CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT TO BE SITUATED ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM NEWINGTON 255 KU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

PREPARED BY:

Unit 76, Block 5, Lombardy

Business Park

66 Graham Road

Pretoria

PREPARED FOR:

Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

R533 Graskop Road, Opposite Mapulaneng Driving Licensing Testing Center

Private bag X 9308

Bushbuckridge

1280

FEBRUARY 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

Leago Environmental Solutions has been appointed by Nkanivo Development Consultants on behalf of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP) to undertake a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed township establishment to be situated on Portion 1 of the Farm Newington 255 KU. The project area is approximately 71.65 hectares in extent, and is expected to yield approximately 514 stands.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This consultation scoping report and has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations published in Government Notice No. R 325 of 2017. These regulations fall under Section 24(5) read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998 as amended) (NEMA).

NEMA Section 24(5) stipulates that "listed activities" (i.e., those activities that have been recognised as having a detrimental effect on the environment require environmental authorisation from the competent authority.

Government Notice No. R325, Listing Notice 2 (NEMA EIA Regulations, 2017) identifies the following listed activity associated with the proposed project that requires environmental authorisation by means of a full EIA:

Activity 15

"The Clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding 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"

1.2 EIA PROCESS

The EIA process is controlled through Regulations published under Government Notice No. R. 325 and associated guidelines promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 as amended in 2014).

Three phases in the EIA process are typically recognised:

- Application Phase;
- Scoping Phase; and
- EIA Phase.

1.2.1 Application Phase

The Application Phase consists of completing the appropriate application form by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), the proponent and the subsequent submission and registration of the project with the competent

authority. An application is completed and will be submitted as well as the screening report, to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA).

(a) Details of Authority

Queries will be directed to the Directorate: **Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Land and Environmental Affairs (Ehlanzeni District)**

Environmental Impact Management
Riverside Office Park
Aqua Street (opposite Audi)
Building 4, East Tower
Nelspruit
1200

Tel: 013 759 4000

1.2.2 Scoping Phase

The Scoping Phase aims to identify the key environmental issues associated with the project, in part through public consultation; consideration of project alternatives; and provide focus for the EIA Phase. At the end of the scoping phase a report shall be compiled, known as a scoping report. As per the EIA Regulations, a consultation scoping report shall be compiled and it shall be circulated amongst the interested and affected parties to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed activity.

(a) Consultation Scoping Report

The aim of this Consultation Scoping Report is to document the following:

- Details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner undertaking the EIA
- Details of the project proposal
- Details of alternatives considered in formulating the project proposal
- Description of the legislation and guidelines applicable to the proposed activity
- A description of the receiving environment
- Documentation of the process and drafting of the public participation
- An identification of environmental issues and impacts associated with the project proposal and alternatives
- A description biophysical and environmental issues that require investigation
- A description of the methodology to be used in the assessment of impacts

- A Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment that will include a description of the public participation process.

This Consultation Scoping Report shall be sent to I&AP's for observation and comments.

(b) Final Scoping Report

Once this report (consultation scoping report) has been reviewed by I&APs, comments will be collected, the report will be amended as appropriate and finalised. The Final Scoping Report will then be submitted together with the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment to the Competent Authority; MDARDLEA. Once the Scoping Report and the Plan of Study for EIA have been accepted by MDARDLEA, the project will proceed into its detailed EIA Phase.

1.2.3 EIA Phase

During the EIA phase, a consultation Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which takes into consideration all the identified key issues and associated impacts from the scoping phase, together with a draft Environmental Management Programme, which specifies the way proposed mitigation measures are to be implemented, will be produced by Leago Environmental Solutions. The consultation/ draft EIAR will be made available to the registered I&APs for review and comment for a period of 30 days. Once the I&AP comments have been integrated into the EIAR it will be submitted to MDARDLEA for consideration.

2. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

2.1 Location of the Proposed Activity

The proposed development/ activity is situated on Portion 1 of the Farm Newington 255 KU in Dumphries Village. Additionally, the proposed project area is located approximately 17km away from the town of Thulamahashe and 38 km west of the Bushbuckridge town.

