

**DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION
OF THE FARM FOURIESBURG 228 IN FREE STATE PROVINCE.**

MARCH 2022

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EMC	Environmental Management Committee
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
DESTEA	Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
IAR	Impact Assessment Report
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act of 1998 as amended
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act of 1999
NWA	National Water Act of 1998
PPP	Public Participation Process
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency Limited
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
CA	Competent Authority
EA	Environmental Authorization
SR	Scoping Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mang Geoenviro Services was appointed by Dihlabeng Local Municipality to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment on portion of the farm Fouriesburg 228, Dihlabeng Local Municipality in Free State Province.

The applicant is proposing to establish a township development covering an area of approximately of 25.36 hectares in Fouriesburg, Free State Province. The proposed development is located in Fouriesburg, and the site can be accessed through the Station road from the main road (R26). The geographical coordinates of the three sites are as follows:

Latitude: 28°36'34.00"S

Longitude: 28°12'19.84"E

The development will entail 473 sites for the proposed establishment in Fouriesburg township which will consist of the following infrastructure-**REFER TO THE LAYOUT PLAN**

- 312 Residential 1 - residential
- 144 Residential 2 - residential
- 3 Business 1 - business
- 3 Educational - crèche
- 3 Institutional – place of worship
- 8 Public open space – sports field
- Streets

The Scoping and EIA Process is being undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act no.107 of 1998) (NEMA) read with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (GNR 326 of 7 April 2017).



REPORT TITLE: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION OF THE FARM FOURIESBURG 228 IN FREE STATE PROVINCE.

CLIENT: DIHLABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PROJECT NAME: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON PORTION OF THE FARM FOURIESBURG 228 IN FREE STATE PROVINCE.

DATE: MARCH 2022



DECLARATION OF INTEREST

I, Phakwago Kabelo, as authorised representative of Mang Geoenviro Services hereby confirm my independence as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner and declare that neither I nor Mang Geoenviro Services have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which Mang Geoenviro Services was appointed as Environmental Assessment Practitioner in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), other than fair remuneration for work performed, specifically in connection with the Environmental Authorisation process for the establishment of the Fouriesburg township.



1 INTRODUCTION

Mang Geoenviro Services was appointed by Dihlabeng Local Municipality to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed township establishment on portion of the farm Fouriesburg 228 within Dihlabeng Local Municipality in Free State Province. The geographical coordinates of the three proposed site are as follows:

Latitude: 28°36'34.00"S

Longitude: 28°12'19.84"E

The development will entail the establishment of 473 sites at Fouriesburg township on a size of approximately 25.36 hectares under the jurisdiction of the Dihlabeng Local Municipality which will consist of the following infrastructure-**REFER TO THE LAYOUT PLAN**

- 312 Residential 1 - residential
- 144 Residential 2 - residential
- 3 Business 1 - business
- 3 Educational - crèche
- 3 Institutional – place of worship
- 8 Public open space – sports field
- Streets



LAND USE					
ZONING	LAND USE		NO. OF STANDS	AREA Ha.	% OF AREA
RESIDENTIAL 1	RESIDENTIAL		312	10.192289	40.1780
RESIDENTIAL 2	RESIDENTIAL		144	5.729090	22.5841
BUSINESS 1	BUSINESS		3	0.349947	1.3795
EDUCATIONAL	CRECHE		3	0.24889399	0.9811
INSTITUTIONAL	PLACE OF WORSHIP		3	0.33030829	1.3021
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	PARK		8	2.21300512	8.7237
STREETS	*	*	*	6.3043	24.8515
TOTAL	*		473	25.3678	100

2 PROJECT NEED AND DESIRABILITY

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Guidelines (DEAT, 2006), the need and desirability of the project is used in order to ensure that the choice of all alternatives is appropriate. The Dihlabeng Local Municipality “applicant” wants to development the residential area and better accessibility of education, within the Fouriesburg township for the future improvements. The development will benefit the local community in a way that the local contractors and professionals will be exposed to the professional elements of the development and practices that will enable them to develop and set their practices or operations. It has been suggested as facts that during the construction and the operational phase of the proposed development that the local residents or individuals shall be employed.

