

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

## **Background Information Document**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOPING AND EIA) FOR THE  
PROPOSED VALLEYVIEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 22 OF THE  
FARM NAAUWPOORT 335-JS EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**May 2012**



**A DHV COMPANY**

ENGINEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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## WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

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This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the application for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Residential Development on Portion 22 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335-JS, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. (Refer to *Appendix A: Locality Map*), as well as the required environmental studies to be undertaken. Any person, company, authority or other entities that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity can register as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP). This includes, but is not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organisations and conservation groups.

This document further indicates how you can become involved in the project, receive information, or raise issues which may concern and/or interest you. The sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Input from I&APs ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered within the context of the proposed development.

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## STUDY AREA

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The proposed development is situated on Portion 22 of the Farm Naauwpoort 335 JS Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The property portion extent is 42 ha and abutted by residential developments including Reyno Ridge and the Bankeveld Golf Estate in Witbank.

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## SITE DESCRIPTION

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The development site is currently vacant, although it was previously used as rangeland. The remains of a dwelling on the south-eastern corner of the site appear to have been a workers

dwelling. Much of the site comprises largely of rocky outcroppings that are not suitable for cultivation, as well as a central drainage line flowing through the Bankeveld Golf Estate towards the Witbank Dam.

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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The project applicant, Before The Wind Investment 113 (Pty) Ltd has appointed SSI Environmental, as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake environmental studies to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The applicant proposes to develop the site for residential use and a proposed 315 residential stands and associated infrastructure will form part of the application. The existing drainage line will form part of a public open space on the site.

The lay-out of the proposed development as well as engineering service requirements including sewage, water, electricity, refuse disposal and stormwater management will be defined and assessed in the EIA Process.

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## POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development have been identified and will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study. Specialist inputs which will form part of the EIA study includes:

SPECIALIST FIELD	ORGANISATION
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
<b>Wetland</b>	SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants – Environmental
<b>Traffic Impact Assessment</b>	SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants – Transport

In addition, the applicant undertook a number of additional specialist assessments in the past which will also form part of the EIA study. These assessments include:

SPECIALIST FIELD	ORGANISATION
Faunal Assessment (2007)	Dr Andrew Deacon
Vegetation Assessment (2007)	De Castro and Brits CC
Heritage Assessment (2006)	Dr JCC Pistorius
Geotechnical Investigations (2007)	P.G Hansmeyer

Listing Notice	Activities
Listing Notice 1, GN. R.544	9, 11, 12, 13, 24
Listing Notice 2, GN. R.545	3, 15
Listing Notice 3 GN R.546	12

The EIA application and assessments will be submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET) for review and approval.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project.

Listed activities to be applied and assessed in the EIA study will include:

As part of this EIA process all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process. The project will consist of three major phases as illustrated in *Figure 3*:

- 1) **Phase 1: Application for Environmental Authorisation;**
  - 2) **Phase 2: Environmental Scoping Phase; and**
  - 3) **Phase 3: Environmental Impact Phase Study and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)**
- These three phases will culminate in the approval or rejection of the project i.e. positive or negative Environmental Authorisation.



Figure 1: Project timeline

### WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the proposed project, we encourage you to make use of the opportunities created by the Public Participation Process to become involved in the process and raise the issues and concerns which affect and/or

interest you, and about which you require more information.

By completing and submitting the accompanying registration form, we will ensure that you are registered as an I&AP for the project, and that your concerns or queries regarding the project

will be noted and assessed as part of the process. We will also ensure that you are provided with future information pertaining to the project as well as the availability of the draft and final Environmental Reports (i.e. Scoping and EIR) for comment.

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✉: [hopem@ssi.co.za](mailto:hopem@ssi.co.za)