The site is located roughly at the following coordinates: Longitude 31°18'54"E Latitude 24°46'53"S

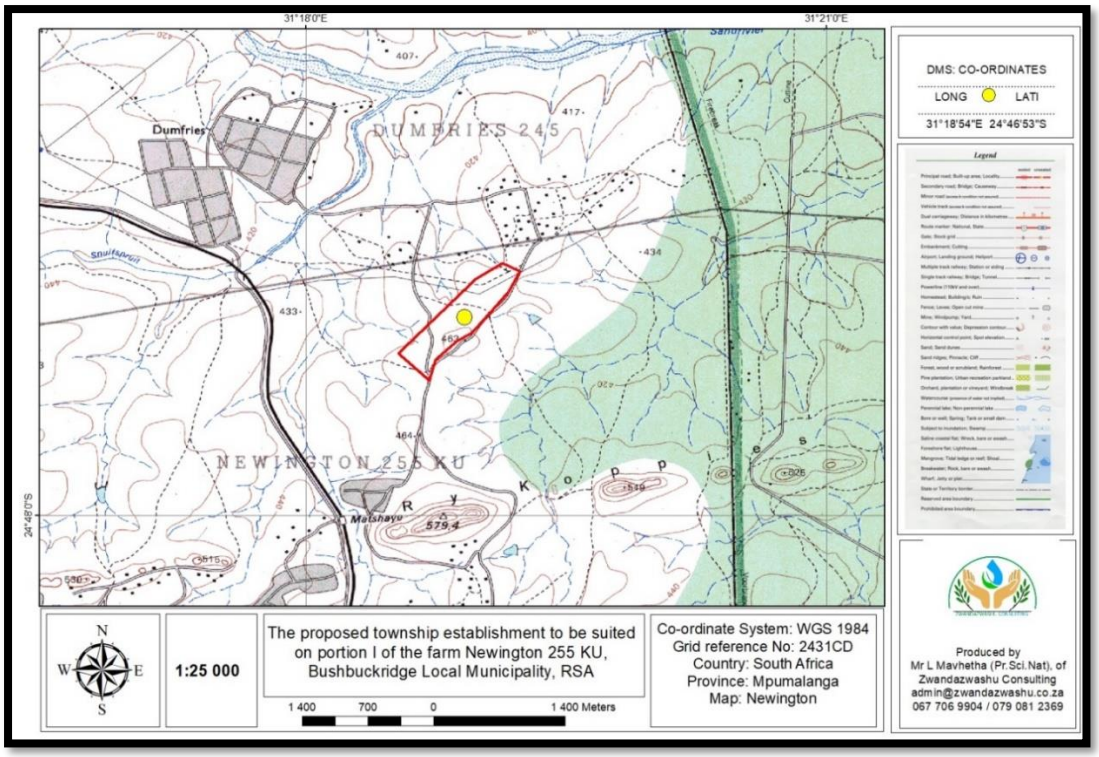

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development site.

2.2 Description of Proposed Activity

The proposed activity is the township establishment. The project area is approximately 71.65 hectares in extent, which is expected to yield 514 stands.

The proposed development entails 514 stands for:

- 500 Residential (dwelling units)
- 7 Business site (retail)
- 3 Institutional (crèche)
- 3 Institutional (church) and 1 community facility (multi-purpose centre)
- 1 Government/ Municipal

