

Draft Basic Assessment Report

for

VAL GRAIN CO (PTY) LTD

GROOTPAN

REF NO:

Prepared by:

Bucandi Environmental Solutions



Project Manager: Dr. H len Prinsloo (D.Tech)
(Pr.Sci.Nat.) Reg. No. 400108/11 (SACNASP)

February 2023

Table of contents

1.	Introduction and background.....	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Details of the project proponent	1
1.3	Details of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	1
1.4	Details of specialists	2
2.	Location of proposed activity.....	2
3.	Scope of activity.....	2
3.1	Listed activities triggered	2
3.2	Description of activity.....	3
3.3	Relevant legislation	3
4.	Need and desirability of the project	4
4.1	Need for operation of the facility	4
4.2	Preferred location	5
5.	Project alternatives	5
5.1	Property or location alternatives	5
5.2	Activity alternatives.....	5
5.3	Design or layout alternatives.....	6
5.4	Technology alternatives	6
5.5	Operational alternatives.....	6
5.6	The “no-go” activity alternative.....	6
6.	Public participation process	6
7.	Environmental issues and possible impacts	6
7.1	Geographical and Bio-physical environment.....	6
7.1.1	Gradient of the site.....	6
7.1.2	Soils.....	6
7.1.3	Geology	7
7.2	Biological attributes	7
7.2.1	Groundcover and vegetation	7
7.2.2	Biodiversity classification.....	8
7.2.3	Sensitive areas	8
7.3	Physical attributes	8
7.3.1	Waste generation.....	8
7.3.2	Liquid effluent.....	10
7.3.3	Atmospheric emissions	10
7.3.4	Noise.....	10
7.3.5	Water use.....	11
7.3.6	Energy efficiency.....	11
7.4	Human environment	11
7.4.1	Heritage and cultural attributes.....	11
7.4.2	Socio-economic attributes	12
8.	Potential impacts.....	13
8.1	Full description of impacts and risks identified	13
8.1.1	Activity alternative 1 – Construction of 2welve environmentally controlled poultry houses (preferred activity).....	13
8.1.2	Activity alternative 2 – Construction of open poultry houses.....	18

8.1.3 “No-go” alternative – Agricultural land	22
8.2 Methodology of determining impacts	26
8.3 Summary of positive and negative impacts	31
8.4 Mitigation measures	32
8.5 Motivation for alternative selection.....	33
8.6 Impact of activity on preferred location	33
8.7 Description and assessment of each impact.....	34
8.8 Summary of specialist reports.....	37
9. Environmental impact statement.....	38
9.1 Key findings of the environmental impact assessment.....	38
9.2 Summary of the positive and negative impacts.....	38
10. Impact management objectives and outcomes	39
10.1 Ecological environment.....	39
10.2 Landforms and soils.....	39
10.3 Surface water	40
10.4 Groundwater.....	40
10.5 Aesthetic environment:	40
10.6 Noise	41
10.7 Air quality.....	41
10.8 Health, safety and security hazards	41
11. Aspects for inclusion in authorisation	42
11.1 Reasoned opinion.....	42
11.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation	42
12. Appendices	43
13. Undertaking	43

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

Val Grain Co is proposing the construction of 12 environmentally controlled poultry houses with the capacity for 50 000 chickens per house on Portion 3 of the farm Grootpan 591 IR situated near Val within Lekwa Local Municipality area. The proposed project triggers a Basic Assessment for certain listed activities under Listing 1 of NEMA (National Environmental Management Act, 1998). Bucandi Environmental Solutions (Bucandi) was requested by Val Grain (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Basic Assessment as part of the application for environmental authorisation.

1.2 Details of the project proponent

Company name: Val Grain Co (Pty) Ltd
Physical address: Farm: Witnek 581, Val, 2425
Postal address: P. O. Box 11, Val, 2425
Contact person: Mr. Monty Kerslake
Telephone number: 082 325 8411
Email address: nk1@vgco.co.za

1.3 Details of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Company name: Bucandi Environmental Solutions
Reg. No: 2009/087537/23
Physical address: 13 Krom Street
Potchefstroom
2531
Postal address: P. O. Box 317
Viljoenskroon
9520

Project coordinator: Dr. H elen Prinsloo

Telephone number: 076 682 4369
Email address: helen@bucandi.co.za
Qualification: D.Tech (Conservation Management)
Experience: 15 years
Affiliation: SACNASP *Pri.Sci.Nat* 400108/11

Assistant: Marika Smook

Telephone number: 076 422 3484

Email address: info@bucandi.co.za

Please see Appendix G for a copy of the Curriculum Vitae for the EAP.

1.4 Details of specialists

No specialists have been used for this project at this time.

2. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The study area is located 5 km southwest of Val in the Mpumalanga Province within the Lekwa Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality (Appendix A). More specifically it is located Portion 3 of the farm Grootpan 591 IR, at 26°49'35.70"S; 28°53'13.57"E (Appendix A). The R547 runs within 200 m of the site with a farm road providing access to the site. See Appendix A for the locality map and layout plans.

21-digit Surveyor General code	T0IR00000000059100003
Physical address and farm name	Portion 3 of the farm Grootpan 591 IR
GPS coordinates	26°49'35.70"S; 28°53'13.57"E

3. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

3.1 Listed activities triggered

The proposed activity triggers the following Listed Activities in terms of **Listing Notice 1 of Government Notice No. R327** published in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 7 April 2017 under the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998:

Listing 1:

(ACTIVITY NO. 5) The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of (ii) more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days and (iv) more than 25 000 chicks younger than 20 days per facility situated outside an urban area.

(ACTIVITY NO. 28) Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional development where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.

3.2 Description of activity

The activity will entail the construction of 12 environmentally controlled poultry houses (145 m x 15 m each). Each house will have the capacity for 50 000 chickens. The completed site will have the capacity to house up to 600 000 chickens.

The project will entail the following:

- The clearance of 7.8 ha of old agricultural land, located in an area that is classified as Heavily modified area. (assessed as activity 1 in Section 8 below).
- Earthworks on 7.8ha ha to prepare for 12 poultry houses (assessed as activity 2 in Section 8 below).
- Construction of 12 environmentally controlled poultry houses (145 m x 15 m each) with capacity for 50 000 birds per house, totalling 600 000 birds (assessed as activity 3 in Section 8 below).
- A silo and water tank will be erected next to each house.
- Powerlines will be connected to each house from new solar panels that will be placed on the roofs of the houses.
- Pipelines will be connected to each house from a new borehole.
- The site will be fenced off with a 2.4m high electric fence.