3 SITE LOCALITY

The proposed development site is located in Fouriesburg township, Free State Province. The geographical coordinates of the proposed site are as follows:

Latitude: 28°36'34.00"S

Longitude: 28°12'19.84"E



Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development area

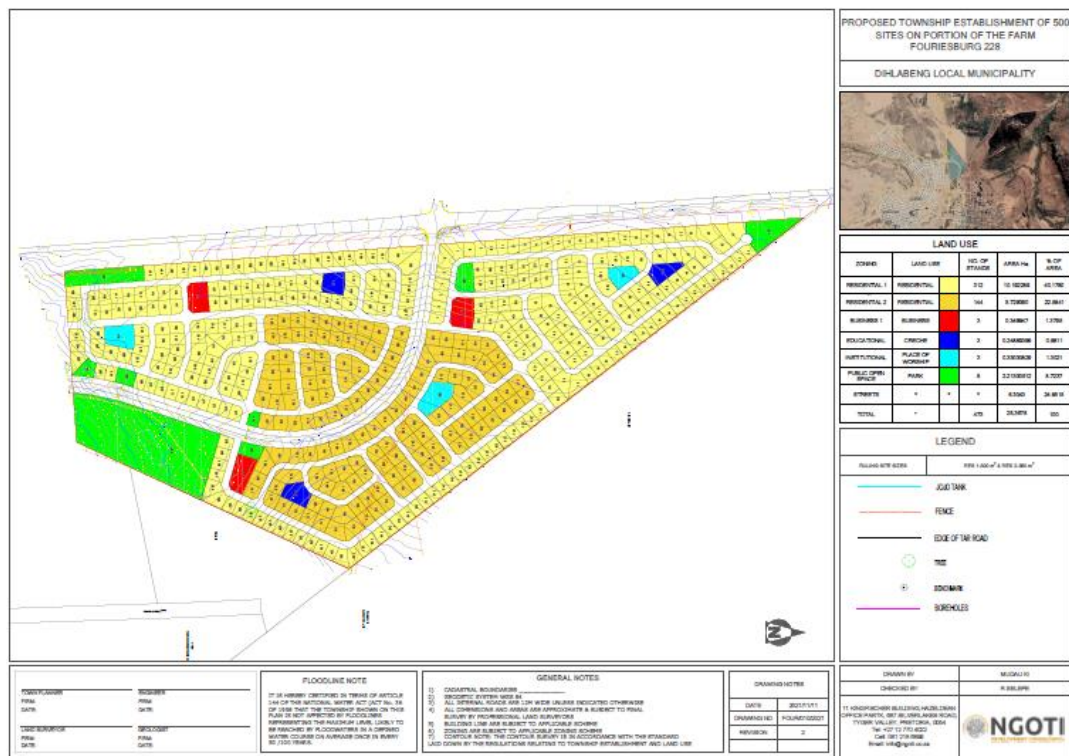


Figure 2: Proposed township layout plan



4 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

4.1 Topography

The elevation in DLM varies between 1400 and 2600 meters above sea level, with the highest parts being in the central and south eastern parts of the municipality. Large parts of the DLM mainly in the southern and central parts of the municipality have a slope greater than 7% and this correspond with the area of ridges. The aspect, through its influence on solar heating, air temperature and moisture, affects vegetation and aspects distribution

4.2 Geology and Soils

The geology of the DLM is dominated by the Molteno formation. The Tarkastad subgroup also occurs and is largely found in the north eastern part of DLM. The Drakensburg and Clarens formations occur in south west, the central and south eastern part of DLM. DLM is underlain by andesitic lava of the Drakensburg formation and this occurs in association with mudstones, shale and sandstone of the Clarens formation, molten formation and Elliot formation Dykes and sills resulting from dolerite intrusions also occur in the area

4.3 Vegetation

The vegetation identified on site was classified as the Eastern Free State Clay Grassland.