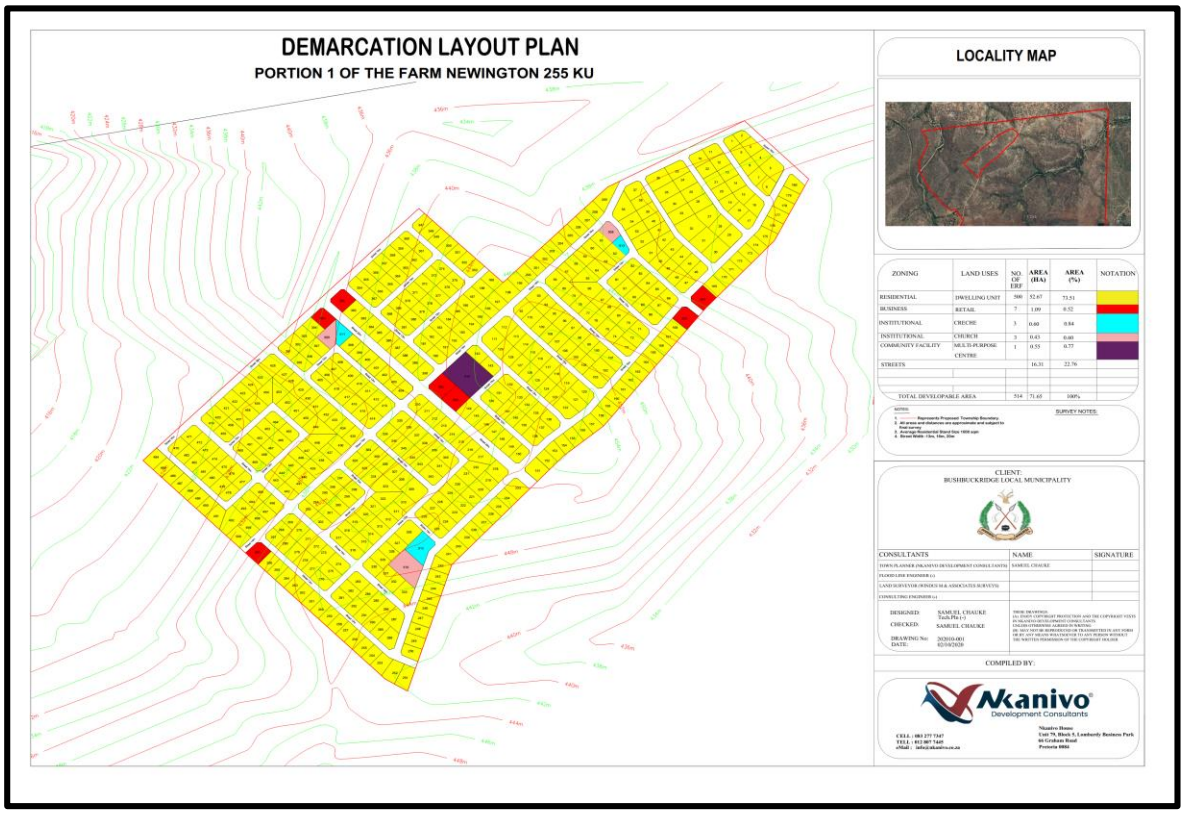

Figure 2: Layout Plan of the proposed development

2.3. CIVIL SERVICES

2.3.1. Roads

The site is can be accessed through a gravel road D4392 linking Dumphries B to Matshaye village.

2.3.2. Water

The Dumphries B village water source is the Inyaka Dam Bulk Water Treatment Works (WTW), whose custodian is Bushbuckridge Water

2.3.3. Sewer Services

Currently, Dumphries has no existing wastewater treatment works. Sewer is currently handled onsite through the use of septic tanks and pit toilets.

2.3.4. Solid Waste

A regional landfill closest to the site will be used to dispose the solid waste. The local municipality will have to be engaged for collecting and disposing the solid waste.

2.3.5 Storm Water Drainage

The storm water will drain on according to the slope of the natural ground.

2.3.6. Electricity

The proposed development can be connected to the existing electrical infrastructures. Please note that electrical report in relation to the activity will be prepared and it will form part of the EIA report.

3. ALTERNATIVES

The EIA Regulations stipulate that a requirement of the Scoping Process is to investigate feasible and reasonable alternatives to the project proposal.

The EIA Regulations define "Alternatives", in relation to a proposed activity, as "different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to –

(a) The property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity
(b) The type of activity to be undertaken
(c) The design or layout of the activity
(d) The technology to be used in the activity
(e) The operational aspects of the activity

The concept of alternatives is aimed at ensuring that the best among all possible options in all aspects (environmental, economic, etc.) is selected. The option of not carrying out the proposed actions (no-go option) or developments is discussed to demonstrate environmental conditions without the project.

This means that for any project that is proposed, there should be a number of possible proposals or alternatives for accomplishing the same objectives or meeting the same need. Alternatives that would still meet the objective of the original proposal, but which would also have an acceptable impact on the environment (referring to physical, biological, aesthetic/visual) must be considered.

Kindly note there is no other alternative for the activity as the proposed development area/ site is the only land available, however there is a possibility of a layout alternative that will still meet the objective of the project scope.

4. NO-GO ALTERNATIVES

This option would come into effect if this assessment reveals fatal flaws in the process. To date no fatal flaws have been revealed. The no-go alternative of not developing the proposed site would leave the environment in the current state.

5. LEGISLATION AND POLICY GUIDELINES CONSIDERED

Table 1: The following table presents the most pertinent relevant legislation for the proposed development.

