



**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SUPREME POULTRY CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT FROM 120 000 UNITS TO 140 000 UNITS PER DAY ON PORTION 0 OF ERF NO. 166, BOTSHABELO, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**AND**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CHICKEN SUPREME RECYCLING AND TREATMENT FACILITY ON PORTION 0 ERF NO. 166 BOTSHABELO MANGAUNG MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.**

**Appendix J1 - Site Verification and Motivation for the Exclusion of Specialist Studies**

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Prepared for:




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## Quality and Revision Record

### 1. QUALITY APPROVAL

	Capacity	Name	Signature	Date
<b>Author</b>	Environmental Consultant	Jan-Louis Jordaan		14/02/2022
<b>Reviewer</b>	Environmental Consultant & Ecological Specialist	Elana Mostert		

This report has been prepared in accordance with Enviroworks Quality Management System.

### 2. REVISION RECORD

Revision Number	Objective	Change	Date
1	General Revision	Internal revision	

### 3. DISCLAIMER:

*Even though every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this report, environmental assessment studies are limited in scope, time and budget. Discussions are to some extent made on reasonable and informed assumptions built on bona fide information sources, as well as deductive reasoning. Since environmental impact studies deal with dynamic natural systems additional information may come to light at a later stage during the impact assessment phase. The author does not accept responsibility for conclusions made in good faith based on own databases or on the information provided. Although the author exercised due care and diligence in rendering services and preparing documents, he accepts no liability, and the client, by receiving this document, indemnifies the author against all actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages, and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, directly or indirectly by the authors and by the use of this document. This report should therefore be viewed and acted upon with these limitations in mind.*

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## **1. Introduction**

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Screening Tool is used to determine various theme sensitivities, in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, within the development footprint. Based on protocols (as stipulated in Government Notices no. 43110 and no. 42946), the level (Low, Medium, High, or Very High) of these sensitivities needs to be confirmed or disputed by a site verification. Following the site verification, a Compliance Statement or a Full Impact Assessment by a specialist needs to be compiled based on the sensitivity level of each theme. Where the protocols were not followed i.e. a Compliance Statement or Full Impact Assessment was not done, valid and detailed reasons, based on the site verification, need to be outlined.

In addition to the theme sensitivities, the required specialist studies are identified by the DFFE Screening Tool. The need for a specialist study is dependent on whether the sensitivity of the respective theme has been confirmed or disputed with a site verification. Where a specialist study has not been conducted as suggested by the DFFE Screening Tool, a motivation to exclude the study needs to be outlined with reference to the site verification.

### **1.1. Project outline**

Phakamile Risk Consultants (Pty) Ltd. appointed Enviroworks, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), on behalf of Supreme Poultry (Pty) Ltd. (The Applicant), to undertake the required Basic Assessment (BA) Process for the proposed expansion of the output of poultry from 120 000 units per day to 140 000 units per day at the Supreme Poultry Botshabelo Chicken Processing Plant and the proposed development of a chicken supreme recycling and treatment facility on Portion 0 Erf no. 166 Botshabelo Mangaung Municipality, Free State Province.

It is estimated that the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's population equates to just below eight hundred thousand (800 000) as per the 2016 Statistics South Africa Community Survey. Furthermore, with an ever-increasing urbanised population, it is anticipated that even more growth in this Metropolitan Municipality will occur. Therefore, the Applicant wishes to expand their output of the established Processing Plant in order to meet the current and future demands of processed poultry products in Botshabelo and the greater Mangaung area.

The current slaughtering volumes at the Chicken Processing Plant are a hundred and twenty thousand (120 000) units per day, with the Applicant proposing an expansion of the output to a hundred and forty thousand (140 000) units per day. This will lead to an increase in the availability of poultry produce for the surrounding community and businesses. The established Chicken Processing Plant is designed to process more units than what it currently processes, therefore no physical construction at the plant in order to facilitate an increase of the slaughtering volumes will occur.