3.3 Relevant legislation

Title of legislation, policy or guideline: Administering authority: Date:

National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998.	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	1998
Listing 1 of regulation 327 promulgated under Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) in Government Gazette 40772. Listed activity 5(ii), (iv) & 28(ii)		1998
National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998.	Department of Water Affairs	1998
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, Act No. 43 of 1983	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	1983
Air Quality Act, Act No. 39 of 2004.	Gert Sibande District Municipality	2004
Reg. 983 published on 22 November 2013 in GN 37054		2013
Heritage Act, Act No 25 of 1999.	South African Heritage Resources Act	1999

Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2000
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, Act No. 59 of 2008	Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	2008
Listed Activities Reg. 921 published on 29 November 2013 in GN 37083		
Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993	Department of Labour	1993
Noise regulation, 2003	Department of Health and Safety	2003
Environmental regulations for workplaces, 1987	Department of Labour	1987
Facility regulations, 1990	Department of Labour	1990
General Health and Safety Regulations, 1986	Department of Labour	1986
Electrical Installation Regulations, 2009.	Department of Labour	2009
Electrical Machinery Regulations, 1988.	Department of Labour	1988
Construction Regulations, 2014	Department of Labour	2014

4. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

4.1 Need for operation of the facility

The facility will provide increased food availability; in particular poultry products. Poultry is highly desirable as a food item across all income groups in South Africa. Internationally production of poultry has increased significantly over the past few years in line with increased consumer demands for production of poultry and expectations are that consumer demand will continue to increase. Due to overcrowding of present facilities, lack of additional facilities and therefore the potential for increased biological risk, suppliers have embarked on a process of establishing new facilities in order to overcome these problems and ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the industry. The socio-economic value of the project will indirectly have a positive impact on the immediate area as well as cater for the increasing demand for poultry in the Mpumalanga Province and nationally. At least 50 temporary employment opportunities will be created during the development and

construction phase. At least 17 additional people will be permanently employed during the operational phase of the activity. Contractors are employed during the construction phase and additional employment opportunities are therefore created.

4.2 Preferred location

The R547 runs within 4 km of the site with a farm road providing access to the site. The preferred site is located on agricultural land. The slope on the site is 1:43 meaning that the site is largely flat (see complete site description in Section 5.1).

5. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

5.1 Property or location alternatives

See Appendix B for site photographs and Appendix C for the site plans.

Site alternative 1 (preferred site)

The preferred site is located on 7.8 ha of agricultural land that is currently used for crop cultivation. It is 600 m south of Grootpan in an area that is classified as “Heavily modified” in terms of the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan of 2013. The R547 runs within 600 m of the site with a farm road providing access to the site. S1 is flat (slope = 1:54) and the costs and impacts of earthworks before construction will be minimal. A new Eskom point and boreholes will be connected to the proposed poultry houses. The site is located relatively high and stays dry year-round.

5.2 Activity alternatives

Preferred activity

Twelve environmentally controlled poultry houses (approximately 145 m X 15 m each) will be constructed with a capacity for 50 000 birds per house. A water tank and a silo for food will be constructed next to each house with underground pipelines connecting the water tanks with the new boreholes. A 2.4m electric fence with an entry gate (with biosecurity control measures) will be constructed around the site. A biosecurity house will be erected containing an office as well as a bathroom and showers. Electricity lines will be connected to the water tanks and all the houses. Solar panels will be placed on the roofs of the poultry houses.

Activity alternative 2

The site lay-out will be exactly as for A1, but the chicken houses will be open and not environmentally controlled. The differences between closed houses (A1) and open houses (A2) are as follows:

	A1 – Environmentally controlled	A2 – Open
Isolation value (R)	12	1.5
Heat capacity	1 100kW	1 500kW
Chickens/m ²	14	13
Energy saving	20%	0%

No-go alternative

The site is currently used for cultivation of crops game and will continue to be used as such if the proposed development does not go ahead.

5.3 Design or layout alternatives

Apart from the site alternatives, no design or layout alternatives are being considered.

5.4 Technology alternatives

No technology alternatives were considered for the proposed project.

5.5 Operational alternatives

No operational alternatives were considered for the proposed project.

5.6 The “no-go” activity alternative

The “no-go” alternative will entail using the land for cultivation of crops.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Please see Appendix D1 for a copy of the newspaper notice that was placed in “Beeld” on 12 August 2022.

Please see Appendix D2 for a photo of the notices placed at the site.

Please see Appendix D3 for the notifications that were sent to all the neighbours as well as the Local and District Municipalities and Department of Water and Sanitation on 12 August 2022.

Please see Appendix D4 for the Comments and Responses Report.

A copy of the draft BAR will be sent to all I&APs (Appendix D5).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND POSSIBLE IMPACTS**7.1 Geographical and Bio-physical environment****7.1.1 Gradient of the site**

The proposed site is located between 1 565 mamsl and 1 570 mamsl with a slight slope towards the northeast (gradient = 1:54).

7.1.2 Soils

The farm is located on mostly landtype Dc2, with a section E19 in the south-western corner. The proposed site is located on landtype Dc2, which is described below.

The soils associated with landtype Dc2 include the following:

Soil type	Depth (mm)	% Occurrence	% Clay in A horizon	% Clay in B horizon
Sterkspruit Ss26	250 - 450	24.0	15 - 25	40 - 55
Nyoka Sw41, Swartland Sw31	250 - 450	21.8	20 - 30	40 - 60

Lindley Va41, Arniston Va31, Sheppardvale Va42	250 - 450	17.5	20 - 30	40 - 60
Estcourt Es36, Uitvlugt Es34	300 - 550	11.0	12 - 20	50 - 60
Sibasa We13	300 - 500	8.0	20 - 30	40 - 60
Hartbees Ss24	250 - 450	6.5	10 - 15	35 - 50
Wasbank Wa21, Kromvlei Wa11	500 - 700	4.8	10 - 15	
Rydalvale Ar30, Arcadia Ar40	400 - 900	4.3	40 - 60	
Rensburg Rg20, Chinyika Wo21	400 - 700	3.5	35 - 60	
Glengazi Bo31, Bonheim Bo41	>1 200	3.0	35 - 45	40 - 50
Katspruit Ka10	300 - 500	0.5	20 - 30	40 - 60

The landtype is dominated by soils with low to medium clay content in the A horizon. Only 10.8% of soils associated with this landtype has a high clay content (above 40%) in the A horizon (typically associated with proximity to water bodies and / or a shallow water table).