	ACT	SUMMARY	RELEVANCE TO DEVELOPMENT
5.1	**Constitution (Act 108 of 1996)**	Everyone has the right to an unharmful environment which must be protect for the benefit of future generations. This is achieved through measures such as; preventing pollution and degradation, promoting conservation, promoting sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources.	Ensure conservation principles are promoted, that the proposed activity is ecologically sustainable and will not result in pollution and ecological degradation.
5.2	**National Environment Management Act (No 107 of 1998)**	NEMA creates the legal framework that ensures that environmental rights are guaranteed. The core principal relates to promoting sustainable development. The duty of care concept extends to prevent, control and rehabilitate pollution and degradation. Failure to perform these duties may lead to criminal prosecution. NEMA also introduces the EIA Regulations.	The proposed development should be in accordance with the NEMA principals, where this is not possible, reasons for deviation must be strongly motivated.
5.3	**National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) and pollution prevention**	The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, managed and controlled in an environmentally sustainable way. Also, relevant to the proposed activity is Section 19 of the Act which deals with pollution prevention.	Any water use must be investigated, specified, registered and licensed. Developers are responsible for taking measures to prevent pollution of water resources, undertaking necessary clean up procedures and controlling waste.
5.4	**National Environmental Management: Waste Management Act (No.95 of 2008)**	Listed activities require Environmental Authorization in the form of a Basic Assessment or full Scoping and EIA.	The proposed development falls below thresholds.
5.5	**National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)**	The protection of archaeological and paleontological sites and material is the responsibility of a provincial heritage resources authority and all archaeological objects are property of the state.	Any artifacts uncovered during the construction Phase must be reported to SAHRA.

6. DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

6.1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

6.1.1 Climate

Dumphries Village climatic conditions can be characterised as semiarid climate which receive approximately 353mm precipitation annually. The highest temperatures in Dumphries occur in the month of January at 29°C, while the lowest temperatures can be observed in the month of July at 22°C.

6.1.2 Geology

According to literatures and geological maps of the site, it can be confirmed that the site geology is canning moor tonalite. Details of the geology of the area will be explicitly discussed on the geotechnical report that will form part of the specialist report annexures.

