

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION: PROPOSED TOPIGS SA MERINO PIGGERY PROJECT ON PORTION 0 (REMAINING EXTENT) OF THE FARM MERINO 641 IR, MPUMALANGA (EIA Reference number: 17/2/3/GS-281)

Shangoni Project number: TOP-VIL-14-04-09

9 January 2015



PURPOSE OF THE BID

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about potential decisions that may affect them and to afford I&APs an opportunity to influence those decisions in the environmental authorisation application process for the proposed Topigs SA (Pty) Ltd: Topigs SA Merino Piggery Project.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Topigs SA (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a new piggery.

The site is located on Portion 0 (remaining extent) of the farm Merino 641, IR, Mpumalanga, at the following GPS coordinates: 26°56'42.92"S 28°31'35.41"E. The land is currently used for agricultural activities.

The proposed project will entail the following:

- The development of a piggery-grower unit where weaner piglets are grown until they are ready for slaughter. These pigs are called baconers.
- The construction of two (2) Weaner platforms. Each platform will have two (2) houses and each house will have four (4) rooms (therefore a total of 16 rooms). Each room houses 450 piglets. The total capacity within the weaner rooms is therefore 7 200 piglets. The dimensions of one platform is: 75m x 15m (1 125m²) x 2 platforms = 2 250m².
- The construction of seven (7) grower platforms. Each platform will have two (2) houses and each house will have two (2) rooms (therefore a total of 28 rooms). Each room houses 450 baconer/grower pigs. The total capacity within the grower rooms is

therefore 12 600 baconers/growers. The dimensions of one platform: 145m x 15m (2 175m²) x 7 platforms = 15 225m².

- The total footprint size of all the weaner and grower platforms is therefore 17 475m² (1.7475ha).
- The total development footprint, including the platforms and open spaces between and surrounding the platforms is: 285m x 175m = 49 875m² (4.9875ha).
- The construction of an office block that will include a store room and ablution facilities. The office block will have the following dimensions: 6m x 20m (120m²).

The following describes the basic process that will be followed to raise the baconer pigs:

- Each week, 900 weaner piglets (three weeks old) will be delivered to the piggery.
- One weaner room will accommodate 450 piglets.
- Weaner piglets will be transferred to grower rooms at ten and a half weeks of age.
- Once the pigs are 23 weeks old, they will be collected and taken to an abattoir for slaughter.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Procedure applied to the application

As the proposed activities entail the development of new infrastructure, a Basic Assessment (BA) will be required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for the authorisation of listed activities contained in GNR 544 of 18 June 2010, GNR 545 of 18 June 2010 and GNR 546 of 18 June 2010 published in terms of Sections 24(2) and 24D of the NEMA.

Application submitted to the competent Authority

An application for environmental authorisation in terms of the NEMA, as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, for the proposed activities was submitted on the 5th of December 2014 to the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (DEDET).

The application was accepted by the MDEDET on the 10th of December 2014 and subsequently the reference number 17/2/3/GS-281 was assigned to the application.

Listed activities applicable to the application

The listed activities that have been applied for include Listed activities 4, 20, 23, 37, and 47 of GNR 544 and Listed activities 4, 12, 13 and 19 of GNR 546.

Legislation associated with the application

South African legislation requires that a Basic Assessment Report be compiled in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended.

In order to do so, Topigs SA (Pty) Ltd has appointed Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd (Shangoni), as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP), in terms of Regulation 16 of GNR 543, to undertake and manage the processes of applying for the required environmental authorisations. Furthermore, Shangoni meets the requirements set out in Regulation 17 of GNR 543.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

People have a right to be informed about potential decisions that may affect them and to be afforded an opportunity to influence those decisions.

Register as an I&AP

You may be an I&AP for this proposed project. To register as an I&AP for this project, or to obtain more information or submit comments, please complete the Registration Form (provided in this BID) and return it to Shangoni at the details provided below.

Newspaper advertisement

An advertisement providing information as contained in this BID will be placed in the Beeld and Nigel/Heidelberg Rekord Newspapers on the 13th of January 2015.

Availability of the draft Basic Assessment report

A draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available to the public for review for a period of forty (40) days at a later stage in this application process. An electronic copy of the draft Basic Assessment Report will also be posted on the Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd website (www.shangoni.co.za) for public comment for the same period of forty days.

Where to obtain more information

To obtain additional information, please contact the EAP at the details provided below.

