



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF VINEYARDS ON PREMISES 497, WEGDRAAI, GROBLERSHOOP

Introduction to the proposed development

The Rean and Estelle Family Trust (IT: 2226/96) is proposing to cultivate 16 hectares of land for the production of vineyards on the premises 497, Wegdraai, Groblershoop, Northern Cape), see **figure 1**.

In order to obtain the approval for the proposed development, a basic assessment must be conducted, as the activities will trigger listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (EIA Regulations, Government Notice Regulations (GNR) 983 of 4 December 2014 promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998. The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the development and to recommend methods to avoid or reduce adverse impacts as well as promote positive impacts.

Summary of the Environmental Assessment process

The agricultural development will entail the cultivation of fallow land for cane production and triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, Government Notice Regulations (GNR) 983 of 4 December 2014 promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998:

GN. R 983, Listed Activity 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.*

The BA process that will be undertaken for this project is summarised in the following steps:

Step 1: Notify Authorities and potential Interested and affected parties (I&APs) (30 days)

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 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 Basic Assessment Report will include comments received from all I&APs on this document 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 DEDTEA for decision-making

The BAR will be drafted and will be submitted to DEDTEA for decision-making. The comments and issues raised will be included in the BAR. All I&APs will be provided with written notification on whether the project has been granted or refused EA and about the appeal process.



Figure 1: Location of proposed development