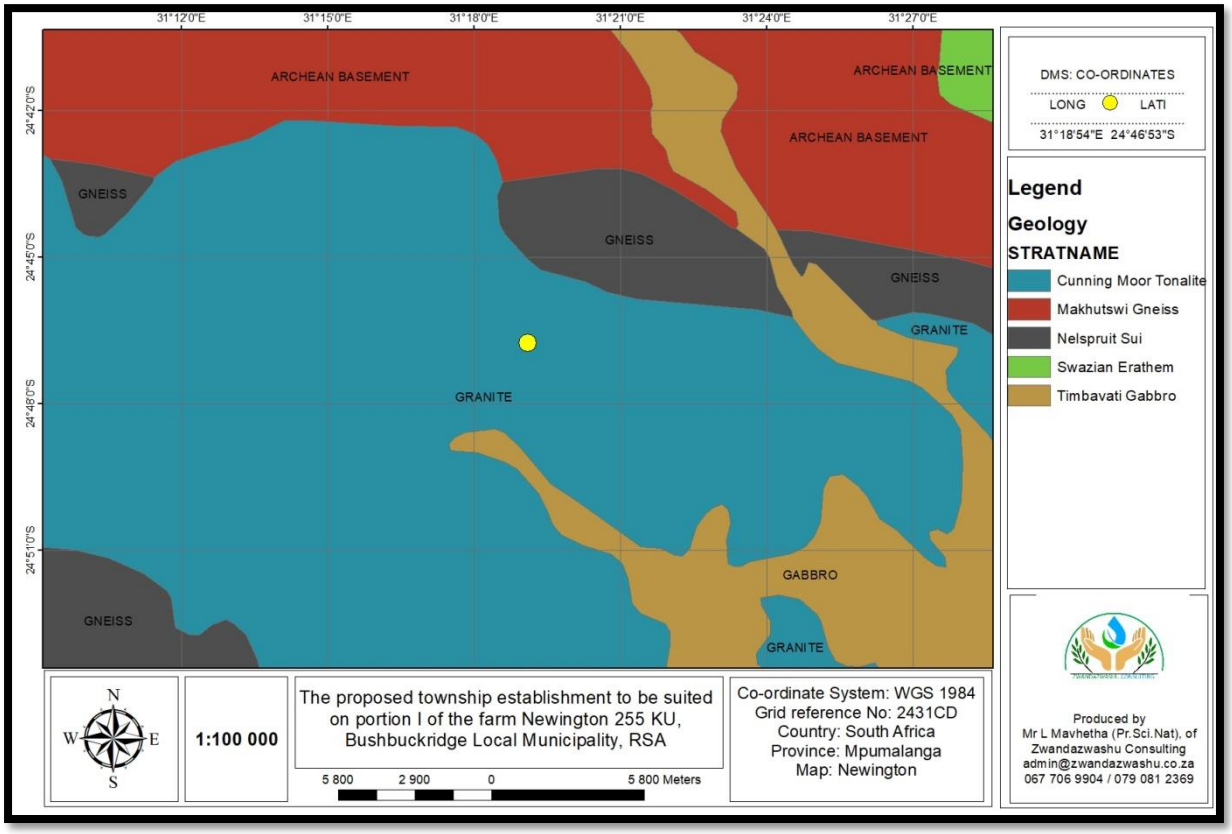

Figure 3: Geological map of grid reference 2431CD

6.1.3 Hydrology

Geotechnical investigation report will reveal the extent of groundwater seepage on site. Detail evaluation of groundwater seepage will be discussed on the geotechnical report that will form part of the specialist studies.

6.1.4 Topography and Drainage

The site is generally flat. Storm water generated onsite can be channelled to follow the natural slope of the ground, to the lowest point. It is envisioned to use Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage storm water

runoff from the site. A storm water management plan will need to be submitted to the municipality before construction starts.

6.1.5. Cultural and Historical Sites

There are no cultural heritage (archaeological or historical) sites, features or objects found on site. There are no structures/ buildings on site which are older than 60 years. No graves were identified within the proposed site. Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted to gain comprehensive understanding of the site.

7. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

7.1. Direct habitat destruction

The township development will result in loss of flora and fauna.

Destruction or loss of floral diversity or vegetation communities

- The physical removal of the vegetation;
- Construction activities can impact on surrounding vegetation by dust and altered surface run-off patterns; and
- Disturbance of the area could lead to an increase in the growth of alien vegetation.

Loss of faunal diversity and decline in animal numbers

- Installation of services by heavy vehicles and back-actors could cause fauna mortalities;
- Habitat loss and construction activities will force animals out of the area and animal numbers will decrease.

Mitigation measures

- Damage to large indigenous trees/shrubs should be kept to a minimum.
- Erosion must be prevented by the correct construction of roads that provide for storm water flow.
- Where there is a possible safety risk to fauna, precautions should be put in place to prevent this.
- Peripheral impacts around the township on the surrounding vegetation of the area should be avoided and a monitoring programme should be implemented to ensure the impacts are kept at a minimum.
- Advice should be sought when using any sort of poisons or pesticides.
- Construction impact should be kept at minimal and must not exceed the footprint of buildings as outline in the layout plan.

7.2 Habitat fragmentation

Natural movement patterns will be disrupted and could result in the fragmentation of natural populations.

Mitigation measures

- Use existing facilities where possible
- Ensure as little disturbance as possible during the construction phase.

7.3 Soil and water pollution

The development will always carry a risk of soil and water pollution, with large construction vehicles contributing substantially due to oil and fuel spillages. If not promptly dealt with, spillages or accumulation of waste matter can contaminate the soil and surface or ground water, leading to potential medium/long-term impacts on fauna and flora. During the constructional phase heavy machinery and vehicles as well as sewage and domestic waste from workers would be the main contributors to potential pollution problems.

Mitigation measures

- Water falling on areas polluted with oil/ diesel or other hazardous substances must be contained.
- Any excess or waste material or chemicals should be removed from the site and discarded in an environmental friendly manner.
- All construction vehicles should be inspected for oil and fuel leaks regularly, and any vehicle showing signs of leaking should be serviced immediately.

7.4 Spread and establishment of alien invasive species

Habitat disturbance provides an opportunity for alien species to spread.
Continued movement of personnel and vehicles, will result in a risk of importation of alien species.

Mitigation measures

- Weeds and invader plants must be controlled.
- Alien invasive species should be eradicated.
- Rehabilitate disturbed areas as quickly as possible.
- Institute a monitoring programme.
- Institute an eradication/control programme for early intervention.

7.5 Negative effect of human activities

- An increase in human activity is anticipated.
- The risk of snaring, killing and hunting of certain faunal species is increased.
- For construction sites, pollution could increase because of litter and inadequate sanitation and the introduction of invasive fauna and flora are increased.
- The increase in the number of people will result in increased risk of uncontrolled fires arising from cooking fires and improperly disposed cigarettes etc.

Mitigation measures

- Maintain proper firebreaks around entire development footprint.
- Construction activities must remain within defined construction areas and the road servitudes. No construction / disturbance should occur outside these areas.
- Construction activities should be restricted to working hours.