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd

Contact person: Lizette Crous

Tel: 012 807 7036

Mobile: 071 673 3355

E-mail: lizette@shangoni.co.za

Fax: 012 807 1014/086 643 5360

Postal Address: P. O. Box 74726, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID):
 PROPOSED TOPIGS SA MERINO PIGGERY PROJECT ON PORTION 0 (REMAINING EXTENT) OF THE FARM MERINO 641 IR, MPUMALANGA
 (EIA Reference number: 17/2/3/GS-281; Shangoni Project number: TOP-VIL-14-04-09)

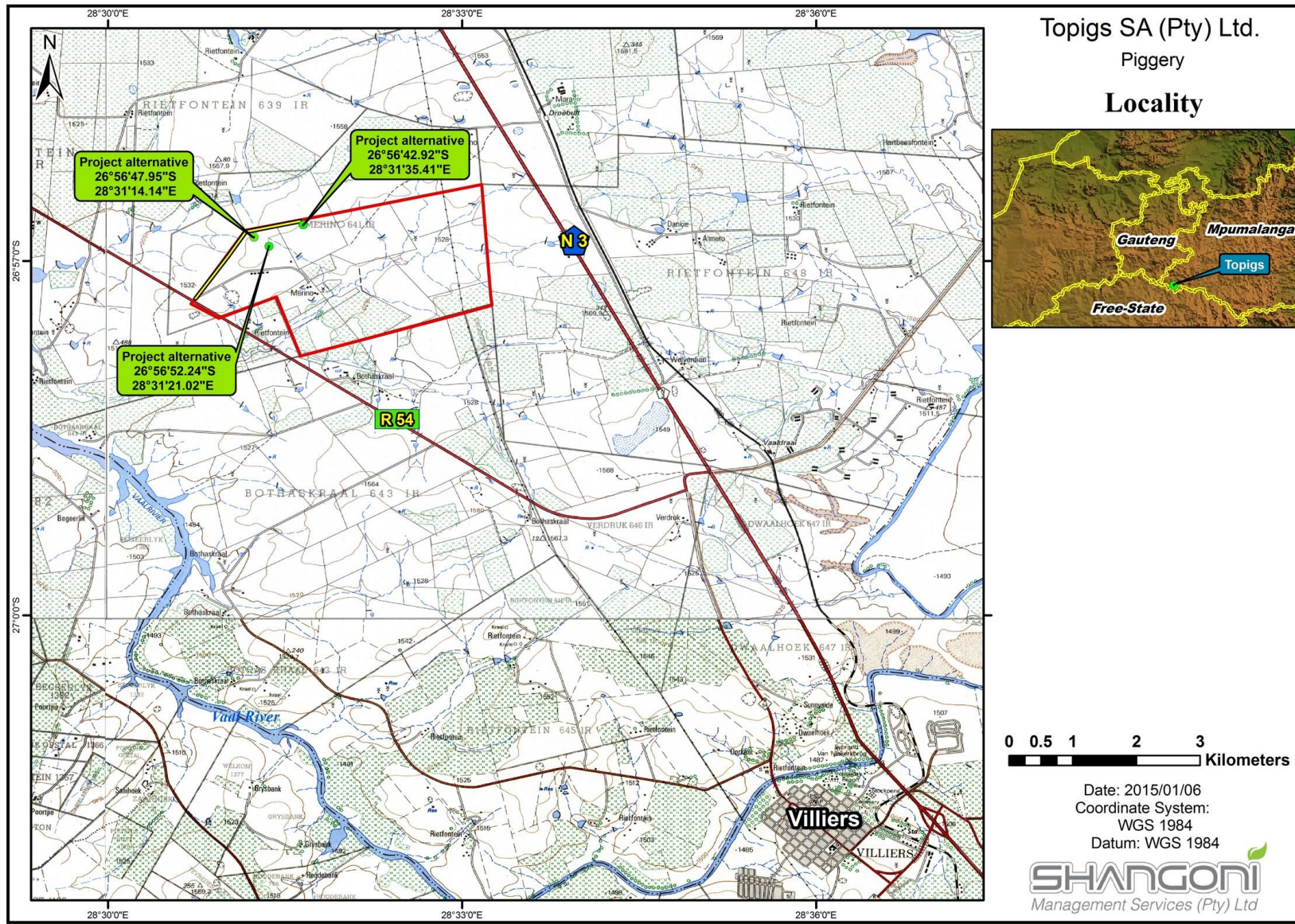


Figure 1: Locality of the Site

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION FORM
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT AND
OPERATION OF A NEW PIGGERY PROJECT FOR TOPIGS SA (PTY) LTD
(EIA Reference number: 17/2/3/GS-281)

Please complete this form and return it to Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd. to ensure that you are registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for this project.

By answering the questions below you will help us to develop a better understanding of your information requirements. The form also gives you the opportunity to make comments regarding the project. Additional pages may be attached.

I&AP Details:

Full name and surname: _____

Contact details: _____

Physical address: _____

Postal address: _____

Preferred method of communication: _____

Preferred telephonic communication: _____

Organisation/Representative: _____

Farm name, number and subdivision or _____

Street Address (if applicable): _____

Tel (w): _____ Tel (h): _____
Fax: _____ Cell: _____
E-mail: _____

Fax E-mail Post
 Cell Home Work

Questions

1) Where did you obtain information regarding the proposed project?

Newspaper Advertisement Notice Board Flyer Other (Please Specify)

2) Do you represent a company/organisation or is your interest on behalf of yourself?

3) Do you know of anyone that is affected by the proposed activity who was not informed of the project? (Please provide contact details)

Do you have any specific concerns or comments regarding the proposed project?

YES

NO

If yes, please indicate what your comments are?