7.1.3 Geology

Geology for landtype Dc2 typically consists of shale, sandstone and grit of the Ecca Group, Karoo Sequence, as well as some dolerite.

7.2 Biological attributes

7.2.1 Groundcover and vegetation

The farm (258.07 ha) is situated mostly on historical Soweto Highveld Grassland with a section of Grootpan in the northeastern corner located on Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands. The majority of the farm (180.94 ha, 70%), including the proposed site (7.83 ha) has been completely transformed by cultivation of crops. The remainder of the farm still contain the original vegetation type, with 19.06 ha (7%) classified as Optimal Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and 58.07 ha (23%) classified as Other Natural Areas.

Soweto Highveld Grassland is ranked as “Endangered” in terms of conservation status and forms part of the Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion in the Grassland Biome. It covers an area of 14 513.32 km², mainly in Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces and to a very small extent also in the Free State and North-West Provinces. It occurs in a broad band roughly delimited by the N17 road between Ermelo and Johannesburg in the north, Perdekop in the southeast and the Vaal River (border with the Free State) in the south. It extends further westwards along the southern edge of the Johannesburg Dome (including part of Soweto) as far as the vicinity of Randfontein. In southern Gauteng it includes the surrounds of Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging as well as Sasolburg in the northern Free State. It occurs at an altitude between 1 420 and 1 760 mamsl. It is rated Endangered with 52.7% remaining and a conservation target of 24%. It is currently hardly protected with only a handful of patches (0.2%) statutorily conserved in Waldrift, Krugersdorp, Leeuwkuil, Suikerbosrand and Rolfe’s Pan Nature Reserves; or privately conserved in Johanna Jacobs, Tweefontein, Gert Jacobs, Nikolaas and Avalon Nature Reserves and Heidelberg Natural Heritage Site. Almost half of the area already transformed by cultivation, urban sprawl, mining and building of road infrastructure. Some areas have been flooded by dams including the Grootdraai, Leeuikuil, Trichardtsfontein, Vaal and Willem Brummer dams. Erosion is generally very low (93%).

The proposed site will not have an impact on this vegetation type, as it is located on a heavily modified area.

Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands is ranked as “Least threatened” in terms of conservation status and forms part of the Freshwater Wetland Bioregion in the Azonal Vegetation Biome. It covers an area of 556.77 km², mainly in the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, North-West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces as well as in neighbouring Lesotho and Swaziland. It occurs around water bodies with stagnant water (lakes, pans, periodically flooded vleis, edges of calmly flowing rivers) and is embedded within the Grassland Biome. It occurs at an altitude between 750 and 2 000 mamsl. It is rated Least Threatened with 85.1% remaining and a conservation target of 24%. It is currently poorly protected with about 5% statutorily conserved in the Blesbokspruit (a Ramsar site), Hogsback, Marievale, Olifantsvlei, Seekoeivlei (a Ramsar site), Wakkerstroom Wetland, Umgeni Vlei, Umvoti Vlei and Pamula Park Nature Reserves. It is also protected in private nature reserves such as the Korsman Bird Sanctuary and Langfontein. Approximately 15% has been transformed to cultivated land, urban areas or plantations. In places, intensive grazing and the use of lakes and freshwater pans as drinking pools for cattle or sheep cause major damage to the wetland vegetation. The following species of alien vegetation are encountered in this type of wetland: *Bidens bidentata*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Conyza bonariensis*, *Oenothera rosea*, *Physalis viscosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Rumex crispus*, *Sesbania punicea*, *Schkuhria pinnata*, *Stenotaphrum secundatum* (indigenous on the South African coast, alien on the highveld), *Trifolium pratense*, *Verbena bonariensis*, *V. brasiliensis*, *Xanthium strumarium*, etc.

7.2.2 Biodiversity classification

The farm contains 19.06 ha classified as Optimal Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) 180.94 ha (including the proposed site) of Modified land and 58.07 ha of Other Natural Areas (ONA). The site occurs on heavily modified land

7.2.3 Sensitive areas

The proposed site is not located on a sensitive area. The vegetation is not ranked as CBA or ONA. Grootpsruit is located 1.9 km to the southwest and Grootpan is located 636 m to the northeast. Neither of these will be affected by the proposed development.

7.3 Physical attributes

7.3.1 Waste generation

Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)

Construction Phase

An estimated 9.6m³ of solid waste will be produced per month during the Construction Phase. Waste is expected to be limited to packaging materials (shrink wrap, cardboard) and litter generated by the construction staff. It will also contain leftover building materials such as cement or concrete, and PVC panelling. All the leftover building materials will be removed by the building contractor. Waste will be recycled as far as possible. Non-recyclable waste will be sorted into different types and disposed of at a suitably licensed waste disposal facility.

Construction phase solid waste will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal site. Waste considered unsuitable for municipal waste disposal sites will be disposed of at a suitably licensed hazardous waste disposal facility (e.g. WasteTech).

Operational Phase

An estimated 182.14m³ of solid waste will be produced per month during the Operational Phase. Solid waste will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal. Waste considered unsuitable for municipal waste disposal sites will be disposed of at a suitably licensed hazardous waste disposal facility (e.g. WasteTech). Any general waste such as litter generated by staff will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal site.

Manure removal

Approximately 194 tons of chicken manure will be produced monthly. Chickens are kept for a 35 - 40 day cycle. After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up using a bobcat. The manure is loaded onto a closed truck and taken to agricultural fields, owned by the applicant, where it is used as fertiliser.

Disposal of mortalities

The operation will result in approximately 25 600 chicken mortalities per month. The mortalities are removed on a daily basis and collected by ZuluCroc to be used as food for crocodiles and other reptiles.

Activity alternative 2

Construction Phase

An estimated 9.6m³ of solid waste will be produced per month during the Construction Phase. Waste is expected to be limited to packaging materials (shrink wrap, cardboard) and litter generated by the construction staff. It will also contain leftover building materials such as cement or concrete, and PVC panelling. All the leftover building materials will be removed by the building contractor. Waste will be recycled as far as possible. Non-recyclable waste will be sorted into different types and disposed of at a suitably licensed waste disposal facility.

Construction phase solid waste will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal site. Waste considered unsuitable for municipal waste disposal sites will be disposed of at a suitably licensed hazardous waste disposal facility (e.g. WasteTech).

Operational Phase

An estimated 182.14m³ of solid waste will be produced per month during the Operational Phase. Solid waste will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal. Waste considered unsuitable for municipal waste disposal sites will be disposed of at a suitably licensed hazardous waste disposal facility (e.g. WasteTech). Any general waste such as litter generated by staff will be disposed of at the nearest licensed waste disposal site.

