

The Proposed Establishment of a Sawmill outside Greytown, Umvoti Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Aug 2014



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Environmental Basic Assessment process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

Pidelta proposes to establish a sawmill outside Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under Section 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) published in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 2010, the proposed development triggers Listed Activities published in Government Notice No R. 544, the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) and Section 21 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (2004), Act No. 39 of 2004:

GNR 544	Part 8:	<i>The construction of a hatchery or agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.</i>
GNR 544	Part 25:	<i>The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to – ... (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares; ...</i>
GNR 921 Cat. C	Part 1:	<i>The storage, including the temporary storage, of general waste at a facility that has the capacity to store in excess of 100m³ of general waste at any one time, excluding the storage of waste in lagoons.</i>

Thus a Basic Assessment, Air Emissions License and Waste License Application are required.

The Applicant, Pidelta, is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The Applicant has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basis Assessment Process for the proposed development.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Applicant proposes to establish a sawmill outside Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal.

Refer to Figure 1 for a locality map.



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?

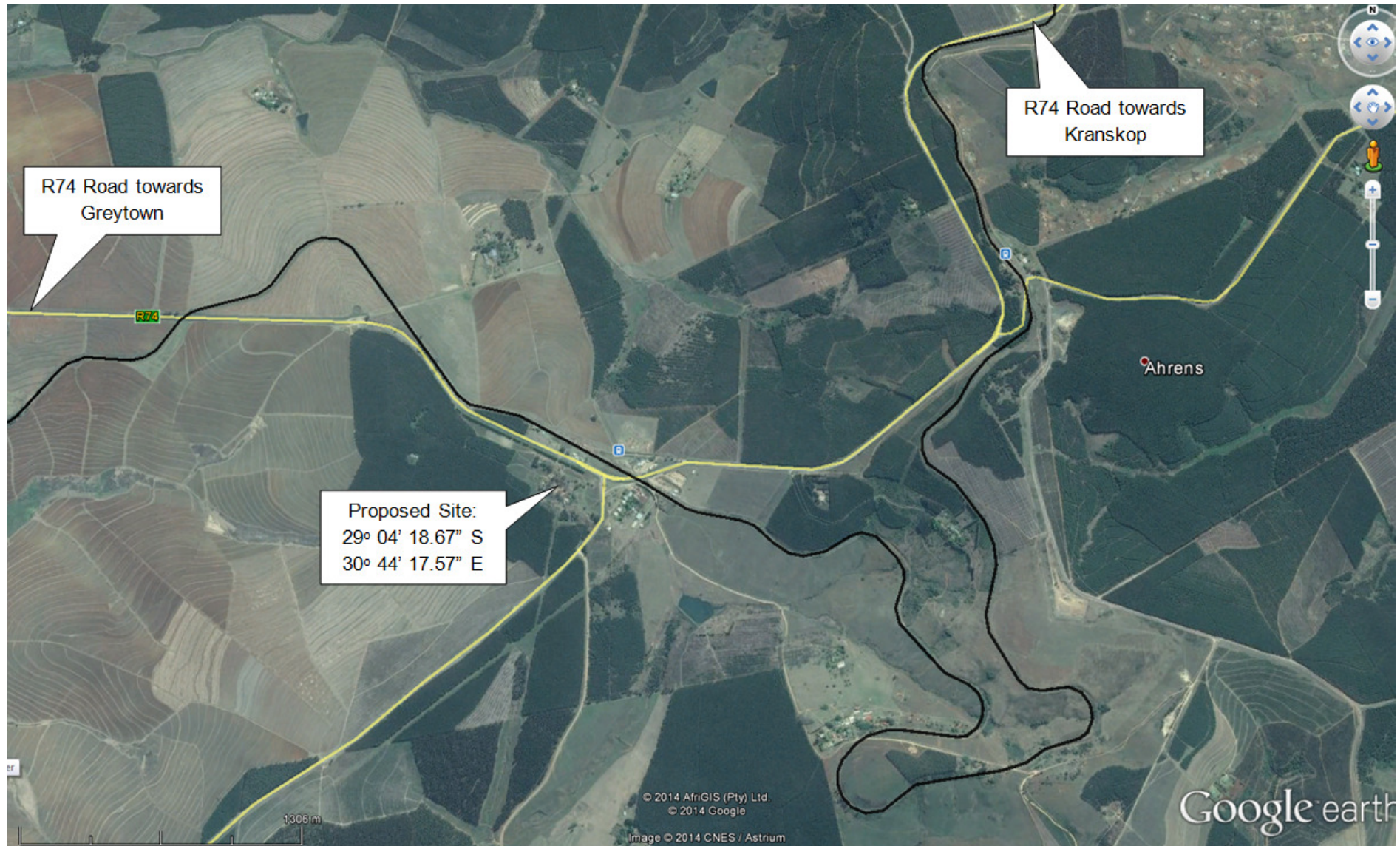


Figure 1: Aerial Map showing the location of the proposed development site and the surrounding land uses (Source: Google Earth)



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)?

The Basic Assessment process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Competent Authority with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE EIA PROCESS FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. Application Form:

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This Form provides information on the property, a description of the proposed development and lists the relevant listed activities which are triggered by this proposed development.

2. Public Participation:

The general public and relevant Authorities are notified of the proposed development through newspaper adverts, site notices and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but has not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the adverts and site notices.

3. Identification of Impacts and Alternatives

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

4. Impact Evaluation

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

5. Mitigation and Management Measures

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures.

6. Reporting

The Basic Assessment Report and Draft EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Basic Assessment Report.

7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by Competent Authority as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed development should be approved or not.



WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Visual impact for neighbouring landowners;
- ◆ Impact on air quality for neighbouring landowners; and
- ◆ Impacts during the construction phase of the project (i.e. noise, dust).



HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed development. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **1 September 2014**.



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400 Old Howick Road, Hilton, 3245
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Email: rebecca@greendoorgroup.co.za
Website: www.greendoorgroup.co.za

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organisation / Property Name:			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:			
		Post Code:	
Tel Number:		Cell Number:	
Fax Number:		Email:	

1. The following issues must be noted regarding proposed establishment of a sawmill outside Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal:

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2. The following potentially interested and affected parties should also be contacted:

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	
Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Additional comments?

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Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental.

Interested and affected parties desiring to object to the Air Emissions License may do so within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. Written representations setting out the grounds for objection must be lodged to: The Air Quality Officer: Umzinyathi District Municipality, Ms. S. Moodley, 0342191500/ 0796935359, P.O. Box 1965, Dundee, 3000 and KZN Provincial Air Quality Officer, Mr. J. Puckree 082 337 7326 / 033 355 9145.

Thank you