- Workers should be educated on the importance of conservation issues.
- Camp fires at construction sites must be strictly controlled to ensure that no veld fires are caused

7.6 Visual environment and Noise

Visual environment will be in line with the developments in the surrounding area. All structures and lights will cause a visual impact. During the construction and operational phases of the proposed development, noise and dust will be a factor. These impacts and mitigation measures will be addressed in detail in the Environmental Management Plan report (EMPr).

7.7 Surface Drainage

The study area will drain on according to the slope of the natural ground. Adequate storm water drainage system and culverts must be designed to control the volume, speed, and location of runoff to avoid soil erosion and damage to structures.

7.8 Air Quality

During the construction and especially when clearing the site, dust particles will be dispersed into the atmosphere which will have an impact to the air quality in the area. These impacts and mitigation measures will be addressed in the impact table hereunder as well as in the Environmental Management Plan report.

7.9 Archaeological and Historical Attributes

Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted to evaluate the archaeological sensitivity of the study area. Should any previously heritage remains be discovered on the terrain during construction, it must be immediately reported to the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and may require further mitigation measures.

8. NEED AND DESIRABILITY

- The proposed development site is strategically located next to the current boundaries of the existing villages/ township of Dumphries B and Matshaye.
- Access to the proposed development site is via the D4392 gravel road.
- The proposed development will contribute towards improving the housing stock of the area and general livelihood of the residents.

The development's location is therefore desirable due to its location in terms of:

- The existing road leading to the existing village, which will provide access to the proposed development area.
- There will be sites for business opportunities for the residents in the surrounding area.
- Furthermore, the development will eventually be integrated with the environment, have proper service provision and it will be well planned.
- It will create job opportunities (permanent and temporary), ensure social upliftment of the area, create investment opportunities and create a sustainable development environment.

- The proposed development will not have a significant detrimental impact on the surrounding areas and is not in conflict with the adjacent land uses.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

9.1 Newspaper advertisement

The proposed development will be advertised in the local newspaper to inform people about the project and request them to register their names and comment on the proposed development.

9.2 Site Notices

Site notices will be placed at various points around the site.

Notices regarding the background information of the proposed development will also be hand delivered/ sent to the landowners located within 500m of the proposed development site.

9.3 Consultation with Stakeholders

The consultation scoping report will be given to the stakeholders and all interested and affected parties upon request.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DETERMINATION AND EVALUATION

An environmental impact is defined as a change in the environment, be it the physical/chemical, biological, cultural and or socio-economic environment. Any impact can be related to certain aspects of human activities in this environment and this impact can be either positive or negative. It could also affect the environment directly or indirectly and the effect of it can be cumulative.

10.1 Methodology to assess the impacts

To assess the impacts on the environment, the process has been divided into two main phases namely the Construction phase and the Operational phase. The activities, products and services present in these two phases have been studied to identify and predict all possible impacts.

In any process of identifying and recognising impacts, one must recognise that the determination of impact significance is inherently an anthropocentric concept. Duinker and Beanlands, (1986) in DEAT 2002, Thompson (1988), (1990) in DEAT 2002 stated that the significance of an impact is an expression of the cost or value of an impact to society.

However, the tendency is always towards a system of quantifying the significance of the impacts so that it is a true representation of the existing situation on site. This has been done by using wherever possible, legal and scientific standards which are applicable.

The significance of the aspects/impacts of the process have been rated by using a matrix derived from Plomp (2004) and adapted to some extent to fit this process. These matrixes use the consequence and the likelihood of the different aspects and associated impacts to determine the significance of the impacts.

The consequence matrix use parameters like severity, duration and extent of impact as well as compliance to standards. Values of 1-5 are assigned to the parameters that are added and averaged to determine the overall consequence. The same process is followed with the likelihood that consists of two parameters namely frequency and probability. The overall consequence and the overall likelihood are then multiplied to give values ranging from 1 to 25. These values as shown in the following table are then used to rank the significance.

Table 2: Significance ratings

Significance	**Low**	**Low-Medium**	**Medium**	**Medium-High**	**High**
Overall Consequence X Overall Likelihood	1-4.9	5-9.9	10-14.9	15-19.9	20-25

Table 3: Description of the parameters used in the Matrixes

SEVERITY	
Low	Low cost/high potential to mitigate. Impacts easily reversible, non – harmful insignificant change/deterioration or disturbance to natural environments.
Low-medium	Low cost to mitigate small/ potentially harmful moderate change/deterioration or disturbance to natural environment.
Medium	Substantial cost to mitigate. Potential to mitigate and potential to reverse impact. Harmful Significant change/ deterioration or disturbance to natural environment.
Medium-high	High cost to mitigate. Possible to mitigate great/very harmful, very significant change/deterioration or disturbance to natural environment.
High	Prohibitive cost to mitigate. Little or no mechanism to mitigate. Irreversible. Extremely harmful Disastrous change/deterioration or disturbance to natural environment.