Manure removal

Approximately 194 tons of chicken manure will be produced monthly. Chickens are kept for a 35 - 40 day cycle. After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up using a bobcat. The manure is loaded onto a closed truck and taken to agricultural fields, owned by the applicant, where it is used as fertiliser.

Disposal of mortalities

The operation will result in approximately 25 600 chicken mortalities per month. The mortalities are removed on a daily basis and collected by ZuluCroc to be used as food for crocodiles and other reptiles.

No-go alternative

No solid waste will be produced.

7.3.2 Liquid effluent**Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)**

After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up and removed. After removal, all surfaces are disinfected and sanitised by spraying them with an ecologically friendly foam-based detergent that is left to evaporate. Upon completion of this process, the floors of the houses are washed (using pressure washers) with water only that will be allowed to soak into the soil surrounding the facility. This water is not contaminated as the houses are disinfected and sanitised before being sprayed down.

Activity alternative 2

After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up and removed. After removal, all surfaces are disinfected and sanitised by spraying them with an ecologically friendly foam-based detergent that is left to evaporate. Upon completion of this process, the floors of the houses are washed (using pressure washers) with water only that will be allowed to soak into the soil surrounding the facility. This water is not contaminated as the houses are disinfected and sanitised before being sprayed down.

No-go alternative

No liquid effluent will be produced.

7.3.3 Atmospheric emissions**Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)**

Since the houses will be environmentally controlled poultry houses, the amounts of dust, ammonia and odours released into the atmosphere will be minimal.

Activity alternative 2

If this activity alternative is chosen, open houses will be used and relatively high amounts of dust, ammonia and odours will be released into the atmosphere, being of some discomfort to neighbours.

No-go alternative

No liquid effluent will be produced.

7.3.4 Noise**Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)**

Low levels of noise will be produced by the chickens in the houses.

Activity alternative 2

Low levels of noise will be produced by the chickens in the houses.

No-go alternative

Low levels of noise will be produced during cultivation of the fields.

7.3.5 Water use**Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)**

The activity will use approximately 3 600 000 litres of water per month. This will be sourced from groundwater through an existing borehole.

Activity alternative 2

The activity will use approximately 3 600 000 litres of water per month. This will be sourced from groundwater through an existing borehole.

No-go alternative

The activity will not use water.

7.3.6 Energy efficiency**Activity alternative 1 (Preferred alternative)**

Because of a higher isolation (R) value (12 for environmentally controlled poultry houses 1.5 for open houses) the use of fans for cooling in summer are much lower in closed houses than in open houses. During winter, closed houses also retain heat much longer and need substantially less heating than open houses. Energy efficient fans are also used. All the houses will be fitted with a day-night detector switch in order for outside lights only to be on when absolutely necessary. All lights inside the house make use of energy saving light bulbs. Solar panels will be placed on the roofs of the houses for alternative energy production.

Activity alternative 2

Open houses have a much lower isolation (R) value (12 for semi - closed houses versus 1.5 for open houses), but canvas "walls" are opened or closed to regulated the temperature inside the houses to a degree. During winter, open houses have a poor heat retention rate and more energy is needed for heating.

No-go alternative

The activity will not use electricity.

7.4 Human environment

7.4.1 Heritage and cultural attributes

There are no artefacts of cultural or heritage importance at the site. If any artefacts are discovered construction will cease and a Heritage Specialist will be contacted.

7.4.2 Socio-economic attributes

The Lekwa Local Municipality is Category B municipality situated within the Gert Sibande District in the Mpumalanga Province. It is one of seven municipalities in the district. It was established on the 5th of December 2000 after the amalgamation of three former Transitional Local Councils, namely Standerton, Sakhile and Morgenzon. It is located in the south-west of the district, with immediate entrances to the KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Free State Provinces. Newcastle, Heidelberg and Vrede are respective immediate entrances. Standerton serves as an urban node, whilst Morgenzon, which is 45km north-east of Standerton, serves as a satellite node. The Lekwa Municipality lies on the large open plains of the Highveld region, which is characterised by tall grass, and it is transversed by the Vaal River, which flows in a western direction. The municipality is named after the Vaal River, which is commonly known as Lekwa (the Sesotho name for the Vaal River).

Area: 4 594 km²

Cities/Towns: Morgenzon, Standerton

Main Economic Sectors: Agriculture, forestry and fishing (30%), community, social and personal services (13%), private households (12%).

The proposed development will contribute to social and economic uplifted through the addition of capital value and income generation to the region, as well as job creation. The table below summarises the expected relevant contributions.

Aspect	Activity alternative 1 (preferred activity)	Activity alternative 2	No-go alternative
Capital value	R 52 000 000.00	R 25 000 000.00	R 0
Annual income generation	R 6 500 000.00	R 6 500 000.00	R 0
Employment opportunities during construction	52	52	0
Value of employment opportunities during construction	R 3 500 000.00	R 3 500 000.00	R 0
Percentage to previously disadvantaged	95%	95%	0
Permanent employment opportunities	17	17	0
Value of permanent employment for 10 years	R 15 970 000.00	R 15 970 000.00	R 0
Percentage to disadvantaged	95%	95%	0

8. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The impact assessment in this section considered the following activities and the impact of each of the activities:

Activity 1: The utilisation of 7.8 ha of agricultural land.

Activity 2: Earthworks on a total of 7.8ha to prepare for the construction of 12 poultry houses.

Activity 3: Construction of the poultry facility.

Activity 4: Operation of the poultry facility.

