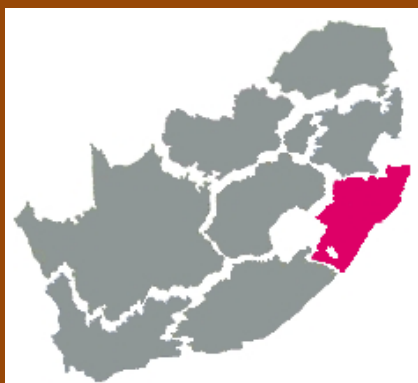


# Background Information Document

Basic Assessment for the proposed cultivation of 14 ha of sugarcane  
on Broughton Farm, Albert Falls, KwaZulu-Natal

Prepared by CSIR on behalf of the Mthethwa Trust

July 2017



CSIR

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## You are invited to participate in the following process:

# Basic Assessment for the proposed cultivation of 14 ha of sugarcane on Broughton Farm, Albert Falls, KwaZulu-Natal

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Mthethwa Trust is proposing the cultivation of 14 ha of virgin grassland to sugarcane on the Broughton Farm, located just outside Albert Falls, KwaZulu-Natal Province. This area falls under the uMshwati Local Municipality in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality and is approximately 22 km North-East of Pietermaritzburg (Figure 1). The proposed project will include the following components:

- Removal of 14 ha of indigenous vegetation (land zoned agricultural) for the planting and cultivation of sugarcane via rain-fed irrigation.
- Already existing municipal infrastructure (access roads).

### Site Location Information

Please see Figure 1 on Page 4 of this document for a location map for the proposed site. The site has the following locational information:

- Lat: 29.44221° S
- Lon: 30.44909° E
- Broughton Farm Parcel 22/925
- SG code: N0FT00000000092500022
- Street address: Access off the R33 Greytown

Sugarcane is a strategic crop for Kwazulu-Natal comprising nearly 50% of field crop gross farming income. The South African sugar industry makes an important contribution to employment and sustainable socio-economic development, particularly in rural areas. This is built on its agricultural and industrial investments, foreign exchange earnings, labour intensity, and linkages with major suppliers, support industries and customers. The Mthethwa Trust is being provided *pro-bono* environmental services by the DEA/CSIR's Special Needs and Skills Development Programme, which aims to assist small-medium micro-enterprises with obtaining Environmental Authorization in order to enhance local economic development.

## SUMMARY OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations published in GNR 327, 325 and 324 on the 7 April 2017 Government Gazette Number 40772, a **Basic Assessment** (BA) process is required as the project applies to the following listed activities (detailed in Table 1 below).

**Table 1: Listed activities relating to the proposed project**

Relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :	Description of each listed activity as per the Government Notice:
GN R327	27	The clearance of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.
GN R324	12	The clearance of an area of 300 m <sup>2</sup> or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance plan. d. KwaZulu-Natal v. Critical biodiversity areas (CBA)

The proposed project requires Environmental Authorization (EA) from the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA). The Basic Assessment process that will be undertaken for this project is summarised in the following steps below:

**Step 1: Notify Authorities and potential Interested and affected parties (I&APs) (30 days) (current stage)**

The first stage in the process entails notifying all potential I&APs of the proposed project, by sending out a Background Information Document (BID), and providing I&APs with an opportunity to register as an I&AP. I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database within 30 days hereof (excluding public holidays).

**Step 2: Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for Public Comment (30 days)**

The BA process is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the project. Mitigation and management measures will be identified to reduce potential negative impacts and will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for this project. The BAR will include comments received from all I&APs on this document and findings of the specialist study.

**Step 3: BAR to be submitted to DMR for decision-making**

The BAR will be drafted and will be submitted to DEDTEA for decision-making. The comments and issues raised will be included in the BAR. All I&APs will be provided with written notification on whether the project has been granted or refused EA and about the appeal process.

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

1. By mailing, emailing or faxing comments to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner indicated below/telephonically contacting the Environmental Assessment Practitioner if you have a query, comment, or require further information regarding the BA process.
2. By reviewing the various reports and provide comments within the stipulated comment periods provided (i.e. the BID and Draft BAR).

To register as a stakeholder or to comment on the project, please kindly send all written comments to Ms. Kelly Stroebel **on or before Monday 9 October 2017:**

<b>Ms. Kelly Stroebel</b>	
✉ Email:	<a href="mailto:kstroebel@csir.co.za">kstroebel@csir.co.za</a>
☎ Tel:	021-888-2432
📠 Fax:	021-888-2693
📍 Address:	CSIR, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
🌐 Website:	<a href="https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment">https://www.csir.co.za/environmental-impact-assessment</a>

Description  
 29 26' 31.08"S  
 30 26' 58.22"E



**Legend**

- South African provincial boundary
- South African district boundaries
- South African municipal boundaries 2011
- National roads
- Secondary roads
- Arterial route
- MAIN ROAD
- secondary road
- Railway lines

1: 36 111



This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1.8 0 0.92 1.8 Kilometers

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
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