



# NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

THE PROPOSED DELVOER SHEEP FEEDLOT EXPANSION NEAR STEYNSRUS, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Delvoer (Pty) Ltd proposes the expansion of the existing Delvoer sheep feedlot. The operational Delvoer feedlot is aiming to expand their current operations from approximately 2 500 small stock units in 6 camps, to 15 000 small stock units in 15 camps.

The development is located approximately 8km southeast of the town of Steynsrus and falls within the Moqhaka Local Municipality and the greater Fezile Dabi District Municipality. The proposed expansion is located on the farm Delaware No. 1375.

Refer to the Locality Map provided with the BID.

Blue Crane Environmental has been appointed to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (Basic Assessment) process for the proposed feedlot expansion.

## 1. Purpose of the Background Information Document

You and/or the organisation /institution which you represent has been identified as a potential interested and/or affected party for the proposed development. This BID therefore aims to provide you with:

- An overview of the proposed development, including details of the location and infrastructure being proposed;
- An overview of the Basic Assessment process and independent specialist studies being undertaken;
- The details of how to get involved in the BA process, including to receive information, raise issues and comment and participate in the process as a whole.



## 2. Basic Assessment Process

Notice is hereby formally given, in terms of the 2014 EIA regulations (as amended in 2017) published in Government Notice No. R326 under Section 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), of the intent to lodge an Application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and the undertaking of a Basic Assessment (BA) Process (i.t.o. Listing Notice 1, 2 and 3 – G.N. R327, 325 & 324).

The need for the BA process stems from listed activities triggered in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. Environmental Authorisation is required for certain listed activities that are considered to potentially have a negative impact on the environment. The following listed activities have been identified to be relevant to the proposed development:

- Activity 4 (ii) (GN.R. 327): *“The development and related operations of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals (for the purpose of commercial production) in densities that exceed (ii) 8 square metres per small stock unit...”*
- Activity 27 (GN.R. 327): *“The clearance of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.”*
- Activity 39 (ii) (a) (GN.R. 327): *“The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of animals in densities that will exceed (ii) 8 square meters per small stock unit, where the expansion will constitute more than; (a) 1 000 additional units*

*per facility or more unit. (Expansion of number of small stock units)*

- Activity 56(ii) (GN.R. 327): *“The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres....”* (Widening of existing roads to ensure access to site).

It is confirmed that the proposed project is listed under Listing Notice 1 (GN. R. 327), indicating the potential of the development to result in a significant environmental impact. As the developments trigger Listing Notice 1 a Basic Assessment Process will need to be undertaken as per the requirements of Regulation 19 and Appendix 1 of the EIA Regulations, as amended.

Further to the above, specific geographic characteristics may be relevant to the affected properties and the surrounding areas (i.e., CBAs, Protected Areas, NPAES etc.) which could trigger listed activities under Listing Notice 3, GN. R 324 of the EIA Regulations. These activities will only be identified once the independent specialist studies have been completed.

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) has been identified as the competent authority for the proposed development and will therefore be the decision-maker on the Application for Environmental Authorisation.



### 3. Water Use Licence Application

In terms of Section 21 and Section 41(4) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), as amended, as well as in terms of Section 17, 18 and 19 of the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals (GN 267 of 24 March 2017) that an Integrated Water Use License Application will be submitted to carry out the feedlot expansion and that the following water uses will be triggered:

- 21(a): The abstraction of groundwater from boreholes.
- 21(b): Storage of water in an in-stream earth dam and reservoirs.
- 21(c) and (i): The storage of water within in-stream earth dam as well as development activities of a sheep feedlot within a 500m radius of a wetland.
- 21(g): Disposal of waste related to sheep feedlot (manure and possible runoff effluent).

### 4. Environmental Impacts and Independent Specialist studies

Potential environmental impacts could occur as part of the development of the proposed feedlot expansion. These impacts need to be assessed fully as part of the BA and WULA processes and appropriate mitigation measures need to be recommended by independent specialists as part of the Environmental Management Programme. The following preliminary impacts are expected to occur:

- Biodiversity – which includes ecology, wetlands, fauna and flora and assesses the potential impact and the associated disturbance of vegetation on the ecology and biodiversity (including critical biodiversity areas and broad-scale processes).
- Soils and agricultural potential - which assesses the significance of loss of agricultural land and soil degradation and/or erosion.
- Heritage - which includes archaeology and palaeontology and assesses the potential of disturbance to or destruction of heritage sites and fossils during the construction phase through excavation activities.
- Storm Water Management Plan – which include adequate planning in terms of storm water management as part of the project.
- Geohydrology Assessment – which includes ground water and borehole assessments.

Specialist studies will be informed by existing information, field observations and input from the public participation process. As an I&AP, your input is considered as an important part of the process, and we urge you to become involved.



## 5. Public Participation Process

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the BA or WULA processes from the outset. The Public Participation process will be undertaken in line with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Comment and input from I&APs are encouraged in order to ensure that all potential impacts are considered within the ambit of the study.

In terms of Section 24J of the NEMA, Act 107 of 1998 and the Department of Environmental Affairs Public Participation Guideline 2017, as part of the BA process, an I&AP has the responsibility to:

- Submit comment within the specified timeframes communicated;
- Submit comment directly to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), which is Blue Crane Environmental; and
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that I&AP may have in the approval or refusal of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

## 6. How to become involved

If you consider yourself an I&AP, we urge you to participate in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns

which affect and/or interest you, and about which you would like more information. Become involved by:

- Responding (by phone, email, WhatsApp) to our notification and invitation for your involvement;
- Getting in touch relevant contact person and registering as an I&AP on the project database;
- Contacting Blue Crane Environmental with queries or comments; and
- Reviewing and commenting on the project documentation including the BA Report within the timeframe prescribed by Blue Crane Environmental.