8.1 Full description of impacts and risks identified

Impacts and risks identified including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts and the degree to which these impacts can be mitigated

8.1.1 Activity alternative 1 – Construction of 2twelve environmentally controlled poultry houses (preferred activity)

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
1-3	Air pollution on a local level.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Dust control by means of watering if necessary. Vehicles to be regularly serviced and well-tuned. Operations to be undertaken during working hours only.
1-3	Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Machinery must be properly maintained at all times. Servicing of

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
	entering and exiting the site.								machinery must take place only in specific demarcated and protected areas. Measures must be taken for the proper disposal of oils, grease, oil filters, rags, etc.
3,4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Proper ablution facilities must be provided i.e. chemical toilets at appropriate locations on site if necessary or existing facilities must be used. Workers must be made aware of the risk of soil water contamination. Domestic waste must be disposed of in appropriate containers, and removed to the nearest municipal waste-disposal site as part of existing waste management system.
4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
									up using a bobcat. The manure is loaded onto a closed truck and taken to agricultural fields, owned by the applicant, where it is used as fertiliser. Manure should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).
4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal of mortalities.	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: The mortalities are removed on a daily basis and collected by ZuluCroc to be used as food for crocodiles and other reptiles. Mortalities should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).
1-4	Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures:

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
									Appropriate measures must be taken to reduce the risk of erosion from unprotected slopes i.e. diversion berms, ponding pools, and not exceeding angles of repose of stockpiled material. All unprotected slopes must be rehabilitated concurrent with construction.
2-4	Increased fire risk	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Cooking and heating fires permitted only in designated areas with appropriate safety measures. Adequate firefighting equipment must be available, as prescribed by the relevant safety standards and legislation.
1-4	Disturbance of fauna	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operational activities. This site is located on an agricultural land and will contain minimal fauna. No fauna found on the site will be

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
									killed.
1-3	Disturbance of flora	1	5	5	1	5	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided. Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operation of the facility. The preferred site is located on an agricultural field and utilisation of this site will not have an impact on flora.
1-3	Safety on the construction site	4	5	5	3	3	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Access to the construction site to be controlled at all times.
1-4	Degradation of aesthetics	3	5	3	2	4	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be mitigated and minimised. If needed, an additional line of trees will be planted to minimise visual impact.
1-4	The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.	4	4	3	1	5	High	Positive	No mitigation suggested.

8.1.2 Activity alternative 2 – Construction of open poultry houses

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
1-3	Air pollution on a local level.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Dust control by means of watering if necessary. Vehicles to be regularly serviced and well-tuned. Operations to be undertaken during working hours only.
1-3	Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Machinery must be properly maintained at all times. Servicing of machinery must take place only in specific demarcated and protected areas. Measures must be taken for the proper disposal of oils, grease, oil filters, rags, etc.
3,4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Proper ablution facilities must be provided i.e. chemical toilets at appropriate locations on site if necessary or existing facilities must

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
	management.								be used. Workers must be made aware of the risk of soil water contamination. Domestic waste must be disposed of in appropriate containers, and removed to the Nearest municipal waste-disposal site as part of existing waste management system.
4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up using a bobcat. The manure is loaded onto a closed truck and taken to agricultural fields, owned by the applicant, where it is used as fertiliser. Manure should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
4	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal of mortalities.	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: The mortalities are removed on a daily basis and collected by ZuluCroc to be used as food for crocodiles and other reptiles. Mortalities should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).
1-4	Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Appropriate measures must be taken to reduce the risk of erosion from unprotected slopes i.e. diversion berms, ponding pools, and not exceeding angles of repose of stockpiled material. All unprotected slopes must be rehabilitated concurrent with construction.
2-4	Increased fire risk	1	1	2	3	3	Low	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
									following measures: Cooking and heating fires permitted only in designated areas with appropriate safety measures. Adequate firefighting equipment must be available, as prescribed by the relevant safety standards and legislation.
1-4	Disturbance of fauna	3	3	3	2	3	Medium	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures: Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operational activities. This site is located on an agricultural land and will contain minimal fauna. No fauna found on the site will be killed.
1-3	Disturbance of flora	1	5	5	1	5	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided. Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operation of the facility. The preferred site is located on an agricultural field and utilisation of this site will not have an impact on flora.
1-3	Safety on the construction site	4	5	5	3	3	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by the following measures:

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
									Access to the construction site to be controlled at all times.
1-3	Degradation of aesthetics	3	5	3	2	4	High	Negative	This impact is not reversible, but can be mitigated and minimised. If needed, an additional line of trees will be planted to minimise visual impact.
1-3	The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.	3	4	3	1	5	High	Positive	No mitigation suggested.

8.1.3 “No-go” alternative – Agricultural land

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
N/A	Air pollution on a local level.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
N/A	Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior to mitigation	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
N/A	Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal carcasses.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Increased fire risk	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.

*Activity	Specific Impact & Risk	Extent	Duration	Severity	Degree of Certainty	Probability	Significance prior mitigation to	Status of Impact	Reversibility/Mitigation Measures to be Implemented
N/A	Disturbance of fauna	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Safety on the construction site	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.
N/A	Degradation of aesthetics	2	1	2	1	3	Low	Negative	No additional activity will take place, only agriculture that already exists on the site. No mitigation recommended.

8.2 Methodology of determining impacts

- Various site visits were conducted by the EAP and information was gathered regarding the nature of the process and the baseline environment.
- The significance of identified impacts was determined as follows:

- **Extent**

The extent of the impact refers to the spatial dimension to which an impact will be felt (i.e. site, study area, local, regional, or national scale). The criteria for rating the impact extent are described in more detail in Table 1.

Table 1: Extent of Impact

Extent					
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	On site or the impact will be restricted to its immediate area	Study area Or the impact will be restricted to the site or route	Local Or the impact will affect an area up to 5 km from the site and route	Regional/Provincial Or the impact will be felt on a Local, district municipal or Provincial level	National/International Or the maximum extent of any impact

- **Duration**

In order to accurately describe the impact it is necessary to understand the duration and persistence of an impact in the environment. The criteria for rating the duration of the impact is described in more detail in Table 2.

Table 2: Duration of Impact

Duration

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Temporary Or the impact will occur very sporadically or less than 1 year from commencement of activity	Short-term Or the impact will continue to occur for a period between 1 to 5 years from commencement of activity	Medium term Or the impact will continue to occur for a period between 5 to 10 years from commencement of activity	Long term Or the impact will continue to occur for a period longer than 10 years from commencement of activity	Permanent Or the impact will be continue until the conclusion of activity

- Severity**

A description must be given as to whether an impact is destructive, or benign. It determines whether the intensity of the impact on the natural environment or society is permanently, significantly changes its functionality, or slightly alters it. The mitigation potential must be determined for each impact. If limited information or expertise exists, estimates based on experience will be made. The criteria for rating the severity of the impact are described in more detail in Table 3.

Table 3: Severity of Impact

Severity					
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Temporary impact easily reversible. Insignificant change or deterioration or disturbance Or improvement of natural and social environments	Short-term impact. Low cost to mitigate Small Moderate change or deterioration or disturbance Or improvement of natural and social	Medium term impact, which require substantial cost to mitigate. Potential to mitigate and potential to reverse impact Significant change or	Long term impact High cost to mitigate Possible to mitigate Very significant change or deterioration or disturbance Or improvement of	Permanent impact Prohibitive cost to mitigate Little or no mechanism to mitigate Irreversible Disastrous change or

Severity					
		environments	deterioration or disturbance Or improvement of natural and social environments	natural and social environments	deterioration or disturbance or improvement of natural and social environments

- **Degree of certainty**

As with all studies it is not possible to be 100% certain of all facts and for this reason a standard “Degree of certainty” scale is used as discussed in Table 4.