4.4 Climate

The mean minimum annual temperature in Dihlabeng ranges between -1 0 C to 100C, and the maximum annual temperatures for Bethlehem, the main town in the DLM range from 300C in winter to 300C in summer, with the lowest temperature recorded between 1961and 1990 being 80C (June) and the highest being 400C (January)

4.5 Sensitive Area

According to the national environmental screening tool, the proposed development falls within an area of very high paleontological sensitivities. The paleontological study has to be done rating of the sensitives of the area.



MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

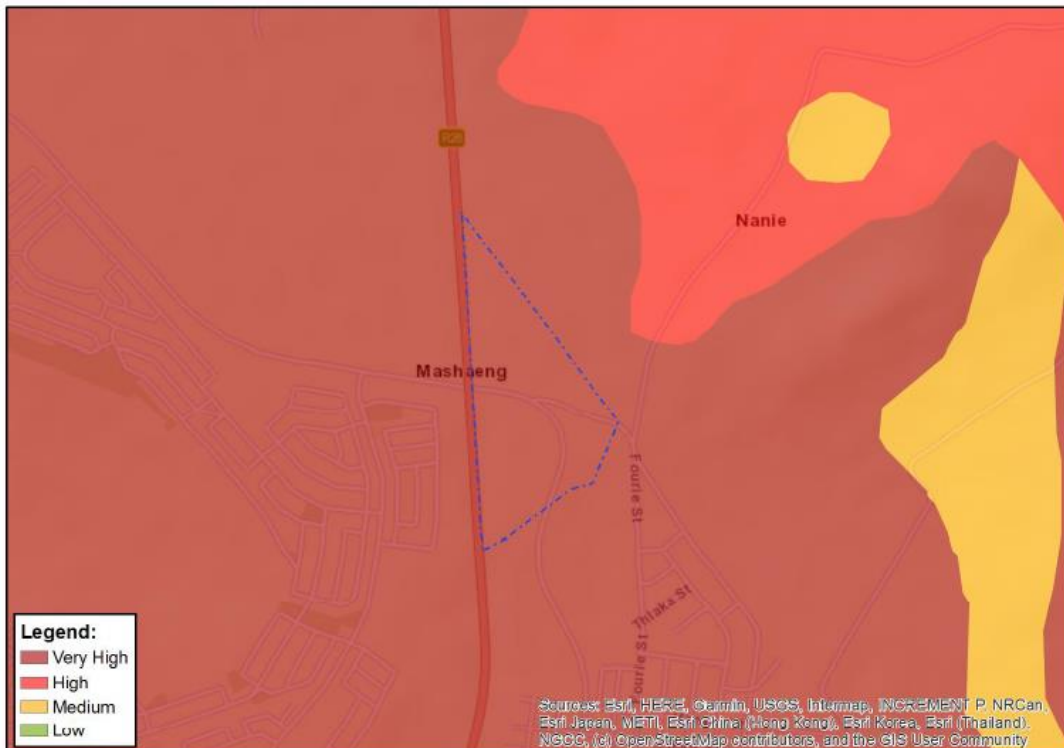


Figure 3: Sensitivity map of the proposed site

5 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

In terms of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) should investigate feasible and reasonable alternatives for the proposed project. In other words, different means of meeting the requirements for the activity.

The IEM procedure (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism) stipulates that the environmental investigation consider feasible alternatives for proposed developments. This means that for any development proposed there should at least be a number of possible proposal or alternatives for accomplishing the same objectives or meeting the same need. The developer should be encouraged to consider alternatives that would meet the objective of the original proposal and which could have an acceptable impact on the environment.

Alternatives for the project, as well as for the project design, were evaluated according to the guidelines provided by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, entitled “EIA Regulations, Implementation of Section, and of the Environment Conservation Act”, Alternative are as follows:



5.1 No project alternative

No alternative was considered on the basis of a comparative assessment (No-go option versus the environmental costs of the proposed development). During the investigation it was found that certain mitigation measures can reduce the little significant impacts on the environment if designed and implemented correctly.