## 7. Comments and Queries

Kindly direct all comments, queries and responses to:

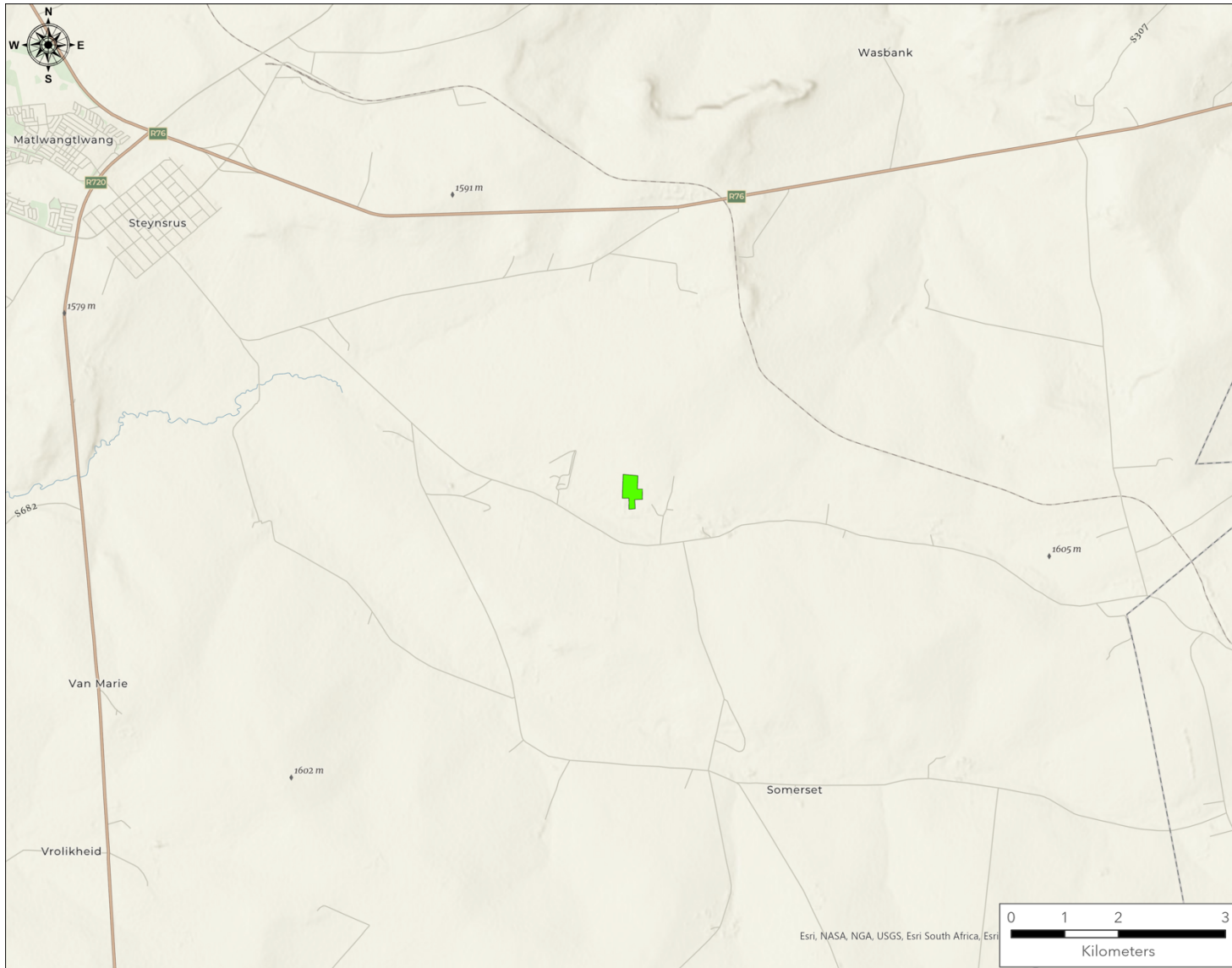
Blue Crane Environmental / JVR Water Consultants

Marélie Botha / SJ Jansen van Rensburg

Cell: 082 493 5166 / 072 132 5544

E-mail: [feedlot@bcrane.co.za](mailto:feedlot@bcrane.co.za)

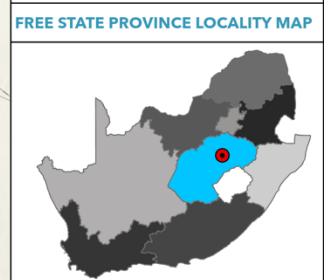
Alternatively, please visit our website at [www.bcrane.co.za](http://www.bcrane.co.za) or scan the QR Code in the document header.



### LEGEND

**Delvoer Feedlot Expansion**

- Assessment Area



**Data Source:**  
Delvoer (Pty) Ltd.

<b>Project No.:</b> 2319	<b>Coordinates (DDM):</b> 27°37,58063961'E 27°59,19575089'S
<b>Date Exported:</b> 2023/08/18 11:08	



**LOCALITY MAP:** PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE DELVOER SHEEP FEEDLOT NEAR STEYNSRUS, FREE STATE PROVINCE.