Table 4: Degree of Certainty of Impact Occurrence

Degree of Certainty					
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Definite Or more than 90% sure of the fact or the likelihood of the impact occurring	Probable Or between 70% and 90% sure of the fact or the likelihood of the impact occurring	Possible Or between 40% and 70% sure of the fact or the likelihood of the impact occurring	Unsure Or less than 40% sure of a the fact or the likelihood of the impact occurring.	Unknown or the consultant or specialist believes an assessment is not possible even with additional research.

- **Probability**

The criteria used for rating the likelihood of impact occurrence are described in more detail in Table 5.

Table 5: Probability of Impact Occurrence

Probability					
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Impossible Or the impact will not occur	Improbable Or the possibility of the impact occurring is very low	Probable Or there is a possibility that the impact will occur, provision must be provided	Highly probable Or It is most likely that the impact will occur at some stage, provision must be provided	Definite Or the impact will take place regardless of any prevention plans and there can only be relied on mitigation measures to contain the impact

- **Significance**

Evaluating the significance of environmental impacts is a critical component of impact analysis. The matrix uses the consequence and the probability of the different activities and associated impacts to determine the significance of the impacts. Consequence is determined by the sum total of criteria like extent, duration and severity, degree of certainty of impact as well as compliance to applicable legislation. Values of 1-5 are assigned to each of the different criteria to determine the overall consequence, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating.

The overall consequence and probability rating are multiplied to give a final significance rating. The values as shown in the following table are then used to rank the significance. It must be said however that in the end, a subjective judging of an impact can still be done, but the reasons for doing so must be qualified. The matrix used to determine the significance of each of the identified impact in this study is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Impact Significance Matrix

Impact Significance Matrix

Rating	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	1-4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25+
Description	There is little or no impact at all	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and or remedial activity is either easily achieved or little will be required, or both In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit are likely to be easier, cheaper, more effective, less time consuming, or some combination of these.	Impact is real but not substantial in relation to other impacts, which might take effect within the bounds of those which could occur In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and or remedial activity are both feasible and fairly easily possible In the case of beneficial impacts: other means of achieving this benefit are about equal in time, cost, effort, etc.	Impact is of substantial order within the bounds of impacts which could occur In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and or remedial activity are feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination In the case of beneficial impacts, other means of achieving this benefit are feasible but they are more difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could occur In the case of adverse impacts: there is no possible mitigation and or remedial activity which could offset the impact In the case of beneficial impacts, there is no real alternative to achieving this benefit.

Table 7: How to Apply the Rating Scale

Consequence
Impact Significance = (Extent + Duration + Severity + Degree of Certainty)/3] X Probability

8.3 Summary of positive and negative impacts

Specific impact or risk	Preferred activity (Activity alternative 1)	Activity alternative 2	"No-go" alternative
Air pollution on a local level.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	Negative	Negative	Negative
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	Negative	Negative	Negative
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal of mortalities.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Increased fire risk	Negative	Negative	No impact
Disturbance of fauna	Negative	Negative	No impact
Disturbance of flora	Negative	Negative	No impact
Safety on the construction site	Negative	Negative	No impact
Degradation of aesthetics	Negative	Negative	Negative
The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.	Positive	Positive	No impact

8.4 Mitigation measures

Specific impact or risk	Mitigation measures
Air pollution on a local level.	Dust control by means of watering if necessary. Vehicles to be regularly serviced and well-tuned. Operations to be undertaken during working hours only.
Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	Machinery must be properly maintained at all times. Servicing of machinery must take place only in specific demarcated and protected areas. Measures must be taken for the proper disposal of oils, grease, oil filters, rags, etc.
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	Proper ablution facilities must be provided i.e. chemical toilets at appropriate locations on site if necessary or existing facilities must be used. Workers must be made aware of the risk of soil water contamination. Domestic waste must be disposed of in appropriate containers, and removed to the nearest municipal waste-disposal site as part of existing waste management system.
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	After the completion of each cycle, all chickens are caught and the manure and litter are then scooped up using a bobcat. The manure is loaded onto a closed truck and taken to agricultural fields, owned by the applicant, where it is used as fertiliser. Manure should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal of mortalities.	The mortalities are removed on a daily basis and collected by ZuluCroc to be used as food for crocodiles and other reptiles. Mortalities should be handled according to Odour Management Plan (Appendix F2), Waste Management Plan (Appendix F3) and Biosecurity Plan (Appendix F4).
Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	Appropriate measures must be taken to reduce the risk of erosion from unprotected slopes i.e. diversion berms, ponding pools, and not exceeding angles of repose of stockpiled material. All unprotected slopes must be rehabilitated concurrent with construction.
Increased fire risk	Cooking and heating fires permitted only in designated areas with appropriate safety measures. Adequate firefighting equipment must be available, as prescribed by the relevant safety standards and legislation.

Disturbance of fauna	Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operational activities. This site is located on an agricultural land and will contain minimal fauna. No fauna found on the site will be killed.
Disturbance of flora	Only the preferred site should be used for construction and operation of the facility. The preferred site is located on an agricultural field and utilisation of this site will not have an impact on flora.
Safety on the construction site	Access to the construction site to be controlled at all times.
Degradation of aesthetics	If needed, an additional line of trees will be planted to minimise visual impact.
The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.	No mitigation suggested.

8.5 Motivation for alternative selection

The proposed activity alternative was selected as it will have minimal impact on the environment after mitigation measures have been implemented.

8.6 Impact of activity on preferred location

The table below provides a description of the significance of each identified activity on the preferred site location throughout the life of the proposed project.

Specific risk or activity	Significance before mitigation	Significance after mitigation
Air pollution on a local level.	Low	Low
Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	Low	Low
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	Medium	Low
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	Medium	Low
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal carcasses.	Medium	Low
Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	Low	Low
Increased fire risk	Low	Low
Disturbance of fauna	Medium	Low
Disturbance of flora	High	Medium
Safety on the construction site	High	Low
Degradation of aesthetics	High	Low
The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.	High	High

8.7 Description and assessment of each impact

1. **Impact:** Air pollution on a local level. Possibly caused by Activities 1-3.

This is not a cumulative impact.