Should the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) not authorize the development to proceed as planned, the development should just cease (no action) as there are no alternatives identified.

The proposed development will have positive impacts on the economic and social status of the area and address the problem of housing and service delivery. The consequences of not having an alternative for the proposed development would mean that the need for proposed establishment of the area would not be addressed. Such a need will remain a dream.

5.2 Site alternative

There is no alternative site for the proposed development, as the project area is located within the problem area and if the project is change to another area, the problem will remain the same or unsolved.

5.3 Activity alternative

5.3.1 Transport, Traffic noise and vibrations

The major impacts that can be brought about by the development are soil erosion. Options that exist to reduce these impacts are:

- Rehabilitation of affected areas after the construction phase is finished
- Avoiding of unnecessary vegetation clearance
- Proper management of topsoil throughout the development

5.4 Process Alternatives

The process alternatives have been assessed to ensure that the best processes and services like water supply and sanitation to minimise pollution are considered to reduce any potential negative environmental impact. However, positive and negative environmental impacts will be evaluated and reported in the EIAR.



5.5 No-go Alternatives

The proposed development site has not yet shown any fatal flaws; therefore, no-go alternatives were considered. This option will come into effect if the evaluation of environmental impacts reveals fatal flaws.

6 LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES

6.1 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) provides the legislative framework for Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) in South Africa. Section 24 provides that all activities that may significantly affect the environment and require authorization by law must be assessed prior to approval. NEMA also provides for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for coordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of the State and to provide for matters connected therewith. Section 2 of NEMA establishes a set of principles that apply to the activities of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment.

These include the following:

- Development must be sustainable;
- Pollution must be avoided or minimised and remedied;
- Waste must be avoided or minimised, reused or recycled;
- Negative impacts must be minimised; and
- Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, project, product or service exists throughout its life cycle.

These principles are taken into consideration when a government department exercises its powers, for example during the granting of permits and the enforcement of existing legislation or conditions of approval. Section 28(1) of NEMA states that “every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring”. If such pollution cannot be prevented, then appropriate measures must be taken to minimize or rectify such pollution. These measures may include:



- Assessing the impact on the environment;
- Informing and educating employees about the environmental risks of their work and ways of minimising these risks;
- Ceasing, modifying or controlling actions which cause pollution/degradation;
- Containing pollutants or preventing movement of pollutants;
- Eliminating the source of pollution; and
- Remedying the impacts of the pollution.
- The authorities may direct an industry to rectify or remedy a potential or actual pollution problem.
- If such a directive is not complied with, the authorities may undertake the work and recover the costs from the responsible industry.

Table 1: Activities triggered by the proposed development

Listed Activity	Activity Number	Description
GNR 325 of 7 April 2017	Activity 15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
GNR 327 of 7 April 2017	Activity 28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.



6.2 Other guidelines and documentation considered in the drafting of the Scoping Report includes:

6.2.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa has major implications for environmental management. The main effects are the protection of environmental and property rights, the change brought about by the sections dealing with administrative law, such as access to information, just administrative action and broadening of the locus standi of litigants. These 15 aspects provide general and overarching support and are of major assistance in the effective implementation of the environmental management principles and structures of the NEMA. Section 24 in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution specifically states that: Everyone has the right – To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being, and;

To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –

- Prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
- Promote conservation; and
- Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting
- Justifiable economic and social development.

6.2.2 National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)

The purpose of the Biodiversity Act is to provide for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the NEMA and the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection. As part of its implementation strategy, the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment was developed. This Act is applicable to this application for environmental authorization, in the sense that it requires the project applicant to consider the protection and management of local biodiversity.

