

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION
FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOTRAN FILLING STATION
EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: TO BE CONFIRMED UPON SUBMISSION OF 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 establishment of the Sotran Filling Station in Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province. A new Environmental Authorisation application was 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, Sotran 5 CC, 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 above mentioned application processes. Labesh complies with the necessary requirements of Regulation 13 of GNR. 982 of 4 December 2014 as amended.

BACKGROUND OF THE APPLICANT

The Applicant is in the process of applying for a retail licence in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act No. 120 of 1977), as amended in 2006, administered by the National Department of Energy, with the goal of establishing a filling station on the remainder of Portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287 J.S.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT OPERATIONS

The project site is currently undeveloped with natural vegetation present on site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will entail the establishment of a new public filling station with convenience store as well as a bakery, quick-service restaurant and a car wash. The proposed development footprint will be approximately 1,0Ha and the total fuel storage capacity will be 184 000L of fuel in underground tanks.

The following will also be constructed:

- 4 Underground fuel storage tanks with a capacity of 46 000L each (combined capacity of 184 000L fuel);
- Fuel pumps;
- A canopy covert forecourt;
- A modern convenience store;
- A bakery;
- A quick-service restaurant; and
- A car wash.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Remaining Extent of Portion 27 of the farm Middelburg Town and Townlands 287, Registration Division J.S. Middelburg, Mpumalanga. The project location is on the South-Eastern corner of the R555 motorway and the Dr Mandela Drive, Middelburg (Mpumalanga). 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, as amended:

- GNR. 983 of 4 December 2014 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 14: The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres; and
- 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.
- 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, as amended. 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 was placed in the Middelburg Observer Newspaper on the 27th 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 28th of October 2019). Electronic copies of the report is available at the following link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a7x1wpg857dsiod/AABQ1UtOUZwurrjogdd1KFya?dl=0>. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the EAP at the details provided below.

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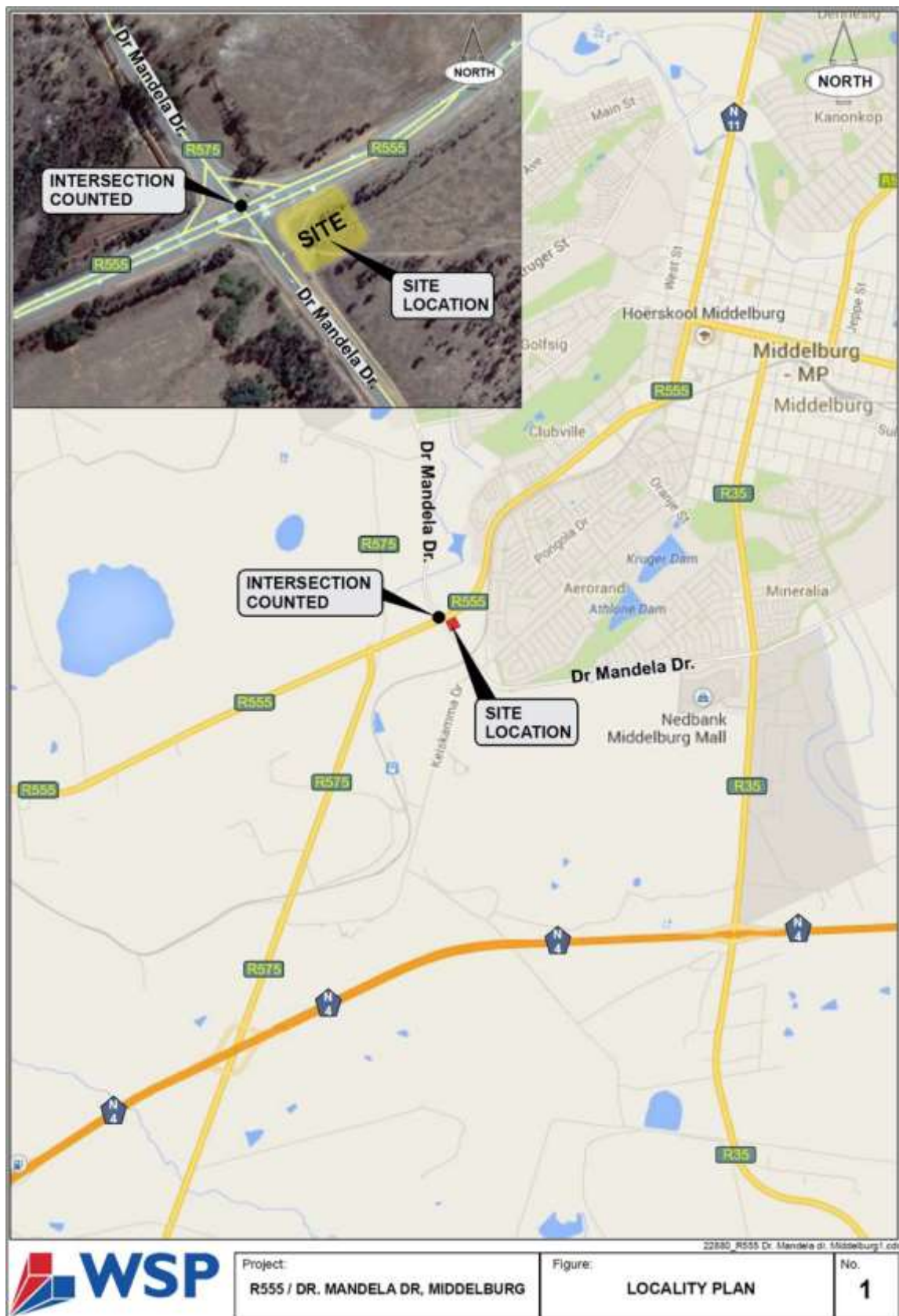
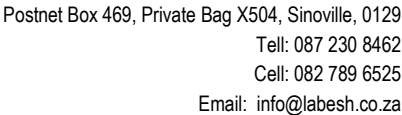
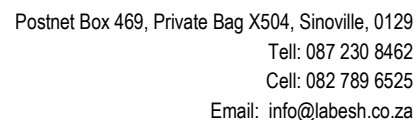


Figure 1: Locality Map



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