Nature, significance and consequences:

Noise, dust and emissions due to excavation, stockpiling and transport of building material and removal of rubble may cause air pollution.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Study area	Short-term	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

2. **Impact:** Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site. Possibly caused by Activities 1-3.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Contamination of surface and ground water can be caused by operation and servicing of light earthmoving and transport machinery, particularly oil spills and leakage.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Site specific	Temporary	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

3. **Impact:** Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management. Possibly caused by Activities 3 and 4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Uncontrolled sewage and domestic waste disposal by workers may cause surface and ground water pollution as well as unpleasant odours and possible health risks.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Local	Medium term	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

4. Impact: Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal. Possibly caused by Activity 4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

The chicken manure is an impact of only low adverse significance since it is a natural product of farming practice. As a resource it exerts a positive impact.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Local	Medium term	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

5. Impact: Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal carcasses. Possibly caused by Activity 4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Disposal of chicken carcasses pose serious health, and soil and water pollution risks.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Local	Medium term	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

6. Impact: Soil compaction and loss of fertility. Possibly caused by Activities 1-4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Soil compaction, loss of fertility and increased erosion from unprotected slopes associated with trenches and foundations, as a result of excavation and earthmoving. This will be aggravated in the event of heavy rain.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Site specific	Temporary	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

7. Impact: Increased fire risk. Possibly caused by Activities 2-4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Uncontrolled cooking fires could cause veld fires. This would harm fauna and flora and pose a safety risk, particularly concerning vehicles and the adjacent land users.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Site specific	Temporary	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

8. Impact: Disturbance of fauna. Possibly caused by Activities 1-4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Temporary disturbance of fauna, becoming permanent as operational phase commences.

This impact is unavoidable, but of low significance since there are no endangered species present.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Local	Medium term	Probable	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

9 Impact: Disturbance of flora. Possibly caused by Activities 1-3.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Indigenous vegetation will be cleared within the proposed site boundary. This impact is unavoidable, but of low significance since there are no endangered species present.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Site	Long term	Definite	Not reversible	No	This impact is not reversible, but can be kept to a minimum by implementing mitigation measures.

10. Impact: Safety on the construction site. Possibly caused by Activities 1-3.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Injuries to residents and construction workers can be cause as a result of construction activities.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Regional	Permanent	Probable	Not reversible	Yes	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

11. **Impact:** Degradation of aesthetics. Possibly caused by Activities 1-4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

Visual impacts may occur during the construction and operational phase as a result of vehicle exhausts, dust, bare unprotected areas, the possibility of littering and the presence of poultry houses.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Local	Permanent	Probable	Not reversible	Yes	This impact is not reversible, but can be completely avoided by implementing mitigation measures.

12. **Impact:** Economic benefit to the local communities. Possibly caused by Activities 1-4.

This is not a cumulative impact

Nature, significance and consequences:

The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities to the local communities.

Extent	Duration	Probability	Reversibility	Irreplaceable loss	Degree of avoidance, management or mitigation
Regional	Long term	Probable	Not reversible	No	No avoidance or mitigation required.

8.8 Summary of specialist reports

No specialist study was conduct for the draft report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

9.1 Key findings of the environmental impact assessment

It is important that all the mitigation measures identified in Section 8 and the EMPr are implemented in order to prevent environmental impacts. If the mitigation measures are implemented and monitored, the impact of the proposed activity on the environment will be minimal. See Appendix A for a layout plan containing all the proposed activities and indicating any areas that has to be avoided.

9.2 Summary of the positive and negative impacts

Specific impact or risk	Preferred activity (Activity alternative 1)	Activity alternative 2	"No-go" alternative
Air pollution on a local level.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater due to leakages from vehicles entering and exiting the site.	Negative	Negative	Negative
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective management of sewage and general waste management.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective manure disposal.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Pollution of soil, surface water and groundwater due to ineffective disposal carcasses.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Soil compaction and loss of fertility.	Negative	Negative	No impact
Increased fire risk	Negative	Negative	No impact
Disturbance of fauna	Negative	Negative	No impact
Disturbance of flora	Negative	Negative	No impact
Safety on the construction site	Negative	Negative	No impact
Degradation of aesthetics	Negative	Negative	Negative
The construction and operation of the poultry facility will provide employment opportunities	Positive	Positive	No impact

to the local communities.			
---------------------------	--	--	--

10. IMPACT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

10.1 Ecological environment

- Injudicious and unnecessary destruction of natural vegetation should be avoided at all costs.
- Plant species of conservation significance should be conserved as far as possible by means of:
 - Avoidance of unnecessary disturbance or destruction of their habitat.
 - If possible, developments that jeopardize any specimens or large populations of red data or protected species should be planned in such a way as to avoid the specimens or populations.
- The eradication of declared weed and invader plant populations in the study area is strongly advised. A management plan and proper follow-up strategy for the prevention of the spread or establishment of new populations of such species should be developed and enforced.
- Where necessary, temporary water control structures should be put in place to minimize erosion and to create a favourable habitat for the establishment of vegetation during and after rehabilitation/landscaping.
- In the event of any protected or Declining species being recorded within the approved development site, permission for the removal of such species should be obtained from the Permitting Office of DARDLEA, and the appropriate in situ and / or ex situ conservation measures should be developed and implemented with the approval of the DARDLEA conservation authorities. Where feasible, protected or Declining species can be translocated to degraded or untransformed parts of the study area which provide potentially suitable habitat, but such translocations will have to be carried out in a way that ensures no ecological degradation of the host habitat occurs, and will have to be evaluated by an ecologist for each species and each potential translocation area. Alternatively, protected or Declining species can be rescued and donated to appropriate conservation and research institutions such as the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden (Roodepoort) or the Pretoria National Botanical Garden of SANBI.
- Where possible, development should avoid habitat identified with high ecological sensitivity.
- According to the AIS regulations all declared alien weeds must be effectively controlled or eradicated.

10.2 Landforms and soils

- Drip trays must be used when refuelling and servicing construction vehicles or equipment. A spill “sock” should permanently be placed within the drip tray and replaced as and when required. Drip trays must be placed underneath stationary construction vehicles and the hazardous waste (e.g. fuel, oils etc.) taken to the nearest approved oil refiner or fuel recycling point for recycling.

- The existing road infrastructure as indicated in the land use map should be used, where possible.
- Care must be taken that unnecessary clearance of vegetation does not take place. The footprint of disturbance outside the construction area must be kept as small as possible, and must be rehabilitated as soon as possible.
- Regular clean-up programs must be applied at and around the site to prevent litter and to ensure proper housekeeping practices.