DURATION	
Low	Up to one month
Low-medium	One month to three months
Medium	Three months to one year
Medium-high	One to ten years
High	Beyond ten years

EXTENT	
Low	Project area
Low-medium	Surrounding area
Medium	Within the jurisdiction of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

Medium-high	Within Ehlanzeni District Municipality area
High	Regional, National and International

FREQUENCY	
Low	Once a year or once during operation
Low-medium	Once in 6 months
Medium	Once a month
Medium-high	Once a week
High	Daily

PROBABILITY	
Low	Almost never/almost impossible
Low-medium	Very seldom/highly unlikely
Medium	Infrequent/unlikely/seldom
Medium-high	Often/Regularly/Likely/Possible
High	Daily/Highly likely/definitely

COMPLIANCE The following criteria are used during the rating of possible impacts.	
Low	Best practise
Low-medium	Compliance
Medium	Non-compliance/conformance to Policies etc. – Internal
Medium-high	Non-compliance/conformance to Legislation etc. – External
High	Directive, prosecution of closure or potential for non-renewal of licences or rights

11. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Table 4: The following environmental impacts were identified

Environmental issues	Possible cause	Potential impacts
Air Pollution and Noise		
Smoke	- Vehicle emissions. - Fires.	- Health problems. - Air pollution. - Public nuisance. - Noise pollution.
Dust	- During construction. - Vehicle operation on roads. - Vegetation clearing.	
Fumes	- Fumes from vehicles. - Fumes from machinery.	
Noise	- Construction machinery and vehicles. - Presence of construction camp. - Operation noise (music and people).	
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Water Quality		
Pollution of water sources	- Spillage of fuel & oil from vehicles. - Spillage of building material e.g. cement etc. - Migration of contaminants off the site.	- Pollution of surface and groundwater. - Health risk.

	- Solid waste in storm water. - Littering.	- Lower water quality. - Soil degradation. - Erosion. - Siltation.
Silt deposition in surface water	- Erosion risk due to increased run-off from built up area. - Erosion from cleared areas during construction.	
Pollution from sanitation system	- Leakages of system and incorrect management of sanitation system. - Inadequate measures to prevent sewage spillages. - Overflow of sewage to groundwater.	
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Water Quantity		
Impact on amount of water resources Available	Over-utilisation of available water.	- Lose scarce resource - Increased pressure on ground water supply sources.
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Land/Soil Degradation		
Soil contamination and degradation	- Spillages of oil, chemicals from machinery & vehicles. - Removal of vegetation during clearing for construction. - Sewerage spillages. - Erosion due to increased runoff from built-up areas. - Increased erosion of drainage channels. -Site clearing during construction.	- Soil degradation - Loss of topsoil - Dust formation - Erosion
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Biodiversity		
Decline in fauna and flora diversity	- Cleaning of site for construction. - Pollution of soil. - Pollution of water resources. - Physical establishment of development. - Loss of habitat due to establishment of development.	- Loss of biodiversity. - Loss of habitat. - Negative impact on biodiversity. - Negative impact on rare /endangered/ endemic species and habitats.
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Cultural/Heritage		
Possible loss of heritage sites	- Damage / loss during construction. - Damage / loss during operation.	- Possible loss of cultural heritage.
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Visual Impact		
Impact of the proposed development of sense of place.	- The physical existence of the development.	- Negative impact on landscape quality character. - Negative impact on sense of place.
Visual impact	- Construction site and buildings. - Lights at night. - Presence of new development. - Overhead power lines.	- Obstruction. - Visual intrusion. - Public nuisance.
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Health and Safety		