The overall site amounts to an area of approximately four hectares (4 ha), encompassing a total development footprint of just under ten thousand square metres (10 000 m<sup>2</sup>). The total development footprint of the site includes, but is not limited to, a Compressor plant, Rendering plant, Service building, Workshop, three (3) reservoirs and an Ablution/Admin building. The main building measures at approximately five thousand six hundred square metres (5 600 m<sup>2</sup>). Please refer to the Site Layout Plan (Figure 3) for more for further references regarding the infrastructure present on Portion 0 of Erf 166, Botshabelo Industrial Area. The central coordinates of the Chicken Processing Plant are: 29° 12' 03.54'' S; 26° 42' 20.72'' E.

The standard activities taking place in the abattoir include four (4) phases. The Initial phase include the delivery of animals, the lairage where the chickens are kept prior to slaughtering, and the subsequent ante-mortem inspection. The second phase includes the slaughtering activities, which consists of the stunning and bleeding out of the animals, debunking, removal of feathers and internal organs. Waste bins are required to remove all waste generated during this phase. The third phase includes the packaging and cooling of the processed units. Firstly, a post-mortem inspection is performed on the recently slaughtered chickens, with carcass registration and splitting, the washing of all trimmings and meat at the trim wash station, carcass quartering and the subsequent transfer of the carcass quarters following. Hereafter the carcasses are then chilled. Finally, the last phase constitutes the meat delivery whereby the meat is taken to the loading bay area and then transferred to the intended sites.

## **2. Site Verification**

The property in concern is Portion 0 of Erf No. 166 in the Botshabelo Industrial Area, Free State Province. All neighbouring properties within the immediate vicinity of the facility is used for industrial and commercial purposes. The site entrance is located on 2 Yellow Street, Botshabelo Industrial Area. The site is less than four hundred and fifty metres (450m) south of the N8 Highway. The central coordinates of the Chicken Processing Plant are: 29° 12' 03.54'' S; 26° 42' 20.72'' E.

The method used to verify the site sensitivity involved conducting a desktop screening assessment whereby GIS data layers and satellite imagery were used to evaluate the sensitivity of the themes. The Supreme Poultry Botshabelo Processing Plant where the proposed expansion will occur is located within the urban limits and in the industrial area of Botshabelo.

## **3. Environmental Themes identified**

Based on the findings of the DFFE Online Screening Tool the following themes with sensitivities (Very High, High, Medium, Low) were identified for the total property of the Botshabelo Processing Plant where the proposed expansion will occur:

- Agricultural Theme – Medium
- Animal Species Theme - Medium
- Aquatic biodiversity Theme – Low
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage – Low
- Civil Aviation Theme – High
- Defence Theme – Low
- Palaeontology Theme – Very High
- Plant Species Theme – Low
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme – Low

Based on the site verification of the proposed development site, according to the above themes, drawing on the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's (EAP) and the Reviewing EAP's experience with similar projects, the sensitivities of the various Environmental Themes for the proposed development site have been scrutinised. Where the procedures for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National

Environmental Management Act, 1998, as stipulated in Government Notices no.43110 and no. 42946, was not followed a detailed motivation is outlined in Section 4 below.

#### 4. Sensitivity Verification of Environmental Themes and Motivation to Exclude Assessments

<b>Agricultural Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further studies are required in terms of the Agricultural Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.

The site is classified as “Medium” sensitivity for the Agriculture theme by the screening tool:



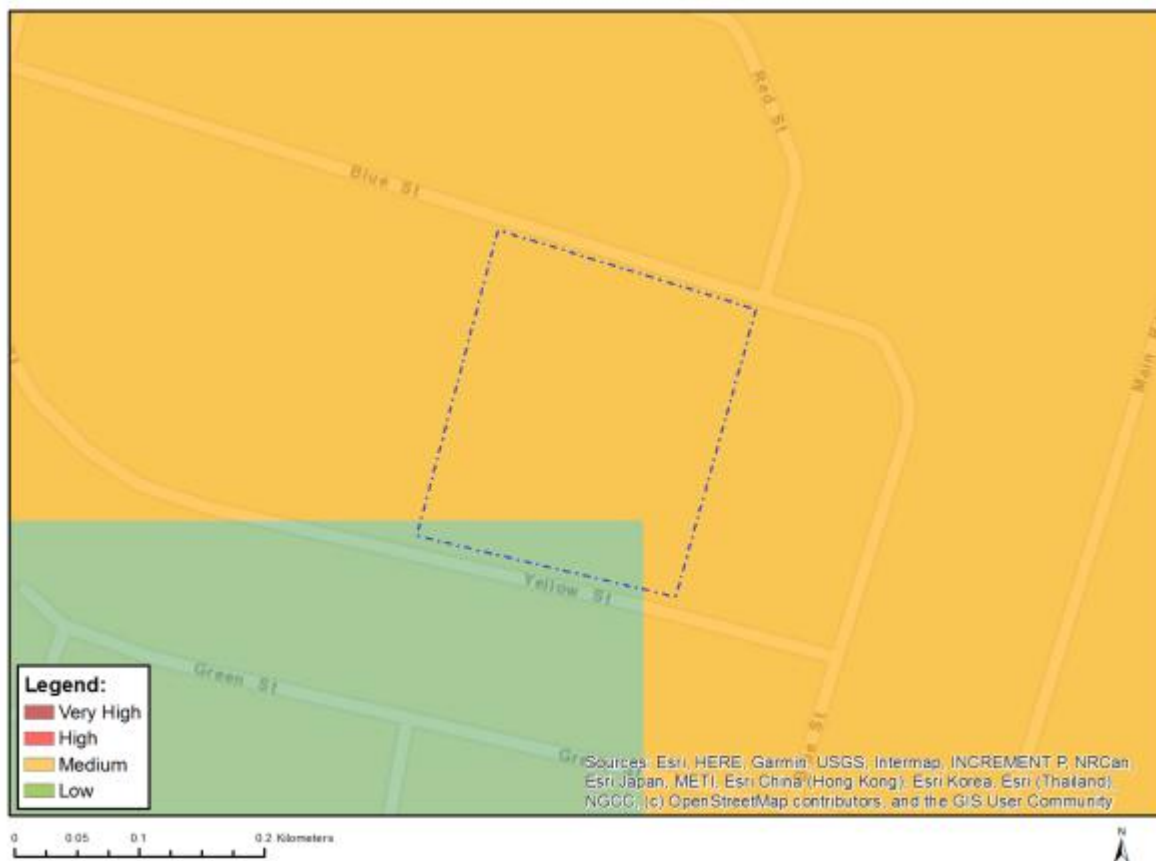
A “Medium” site sensitivity classification for the Agriculture theme is not deemed applicable to the proposed expansion for the following reasons:

- Although the DFFE Screening Tool highlights a “Medium” sensitivity for this site, the site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on the area’s Agricultural potential;
- No construction will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility; and,
- The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo;

In light of the above the proposed development site is considered to be of a “Low” Agricultural sensitivity rather than a “Medium” sensitivity as classified by the Screening Tool.

<b>Animal Species Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further studies will be necessary in terms of the Animal Species Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.

The site is classified as “Medium” sensitivity for the Animal Species Theme by the Screening Tool:



The sensitivity features identified for the site by the Screening Tool is of a “Medium” sensitivity, with one sensitive species identified – *Hydrictis maculicollis* (Spotted Necked Otter). The site classification of “Medium” sensitivity for the Animal Species theme is deemed applicable for the following reasons:

- The site does not constitute an adequate habitat for the aforementioned sensitive species as the site would not be a suitable habitat for these otters. There is no water course present on site.
- The site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on sensitive Animal species;
- No construction will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility; and,
- The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo;

In light of the above the sensitivity classification of “Medium” is deemed to be accurate.

Recommendation	
<b>Aquatic Biodiversity Theme</b>	No further assessments are deemed to be necessary with regards to the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.

The site is classified as “Low” sensitivity for the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme by the Screening Tool:



A “Low” site sensitivity classification for the Aquatic Biodiversity theme is deemed applicable due to the lack of Environmentally sensitive Aquatic Environments. No further studies would be necessary for the following reasons:

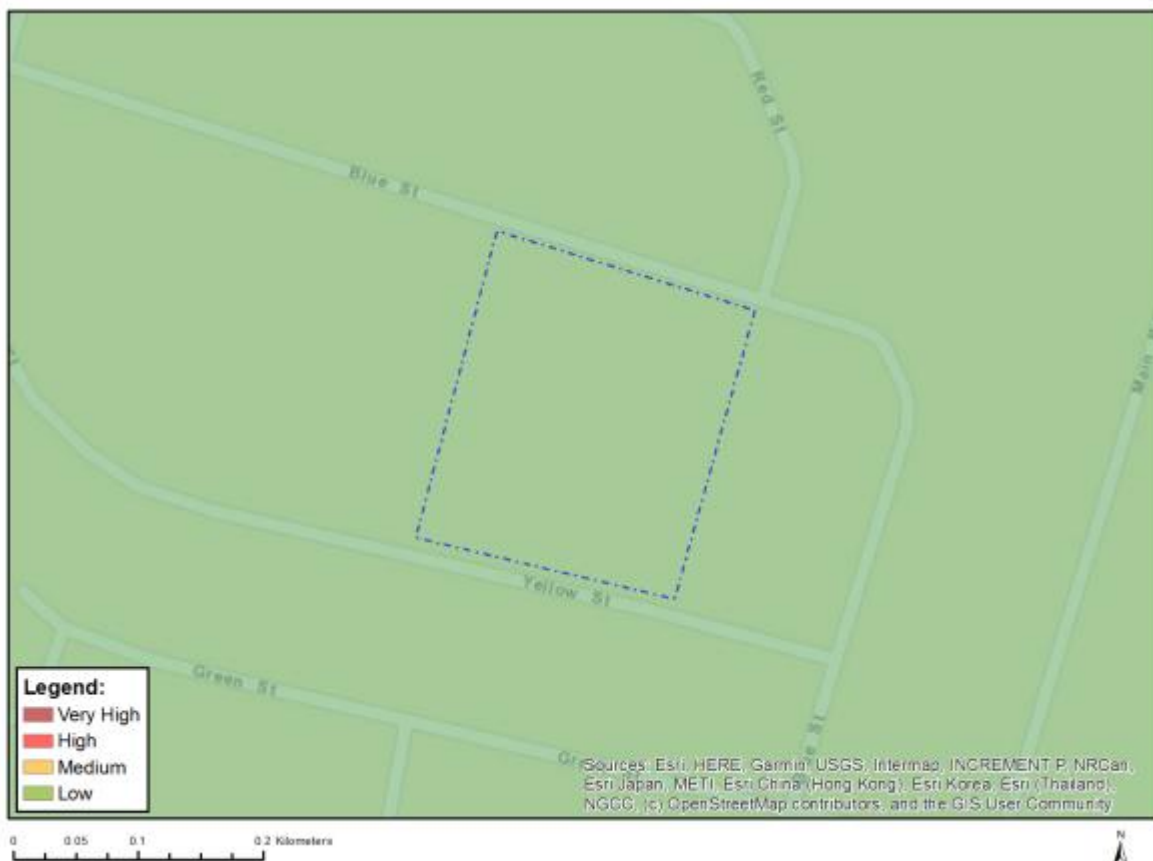
- The site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on this theme;
- The depth to groundwater is more than ten (10) metres below the surface and as no construction will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility, the site is not expected to have a significant impact on the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme; and,
- The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo;

Based on the abovementioned reasoning the site is thus verified as being of a “Low” sensitivity for the Aquatic Biodiversity theme and no further studies would be required.

Recommendation	
<b>Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme</b>	It is recommended that no further studies will take place with regards to the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.

The site is classified as “Low sensitivity for the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme by the Screening Tool:





No specialist studies for the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme are deemed necessary for the following reasons:

- The site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on this theme;
- As no construction or excavations will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility, the site is not expected to have a significant impact on the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme; and,

The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo;

Based on the reasoning above, the site sensitivity should be classified as “Low”, and further studies with regards to the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme are deemed unnecessary.

Recommendation	
Civil Aviation Theme	No further studies are required in terms of the Civil Aviation Theme. EAP to include the South African Civil Aviation Authority in the public participation period, providing them with the Basic Assessment Report, the supporting documents and an opportunity to comment.

The site has been classified as a “High” sensitivity area for the Civil Aviation Theme by the Screening Tool:



A specialist assessment to determine the impact of the proposed development on the Civil Aviation Theme is not deemed necessary for the following reasons:

- The South African Civil Aviation Authority will be included as an Interested and Affected Party during the public participation process. The draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available to them and they will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; and,
- Should any concerns be raised, the EAP will take these into consideration and take the necessary steps to address them.