10.3 Surface water

- Regular clean-up programs must be applied at and around the site to prevent litter and to ensure proper housekeeping practices.
- In order to contain oil and fuel spills, drip pans or PVC lining shall be provided for drip pans. Spill kits be readily available on site and in every vehicle.
- Existing roads / tracks should be used wherever possible.
- Any new tracks must be pre-approved by the ECO and landowner. It should be ensured that steep slopes and sensitive environments (e.g. watercourses) are avoided during the planning of the new routes.
- To prevent storm water damage, the increase in storm water run-off resulting from construction activities must be estimated and the drainage system assessed accordingly, to prevent downstream impacts on water resources (including but not limited to: scouring, sedimentation, erosion and undercutting).
- Water should be used sparingly and it should be ensured that no water is wasted e.g. regular inspection of pipes to ensure that no leaks occur.
- Water tanks should be regularly inspected to ensure that no leaks occur.
- Please see Appendix F1 for recommendations regarding stormwater management.

10.4 Groundwater

- Drip trays must be used when refuelling and servicing construction vehicles or equipment. A spill “sock” should permanently be placed within the drip tray and replaced as and when required. Drip trays must be placed underneath stationary construction vehicles and the hazardous waste (e.g. fuel, oils etc.) taken to the nearest approved oil refiner or fuel recycling point for recycling.

10.5 Aesthetic environment:

- Care must be taken that unnecessary clearance of vegetation does not take place. The footprint of disturbance outside the construction area must be kept as small as possible, and must be rehabilitated as soon as possible.
- The rehabilitation and soil management must be done in accordance with the guidelines provided in the EMPr.
- Regular clean-up programs must be applied at and around the site to prevent litter and to ensure proper housekeeping practices.
- Access to the site should be pre-arranged with the landowner. Only authorised personnel may be permitted on site.

- The construction site must be positioned and managed in an ecologically sound manner, minimising the potential negative impacts on the surrounding environment.
- It should be ensured that the personnel comply with speed restriction of 20 km per hour within the site boundaries to reduce the generation of dust.
- Disturbance should be limited to the minimum and agreed upon footprint, and no vehicle turning, parking or access, or other form of disturbance e.g. vegetation clearance, soil compaction or excavation should be allowed outside these areas.
- Any damage to public or private property, including roads, storm water systems, fences, gates, buildings and other structures, pipes, lines and other utilities or infrastructure and movable properties, should be repaired, replaced or otherwise compensated for as agreed with the affected person.
- The applicant must arrange for a discussion session with the surrounding access route users with regard to the maintenance of the access road.
- A complaints register should be maintained to log complaints by landowners, occupants and other Interested and Affected Parties, and response to such complaints.
- The complaints register should be provided to DARDLEA on an annual basis and at any point in time if requested by the DARDLEA.
- Care must be taken that unnecessary clearance of vegetation does not take place. The footprint of disturbance outside the construction area must be kept as small as possible, and must be rehabilitated as soon as possible.
- Alien invasive plants should be removed from all disturbed and subsequently rehabilitated areas.

10.6 Noise

- Vehicles and construction equipment must be well serviced so that they do not produce excessive noise.
- Construction should only take place between 08h00 and 17h00 from Monday to Friday.
- It should be ensured that the personnel comply with speed restrictions of 20 km per hour within the site boundaries to reduce the generation of noise.
- Contractors must comply with provincial noise regulations. The construction machinery must be fitted with noise mufflers and be maintained properly.
- Construction should only take place between 08h00 and 17h00 from Monday to Friday.

10.7 Air quality

- It should be ensured that the personnel comply with speed restriction of 20 km per hour within the site boundaries to reduce the generation of dust.
- Dust suppression through the spraying of water should be practiced.

10.8 Health, safety and security hazards

- The site must be properly demarcated and the proposed access routes approved by the ECO and landowner prior to the commencing of the construction activities.
- No open fires are allowed outside designated cooking areas.
- Site supervisors must ensure that the staff remains within the demarcated construction areas and access routes at all times.

- No smoking is to be allowed in the vicinity of fuel dispensing areas (smoking is only to be allowed in designated “safe” areas).
- Adequate firefighting equipment must be available onsite at all times and at least one person present on the site must be trained in the use thereof.
- Labourers and contract workers (if any) should be accompanied by a responsible supervisor at all times.
- Strict access control must be exercised to ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the property.
- All construction vehicles should be fitted with standard reverse alarms.
- The workers must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure their safety during construction.
- Workers may not receive any visitors while they are within the property.
- Workers should not be allowed to keep or use alcohol, recreational drugs, traditional or modern weapons, snares or otherwise dangerous objects on-site, or to enter the construction area while on the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Disturbance should be limited to the minimum and agreed upon footprint, and no vehicle turning, parking or access, or other form of disturbance e.g. vegetation clearance, soil compaction or excavation should be allowed outside these areas.
- It must be ensured by the relevant contractor that a list of all the relevant emergency telephone numbers and contact persons are kept up to date and posted at relevant locations at the site.
- A complaints register should be maintained to log complaints by landowners, occupants and other Interested and Affected Parties, and response to such complaints. The complaints register should be provided to DARDLEA on an annual basis and at any point in time if requested by the DARDLEA.

11. ASPECTS FOR INCLUSION IN AUTHORISATION

11.1 Reasoned opinion

The final site plans (Appendix C) were created taking into account all the concerns raised by the public, specialist reports and impact assessment. If this map is followed, and if proper management and mitigation is implemented and rehabilitation is done and monitored, the impact can be kept relatively low.

It is recommended that the activity should be authorised.

11.2 Conditions that must be included in the authorisation

Mitigation and management measures as stipulated in Sections 9 and 11 should be implemented.

The rehabilitation and soil management must be done in accordance with the guidelines provided in the EMPr.

Environmental audits should be conducted every two months during the Construction Phase and every six months during the Operational Phase.

Rehabilitation monitoring should be conducted according to the EMPr.

Rehabilitation should be ongoing while operation is taking place.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Maps
Appendix B: Site photographs
Appendix C: Site plans
Appendix D: Public participation
Appendix E: EMPr
Appendix F: Additional information
Appendix G: CV of EAP
Appendix H: Screening Tool Report

13. UNDERTAKING

The EAP herewith confirms

- a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports
- b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APS ;
- c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
- d) that the information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties are correctly reflected herein.



Signature
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Bucandi Environmental Solutions

Signed at Potchefstroom on this 25th day of February 2023.