6.2.3 Integrated Environmental Management (IEM)

IEM is a philosophy for ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into all stages of the development process. This philosophy aims to achieve a desirable balance between conservation and development (DEAT, 1992). The IEM guidelines intend encouraging a pro-active approach to sourcing, collating and presenting information in a manner that can be interpreted at all levels. The DEA Integrated Environmental Management Information Series guidelines are also considered during this S&EIR application process. 17 EIA Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of



1998, as amended (NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014) New EIA Regulations were promulgated under Section 24 of NEMA and came into effect on 04 December 2014. These EIA Regulations prescribe two different authorization processes as follows:

- The Basic Assessment Process; and
- The Scoping and EIA process.

Irrespective of which process applies, the Regulations make provision for the following:

- Public Participation must be undertaken at various stages during the assessment process.
- Assessments must be conducted by an Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).
- The authority delegated with deciding on environmental applications respond to applications and submissions within stipulated timeframes.
- Decisions taken by the authorities can be appealed by the proponent or any other interested and affected party (IAP).

6.2.4 National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)

This Act legislates the necessity for cultural and heritage impact assessment in areas earmarked for development, which exceed 0.5 hectares (ha) and where linear developments 19 (including roads) exceed 300 metres in length. The Act makes provision for the potential destruction to existing sites, pending the archaeologist's recommendations through permitting procedures. Permits are administered by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

6.2.5 Authority Consultation

The competent authority to approve the proposed township establishment is the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The site does not have implications for international environmental commitments or relations; and will not take place within an area protected by means of an international environmental instrument, or the site is not a conservancy; a protected natural environment; a proclaimed private nature reserve; a natural heritage site; the buffer zone or transitional area of a biosphere reserve; or the buffer zone or transitional area of a world heritage site. Therefore, the competent authority has been correctly identified, based on the above reasons.



7 CONTACT DETAILS OF THE EAP

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8 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist studies which have been identified in terms of Section 28 (1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, of which some are the following:

- Ecological/ Biodiversity report
- Geotechnical report
- Engineering Services report
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Paleontological Impact Assessment report
- Floodline Report
- Traffic Impact Assessment Report

These studies will be used to identify issues at a scoping study phase and impacts will be mitigated during the EIA phase of the project.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Mang Geoenviro Services, as independent environmental consultants, will facilitate the implementation of the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process as per the approved EIA Guideline as follows:

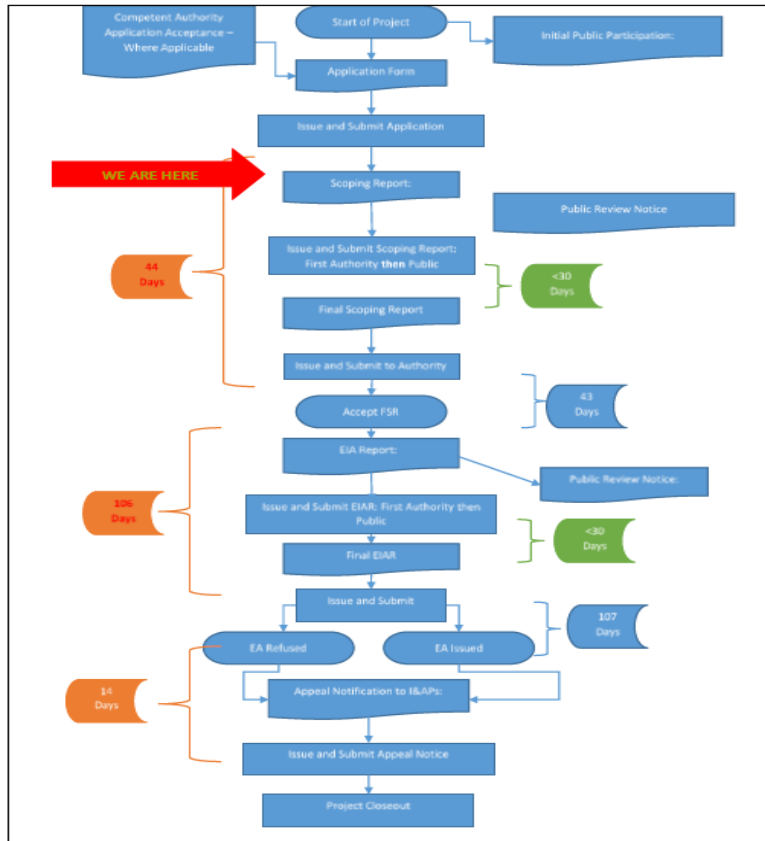


Figure 4: EIA process diagram

10 THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

A broad range of potential environmental impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment have been identified during the Scoping Process, and will be subject to further investigation as part of the Impact Assessment Phase. A summary of the potential environmental impacts that were identified is provided below, with further details of those impacts that require further investigation described in Section below:

10.1 Description of Potential Impacts to be investigated further

The following Potential Impacts must be further investigated by means of the Methodology described in section below.



10.1.1 Geology

Due to construction, disturbance in surface geology may occur as result of foundations. The potential impacts relating to geology and soil will be evaluated by a specialist geotechnical report that will elaborate on the underlying geology and the soil composition and texture of the site.

10.1.2 Topography

Erosion during the clearing and construction phases of the project may lead to an impact on the topography. Building material may also alter the topography of the area.

10.1.3 Topsoil and Land use

During the construction phase of the project, soil recourses including essential top soil may be impacted on. Erosion of topsoil may occur as well as the compaction of soil.

10.1.4 Surface Water and Groundwater

Contamination of surface water may occur as a result of improper management of contaminants. Improper management of sanitation may result in the contamination of groundwater. The project is adjacent to wetland on the western boundary of the property. A wetland impact assessment and or ecological assessment will detail the impacts of the development to such resources.

10.1.5 Fauna

Impact on Fauna may occur as a result of the distraction of habitats during the construction phase and clearing phase of the project.

10.1.6 Flora

A loss in vegetation may occur during vegetation removal prior to construction activities taking place.

10.1.7 Noise

During the construction phase of the project, noise will be generated by construction vehicles, construction machinery and contractors.

10.1.8 Air Quality

CO² Emissions from construction vehicles and machinery, as well as dust during the construction phase will have an impact on air quality.



10.1.9 Archaeology and Paleontology

The possibility occurs that the construction activity may lead to an impact on Archaeology and Paleontology aspects. The site is within an area marked with high potential of archaeological discoveries though none were identified during the site assessment.

10.1.10 Visual Impacts

The visual perspective of the property will be changed.

10.1.11 Socio Economic

Socio Economic can be divided into the following two categories:

10.1.11.1 Positive Socio-Economic Impacts:

The proposed development will result in job creation during the construction phase of the project.

10.1.11.2 Negative Socio-Economic Impacts:

- An increase in criminal activities in the local regions of the proposed activity.
- Safety impacts may occur as a result of improper safety management on site.

10.1.12 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative Impacts include a potential change in surface and ground water source quality. This impact will be investigated further in the Impact Assessment Report.

11 METHODOLOGY ADOPTED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The impacts must be evaluated by applying the methodology as described below. The impact is defined and the significance is rated from Low to High as indicated in the table below with an explanation of the impact magnitude and a guide that reflects the extent of the proposed mitigation measures deemed necessary.

The Nature of impact is a broad indication of what is being affected and how.

Severity relates to the nature of the event, aspect or impact to the environment and describes how severe the aspects impact on the biophysical and socio-economic environment.

The following is the equation applied to determine the significance of the impact:

Significance (S) = [Irreplaceable (I) Extent (E) + Duration (D) + Magnitude (M) + Reversibility (R)] x Probability (P)