Recommendation	
<b>Defence Theme</b>	No further studies will be required in terms of the Relative Defence Theme. EAP to include the South African National Defence in the public participation period as best practice.

The site has been classified as a “Low” sensitivity area for the Relative Defence Theme by the Screening Tool:



A specialist assessment to determine the impact of the proposed development on the Relative Defence Theme is not deemed necessary for the following reasons:

- Although the site is classified as of a “Low” sensitivity, the South Africa National Defence Force will be included as an Organ of State during the public participation process. The draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available to them and they will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; and,
- Should any concerns be raised, the EAP will take these into consideration and take the necessary steps to address them.

Recommendation	
<b>Palaeontology Theme</b>	No further studies will be required in terms of the Palaeontological Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.

The proposed site is classified as “Very High” sensitivity for the Palaeontology Theme by the Screening Tool:





Based on the findings of the site verification the classification of “Low” sensitivity is deemed applicable for the Plant Species Theme for the following reasons:

- The site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on this theme;
- As no construction or excavations will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility, the site is not expected to have a High impact on the Plant Species Theme;
- The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo; and

The site is thus verified as being of “Low” sensitivity for the Plant Species theme and, due to the transformed nature and no physical construction or excavations occurring, no further assessments or specialist studies would be required with regards to the Plant Species Theme.

Recommendation	
<b>Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme</b>	The proposed development footprint has no or very low capability for sustaining terrestrial biodiversity. Furthermore, as no physical construction will occur, it is anticipated that little to no impact with respect to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme will take place. Therefore no further specialist studies will be required with regards to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme.

The proposed site is classified as “Low” sensitivity for the Terrestrial Biodiversity theme by the Screening Tool:



The site classification of “Low” sensitivity for the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme is deemed applicable for the following reasons:

- The site verification found the entire development footprint to be transformed, with no natural vegetation being present;
- The site consists of an already established Processing Facility that will only experience an increase in the unit output capacity, and therefore would not have a negative impact on this Theme;
- As no construction or excavations will take place in order to achieve this increase in the unit output capacity of the facility, the site is not expected to have a High impact on the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme; and,
- The site is situated within the Urban, specifically Industrial, Area of Botshabelo.

In light of the above, the proposed development site should be classified as of “Low” sensitivity, as is classified by the DFFE Screening Tool. As per the abovementioned reasoning no further assessments or specialist studies are deemed necessary for the proposed expansion of the facility.

### 5. Specialist Studies Identified

Based on the findings of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Online Screening Tool the following specialist studies were identified for the abovementioned expansion of the Supreme Poultry Botshabelo Processing Plant:

- Agricultural Assessment;
- Animal Species Assessment;
- Civil Aviation Assessment;
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment;

Where specialist studies are not deemed necessary, in full or in part, motivation has been provided for the exclusion in Section 6 below.

### 6. Motivation for the Exclusion of Specialist Studies

<b>Agricultural Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further studies are required in terms of the Agricultural Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.
Covered by the Agricultural Theme above.	
<b>Animal Species Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further assessments are deemed to be necessary with regards to the Animal Species Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.
Covered by the Animal Species Theme Above	
<b>Civil Aviation Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further studies are required in terms of the Civil Aviation Theme. EAP to include the South African Civil Aviation Authority in the public participation period, providing them with the Basic Assessment Report, the supporting documents and an opportunity to comment.
Covered by the Civil Aviation Theme Above.	
<b>Palaeontology Theme</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	No further studies will be required in terms of the Palaeontological Theme. The site includes an existing facility that only proposes to increase its unit output capacity per day and is situated within the Industrial Area of Botshabelo.
Covered by the Palaeontology Theme above.	

In addition to the above, the following Guidelines were consulted in determining the need for relevant Specialist Studies:

- Guideline for determining the scope of specialist involvement in EIA processes;
- Guideline for the review of specialist input into the EIA process;
- Guideline for involving biodiversity specialists in EIA processes;
- Guideline for involving hydrogeologists in EIA processes;
- Guideline for involving visual and aesthetic specialists in EIA processes; and,
- Guideline for involving heritage specialists in EIA processes.

### 7. References

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