

Basic Assessment Process for the Proposed Establishment of a Cemetery, Located on Portion 2 of the Farm Commonage No. 5319, within the Richmond Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

June 2021



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Basic Assessment Process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS PROJECT?

The Applicant, Richmond Local Municipality, wish to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed establishment of a cemetery, located on Portion 2 of the Farm Commonage No. 5319, within the Richmond Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended – 2017), published in Government Notices No. R. (GNR) 324, 325 and 327 of 2017, certain Listed Activities require either a Basic Assessment Process (GNR 324 and GNR 327) or a Scoping and EIA Process (GNR 325) to be undertaken for Environmental Authorisation. The proposed project triggers the following Listed Activities, thus a Basic Assessment Process is required to be undertaken.

Listing Notice	Part	Description
GNR 327	Part 23	<i>“The development of cemeteries of 2500 square metres or more in size”.</i> Applicable as the proposed cemetery will be more than 2500 m² in extent.
GNR 327	Part 27	<i>“The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – ...”</i> Potentially applicable as the proposed cemetery may require the clearance of indigenous vegetation.

The Applicant, Richmond Local Municipality, has appointed Green Door Environmental to undertake the Basic Assessment Process.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Applicant, Richmond Local Municipality, wish to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed establishment of a cemetery, located on Portion 2 of the Farm Commonage No. 5319, within the Richmond Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal.

The proposed cemetery will occupy an area of approximately 12.65 ha in extent and will be surrounded by a security fence. Although the exact location of the cemetery is currently unknown, it will fall within Portion 2 of the Farm Commonage No. 5319, located at GPS coordinates 29°53'39.00" S and 30°16'29.95" E. Once feedback from the Specialist Studies has been received, all I&APs will be notified of the exact location of the proposed cemetery.

The following Specialist Studies will be compiled for the proposed project:

- ◆ Ecological Assessment;
- ◆ Agricultural Potential Assessment;
- ◆ Heritage Impact Assessment;
- ◆ Desktop Paleontological Impact Assessment;
- ◆ Geotechnical Assessment;
- ◆ Geohydrological Assessment; and
- ◆ Flood Line Assessment.

Refer to Figure 1 and 2 below for maps of the proposed project.