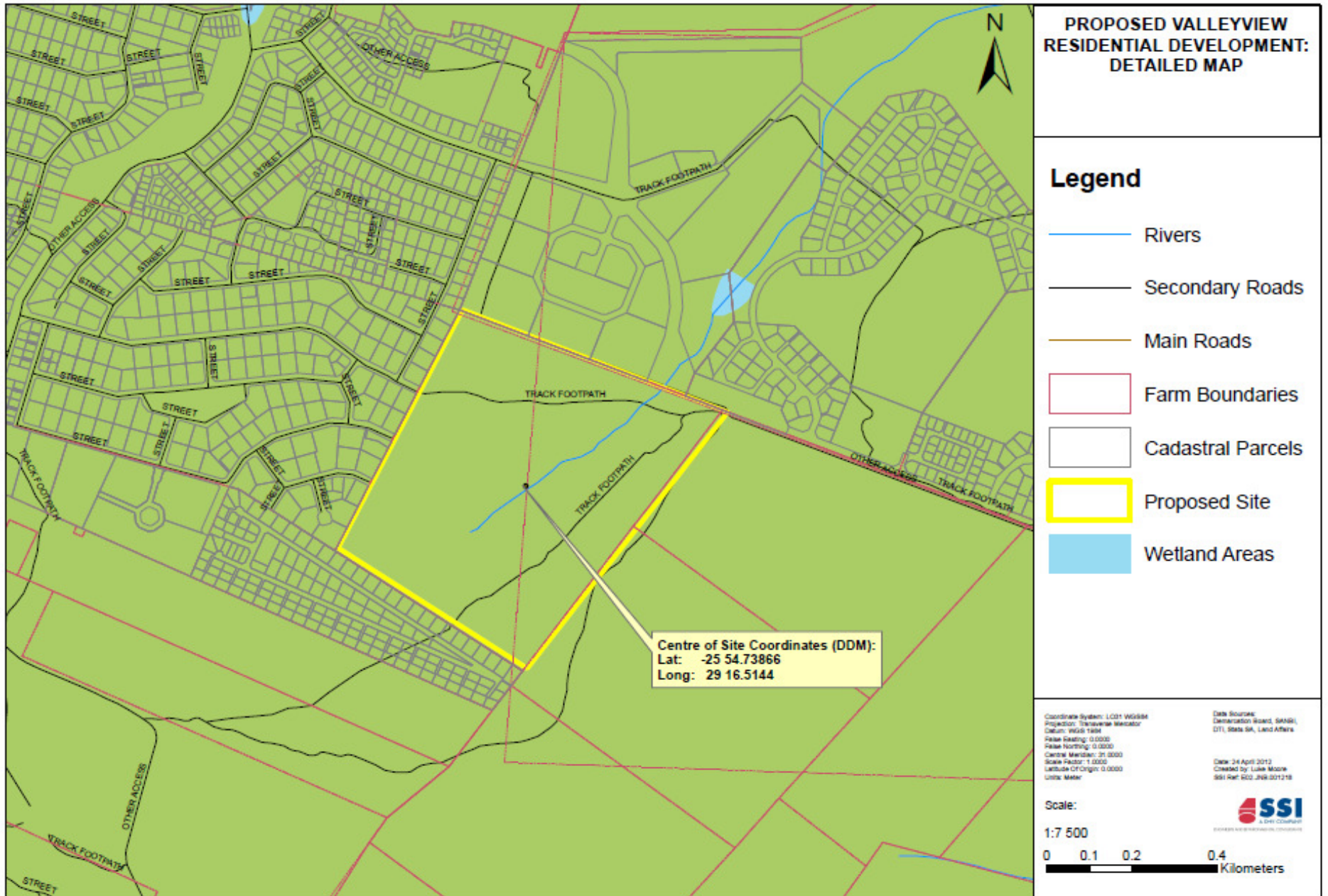
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### COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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Please direct all comments, queries or issues to:  
Hope Mokolane  
SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants

APPENDIX A: PROJECT LOCALITY MAP



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOPING AND EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 22 OF THE FARM NAAUWPOORT 335-JS,  
EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.**

**REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM**

**KINDLY COMPLETE THIS FORM IN DETAIL AND RETURN IT TO:**

Hope Mokolane  
SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants  
P.O Box 867  
Gallo Manor  
Woodmead, 2052

Telephone: 011 798 6434  
Fax: 011 798 6010  
Email: hopem@ssi.co.za

**PERSONAL DETAILS:**

Title: ..... First Name: .....

Surname: .....

E-Mail: .....

Telephone: ..... Fax: .....

Organisation (if applicable): .....

Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc): .....

Physical Address: .....

Town: ..... Code: .....

Postal Address: .....

Town: ..... Code: .....

1. What is your main area of interest with regards to the proposed project?

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2. Do you have any points of concern or support regarding the proposed project?  
If "yes", please briefly list these in point form:

YES/NO

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.....  
.....  
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3. Are there any additional stakeholders who you feel should be consulted with regards to the proposed project?

YES/NO

If "yes" please list their names and contact details below:

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Please add more pages if necessary