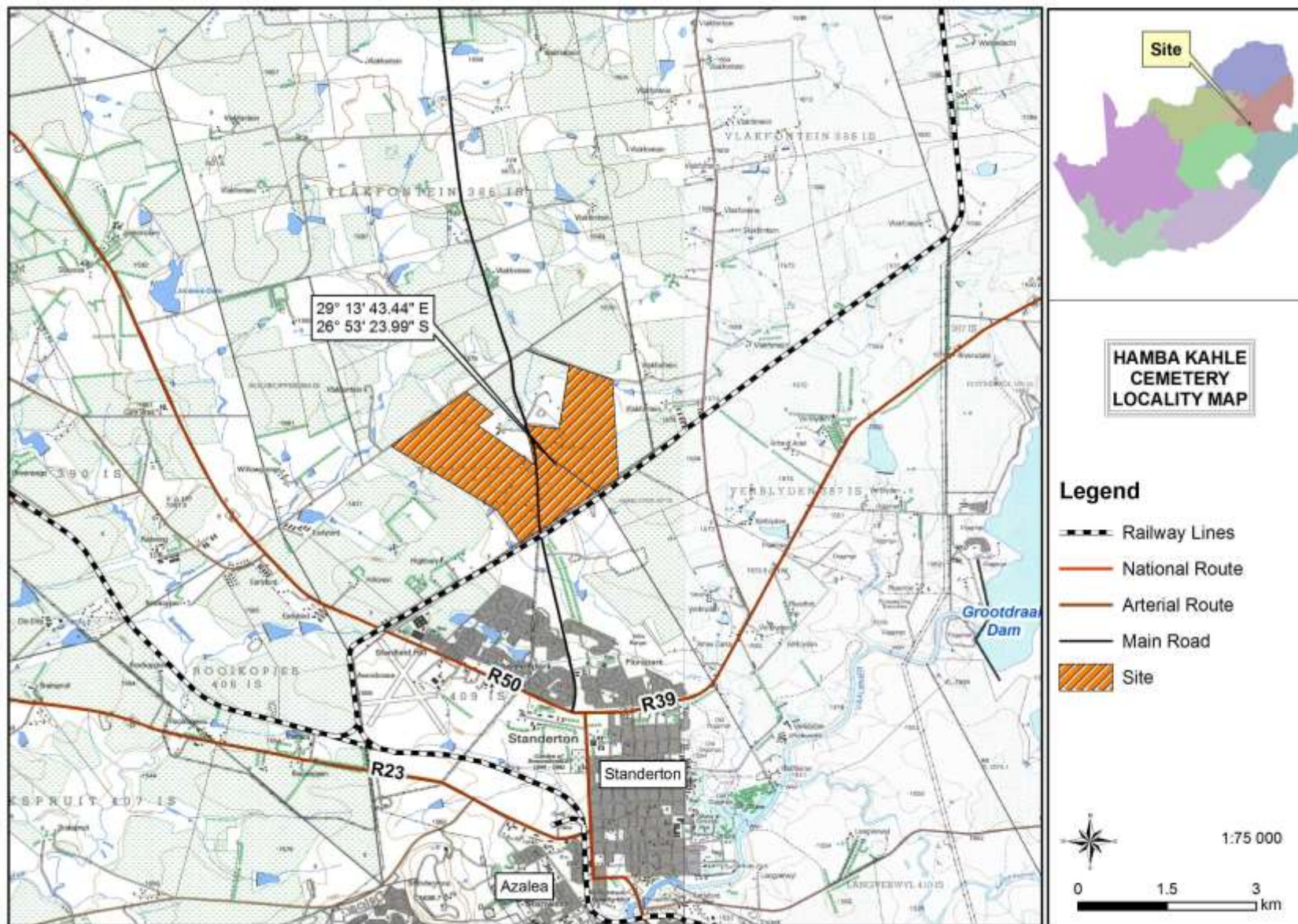


Figure 1: Locality Map