$$S = (I + E + D + M + R) \times P$$

Nature	Classification of whether the impact is positive or negative , direct or indirect
Extent	<p>Spatial scale of impact and classified as:</p> <p>Site: the impacted area is the whole site or a significant portion of the site</p> <p>Local: within a radius of 2 km of the construction site.</p> <p>Regional: the impacted area extends to the immediate, surrounding and neighboring properties.</p> <p>National: the impact can be considered to be of national significance.</p>
Duration	<p>Indicates the lifetime of the impact and is classified as:</p> <p>Short term: the impact will either disappear with mitigation will be mitigated through natural processes in a span shorter than the construction phase.</p> <p>Medium term: the impact will last for the period of the construction phase, where after it will be entirely negated.</p> <p>Long term: the impact will continue or last for the entire operational life of the development, but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter. The only class of impact which will be non-transitory.</p> <p>Permanent: mitigation either by man or natural process will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.</p>
Intensity	<p>Describes whether an impact is destructive or benign</p> <p>Low: impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and social functions and processes are not affected.</p> <p>Moderate: affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and social functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way.</p> <p>High: natural, cultural and social functions and processes are altered to extent that they temporarily cease.</p> <p>Very high: natural, cultural and social functions and processes are altered to extent that they permanently cease.</p>
Probability	<p>Describes the likelihood of an impact to occur:</p> <p>Improbable: likelihood of the impact materializing is very low.</p> <p>Possible: the impact may occur.</p>



	<p>Highly probable: most likely that the impact will occur.</p> <p>Definite: the impact will occur.</p>
Significance	<p>Based on the above criteria the significance of issues was determined. The total number of points scored for each impact indicates the level of significance of the impact, and is rated as follows:</p> <p>Low: the impacts are less important.</p> <p>Medium: the impacts are important and require attention, mitigation is required to reduce the negative impacts.</p> <p>High: the impacts are of great importance. Mitigation is therefore crucial.</p>
Cumulative	<p>In relation to an activity, means the impact of an activity that in itself may not be significant but may become significant when added to the existing and potential impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities or undertakings in the area.</p>
Mitigation	<p>Where negative impacts are identified, mitigation measures (ways of reducing impacts) have been identified. An indication of the degree of success of the potential mitigation measures is given per impact.</p>

Criteria for the rating of impacts				
Criteria	Description			
Extent	National	Regional	Local	Site
Duration	Permanent	Long-term	Medium-term	Short-term
Intensity	Very high	High	Moderate	Low
Probability	Definite	Highly probable	Possible	Improbable
Points allocation	4	3	2	1
Significance Rating of classified impacts				
Impact	Points	Description		
Low	4-6	A low impact has no permanent impact of significance. Mitigation measures are feasible and are readily instituted as part of a standing design, construction or operating procedure.		
Medium	7-9	Mitigation is possible with additional design and construction inputs.		



High	10-12	The design of the site may be affected. Mitigation and possible remediation are needed during the construction and/or operational phases. The effects of the impact may affect the broader environment.
Very high	13-16	The design of the site may be affected. Mitigation and possible remediation are needed during the construction and/ or operational phases. The effects of the impact may affect the broader environment.
Status	Perceived effect of the impact	
Positive (+)	Beneficial impact	
Negative (-)	Adverse impact	
Negative impacts are shown with a (-) while positive ones are indicated as (+)		

12 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The scoping report provides a broad introduction into the issues that are applicable to the proposed development, and highlights important issues to be investigated during the EIA Phase of the project. The EIA Phase will draw on the above information and make use of the recommended specialist studies to reach an objective decision on the overall impact of the proposed development. The EIA Phase must culminate in the compilation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts, and the identification of sensitive areas within the study area which may require more specific management measures. The EIA Phase will also aim to optimize and improve potential positive impacts that may result from the proposed development. Specialist studies conducted during the scoping phase for the proposed development will identify any fatal flaws for the project site. However, a number of potentially significant (positive and negative) environmental impacts will be identified and will need to be evaluated during the detailed EIR phase of the project. In addition, the EIR Phase will provide a more detailed comparative analysis of these potential impacts against the “no-go” alternative. Detailed mitigation and management measures will be developed during the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) phase of the project, in response to the detailed assessment, and will be run towards the end of EIR phase of the project. Please note that this is not an environmental authorization, therefore the proposed activity must not commence until the Environmental Authorization is obtained from the Competent Authority (DESTEA)