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

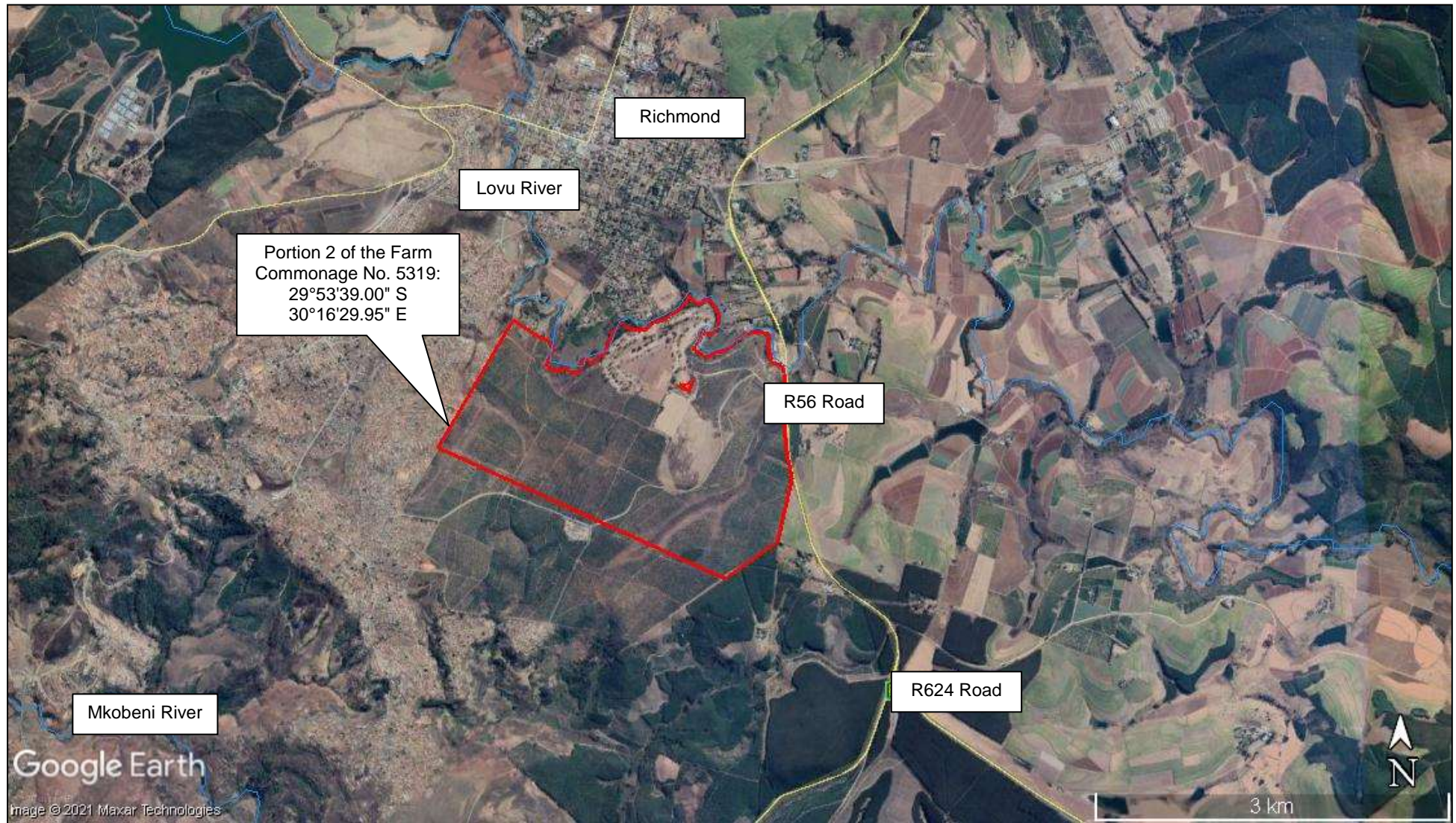


Figure 1: Locality map showing the proposed project and surrounding area, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Google Earth).



Figure 2: Map showing the proposed project, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal (Source: Google Earth).



WHAT IS THE AIM OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

The Basic Assessment Process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially I&APs of the proposed project;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed project may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Competent Authority with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

1. Application Form:

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This form provides information on the property, a description of the activities and lists the relevant Listed Activities which are triggered.

2. Public Participation:

The general public and relevant authorities are notified of the proposed project through newspaper adverts, site posters and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in the proposed project, but have not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background Information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the newspaper adverts and site posters.

3. Identification of Impacts and Alternatives

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

4. Impact Evaluation

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

5. Mitigation and Management Measures

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the proposed project, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures, if the proposed project is approved.

6. Reporting

The Draft Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. A Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr will be compiled and will include comments received on the circulated Draft Basic Assessment Report.

7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by the Competent Authority as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed project must be approved or not. All I&APs will be informed of the decision.



WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Potential contamination of water resources.



HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed project. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **19 July 2021**.



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Physical: Block H, Quarry Office Park,
 400 Old Howick Road, Hilton, 3245
Phone: 033 343 4176 **Fax:** 033 343 4201
Email: kerryn@greendoorgroup.co.za
Website: www.greendoorgroup.co.za

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organisation / Property Name:			
Interest in project (e.g. authority, neighbour, competitor, supplier):			
Postal Address:			
		Post Code:	
Tel Number:		Cell Number:	
Fax Number:		Email:	

1. The following issues must be noted regarding the proposed establishment of a cemetery, located on Portion 2 of the Farm Commonage No. 5319, within the Richmond Local and uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Richmond, KwaZulu-Natal

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2. The following potential I&APs should also be contacted:

Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	
Name:	Organisation:
Tel Number:	
Address:	

3. Additional comments?

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Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental.

Thank you