

General

- 1.38 A copy of this particular EA must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The Authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the Authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
- 1.39 Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
- 1.40 The holder of the Authorisation must notify the Department, in writing within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this Authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
- 1.41 Non-compliance with a condition of this Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the regulations.
- 1.42 National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this Authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where operation be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the conditions of Authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of the Authorisation.

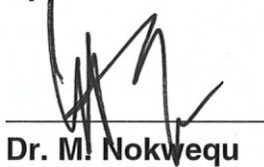
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Department of Economic,
Small Business Development,
Tourism and Environmental Affairs

01 JUL 2021

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Bloemfontein, 9300

- 1.43 The applicant is responsible for compliance with the provisions for Duty-of-Care and remediation of damage contained in Section 28 and emergency incidents contained in Section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act no 107) of 1998.
- 1.44 Emergency and reporting of incidents as stipulated in Section 30 of NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) must be followed accordingly.

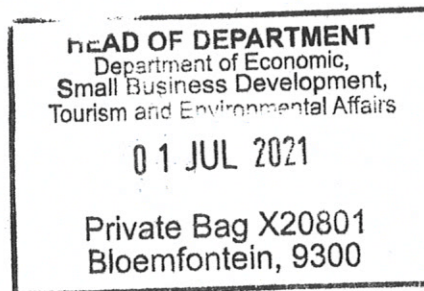
Approved:



Dr. M. Nokwequ

HOD: Department of Economic Small-Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA)

Date: 11/07/2021



Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Background

The applicant, Lobola Farming (Pty) Ltd applied for Authorisation to commence with activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325) and activity 12(b) of Notice 3 (GNR 324) of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended, described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated 20 April 2021 as the proposed clearance of indigenous vegetation for cultivation on various farm portions in the Hoopstad District, near Bloemhof Dam.

The applicant appointed BioBlue Environmental Sustainability (Pty) Ltd to undertake Full Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment process, for the activity as described under Regulation Notice 326 of 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the EIR dated 20 April 2021 completed by BioBlue Environmental Sustainability (Pty) Ltd and the accompanying Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
- b) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIR dated 20 April 2021 and the EMPr.
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines and Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).
- d) The findings of the site visit undertaken by Ms. D. Mokoena from the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs on the 09 June 2021.

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. Factors considered in making the decision are the following:

- a) Heritage Impact Assessment
- b) Wetland Impact Assessment
- c) Terrestrial Vegetation Biodiversity Assessment

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- d) Terrestrial Fauna Species & Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- e) Paleontological Assessment

4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings –

- (a) During the specialist assessment it was established that a natural corridor will have to be preserved to allow for fauna to move and from the Bloemhof Dam area. These findings have resulted in a maximum clearance area of 355 hectares.
- (b) Only one site was identified and recorded in the area during the assessment. This is a recent historical graveyard containing around 10 graves.
- (c) The CBA1 area on the farm Glendover includes vegetation that is associated with the drainage line and were rated as being of a high SEI and may not be cleared for croplands.
- (d) This area is embedded within the Kimberley Thornveld and therefore the Kimberley Thornveld in these areas should remain as a naturally vegetated buffer to the sensitive area of the CBA1 and to ensure an ecological corridor of natural vegetation through the site.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.