Security	- Influx of people to area including construction workers and others after completion.	- Loss of safe and secure environment. - Threat to health. - Danger to human life.
Fires	- Accidental fires. - Burning of waste. - Cooking with fires.	
Environmental issues	**Possible cause**	**Potential impacts**
Socio-Economic Impacts		
Impact from change of land use from agriculture to township.	- Change of land use to residential, business, institutional, educational, public open spaces and streets.	- Impact negatively on agricultural production. - Land will no longer be used for agriculture.
Impact of the residential and other development on adjacent landowners	- Noise from construction activities, - Dust generated by construction vehicles and from site preparation. - The visual impact of lights. -The visual impact of residential and other units (business, institutional etc.)	- Nuisance and disruption. - Noise pollution. - Air pollution. - Negative visual impact.
Impacts related to the establishment of a construction camp with accommodation	- Location of construction camp. - Environmental impacts of construction activities e.g. spillage of hazardous liquids such as oil and fuel onto the soil surface. - Accommodation of construction teams on site - Littering, accidental fires, collecting of firewood and poaching. - Undesirable visitors to the area.	Adverse impact on the environment. - Resentment from neighbouring residents.
Impact ground and water pollution from littering and waste disposal during construction and operational phases	- The presence of a large work force and equipment and machinery during construction causing littering and dumping refuge and builder's rubble on site. -Construction activities from heavy vehicles and machinery.	- Soil and water pollution
	- The construction of structures such as open trenches and earth heaps might also hold safety risks for people.	- Safety risks for motorists, passengers, pedestrians and residents of the area
	- A lack of proper ablution facilities for temporary workers during construction.	- Soil and water pollution - Unhygienic conditions - Health risk.
Impact from the provision of structures and infrastructure services	- The development, construction and provision of infrastructure services.	- Pollution from sanitation systems - Pollution of water resources. - Negative visual impact of overhead power lines and electricity supply and waste removal. - Soil erosion as a result of the construction of internal roads and water reticulation networks.
Impact on archaeological /cultural / social features	- The development of structures and infrastructure services for residential and other sites. - Clearing of construction sites. - Construction of access roads.	- Negative impact on cultural or heritage resources.

	- Excavation of trenches for the installation of underground pipelines and cables.	
Job creation Ownership	- Temporary jobs during construction phase. - Permanent jobs during operation. - New housing. - New businesses. - New school (crèche)	- Positive impact – job Creation.

These key areas of impacts are further explored and described below to detail the impacts, the impact ratings and mitigation measures.

The following specialist investigations have/ will be conducted and used in assessing the environmental impacts of the different activities that form part of the development.

- Ecological/Biodiversity Study
- Heritage Assessment Report
- Geo-technical Investigation.
- Traffic Impact Assessment Study
- Engineering Services Report (roads, water, and electricity).

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Summary of Key Findings

Heritage Impact

The Heritage Impact assessment will be conducted to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the site. Any new discovery or previously of heritage features must be reported to the archaeologist and SAHRA and may require further mitigation measures.

Visual

Clearing of areas will result in a change of the visual attributes of the site.

Technical

Materials and methods of construction must all be based on the "Guidelines for Human Settlement planning and design" Redbook, as well as "SABS Standard specifications and Codes of Practice" as applicable.

A detailed geotechnical site investigation will be undertaken to identify potentially adverse geotechnical conditions at the site in order to facilitate and inform the planning phase of the proposed development.

13. COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND IDENTIFIED ALTERNATIVES:

13.1. Advantages of the proposed activity

- The proposed development will increase the availability of housing in the community thus decreasing homelessness
- The development will create direct and indirect jobs for the locals
- The development will promote economic growth with the Ehlanzeni District.

13.2. Disadvantages of the proposed activity and alternatives

- The land which is currently used for domestic animal grazing will be converted for residential use.
- The cumulative impacts that the development will have in terms of water use, waste, sanitation and other impacts can lead to extra environmental degradation, if not managed correctly.

14. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to provide the competent authority (MDARDLEA) with preliminary information regarding the potential impacts and scope of the development. It must be noted that this document is submitted as a Consultation Scoping Report and the Final Comprehensive Scoping Report will be prepared upon receiving comments from the competent authority. The Department is therefore respectfully requested to evaluate and consider this Consultation Scoping report, as part of an application that will be lodged in terms of section 24(5) of the National Environment Management Act, 1989, (Act no 107 of 1998), in respect of the following listed activitiy:

Listing notice 2. R325 (NEMA EIA Regulations, 2017)

Activity 15: *"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation"*

CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT TO BE SITUATED ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM NEWINGTON 255 KU, BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

PREPARED BY:

Leago Environmental Solutions

Unit 76, Block 5, Lombardy Business Park

66 Graham Road

Pretoria

0084

Cell: +27 (0) 81 428 6116
Tel: 012 807 7445
Email: Mankaleme@leagoenviro.co.za/ info@leagoenviro.co.za

February 2021

Author/ EAP(s):

Mankaleme M. Magoro

EAP Signature:

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