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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT

### NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESSES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) FOR THE PROPOSED MAPOCHSGRONDE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, ROOSSENEKAL

Date of Publication: 14 January 2012  
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality  
GCS Project Number: 10-090

Competent Authority: LDEDET  
Reference Number: 12/1/9/2-GS20

NEAS  
Reference Number: LIM/EIA/0000438/2012

#### Purpose of this Background Information Document

The purpose of this document is to provide all interested and affected parties (I&APs) with information about the Proposed Mapochsgronde Residential Development, Roossenekal, as well as the following:

- Introduce and explain the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process especially the public participation process that is prescribed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) (NEMA); and
- Invite all I&APs to comment on :
  - The ecological, physical, socio- economic and any other issues of concern; and
  - The proposed public participation and environmental assessment process, and
  - Any other suggestions.

#### What is an EIA/EMP and what does an EIA/EMP contain?

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) prescribes the processes to be followed when compiling the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), in respect of listed activities and mining operations respectively, that forms the legal basis of this authorisation. The process aims to ensure that all relevant factors are considered when evaluating the potential environmental impacts of a project, as well as developing appropriate environmental management measures to mitigate these impacts.

The purpose of the EIA is to assess the current environment in which a proposed activity will take place and assess all potential impacts in terms of its extent, duration, intensity and significance relating to the specific activity. The EMP describes the goals and objectives for environmental management to minimise or eliminate the potential environmental impacts, the action plans to bring effect to those goals and objectives, the procedures to be implemented to ensure integration of environmental management into the daily operations, as well as a plan to raise awareness of employees and the surrounding community with regards to environmental management.

## Project Description

GCS (Pty) Ltd (GCS) has been appointed by Urban Dynamics (Mpumalanga) Inv. (hereafter referred to as Urban Dynamics) to conduct a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with the National Integrated Environmental Management Principles (as published by the Department of Environmental Affairs, 1991) and in the interest of sound environmental management for the proposed Mapochsgronde residential development in Roosenekal, Limpopo.

The proposed development will have a variety of amenities to compliment the residential component and which will aim to create an aesthetically pleasing residential area. These include the following:

- 37 Public Open Space;
- 2 Business;
- 2 Community facility; and
- 3 Church.

The Environmental Scoping Report is been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”), as read with Government Notice (GN) No. 33306 Regulation (R) 543 (Section 280), R544, R545 and R546 of June 2010 which was promulgated in August 2010 as well as the integrated Environmental Management (IEM) Information Series (DEAT, 2002). These Regulations and guidelines describe the process for Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment.

The extent of the proposed development will measure approximately 52 ha of Municipal owned property.

### **The proposed project will be situated on the following farm portions:**

Remainder of the Farm Mapochsgronde 911 JS

### **Proposed activities that will form part of project will include:**

Water and Sewerage services are planned to be supplied by the local municipality. During the compilation of this report, no technical details regarding the water reservoir and related capacity could be obtained. Such details will be included in the Environmental Assessment Report if available. The internal services of the proposed development include the following planned development components; Roads, Stormwater drainage, Water reticulation, sewer reticulation, solid waste disposal and electrical supply. It is foreseen during this stage of the proposed development that access to the site will be obtained via a 25m wide street connecting the proposed development with the existing residential area adjacent to the site. The internal roads of the proposed development are planned to be 25 m; 20 m; and 13 m respectfully. These internal roads will serve to facilitate access to the various components and sections of the proposed development. Direct access to various erf’s and properties are proposed to be achieved through 10 m roads which will branch off from the distribution roads as mentioned above.

The proposed stormwater drainage system is interlinked with the proposed internal road layout. All stormwater will be captured into catch its or ordinary kerb inlets which will be strategically positioned. As per the town planning motivational memorandum, all designs (which will be included in the EIA phase of this application) will be in accordance with the councils specifications as well as the UTG4 Guidelines for urban stormwater management.

It is planned that each erf of the proposed development be supplied with a water connection which will in turn connect to the proposed development's main feed. This water pipeline is planned to tie into the existing water reticulation network of the local municipality. All designs regarding pipe specifications will be subject to the Guidelines for Human Settlement Planning and design "the Red Book" as specified in the motivational memorandum compiled by Urban Dynamics. The proposed development sewerage requirements will be addressed by a outfall sewer network, linking each erf to the existing municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant. The planned line will be designed to incorporate precast concrete manholes at 80m intervals, at pipe kinks, adjoining pipes and road crossings.

All waste will further be required to be disposed of at a applicable waste disposal facility. Solid waste generated during the operational phase will be collected by the Local Municipality. The waste will therefore feed into the existing waste stream. Confirmation of waste disposal capacity will be required to be provided during the EIA phase of this application. Electricity is currently supplied to the town of Roosenekal through an Eskom rural line which also supplies numerous farms along the route. However usage is monitored by the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality who have application to Eskom to increase the capacity of the town. It is planned that the proposed development will make timeous application to the local municipal for the required electrical demand which will be met once Eskom has agreed to increase the capacity of the existing supply.

It is anticipated that the following specialist investigations would be required due to the nature and size of the proposed development and the associated listed activities according to NEMA:

Specialist studies	
Heritage Impact Assessment;	Biodiversity Impact Assessment (fauna and flora);
Hydrological (Surface water) Investigations;	Visual Impact Assessment; and
Social Impact Assessment.	Social Impact Assessment;

## Where is the project located?

The proposed development is located on the Remainder of the Farm Mapochsgronde 911 JS, adjacent (west) to an existing and similar residential development Roosenekal Extension 1 in Roosenekal which is located north of R577 Provincial Road leading to Lydenburg and east of the R 555 provincial road leading to Steelpoort. The approximate GPS co- ordinates (as per the Google Earth Image) are as follows: E 29.9196° and S25.1964°. Refer to Figure 1 for the location of the proposed project.

The extent of the proposed development will measure approximately 52 ha of Municipal owned property.

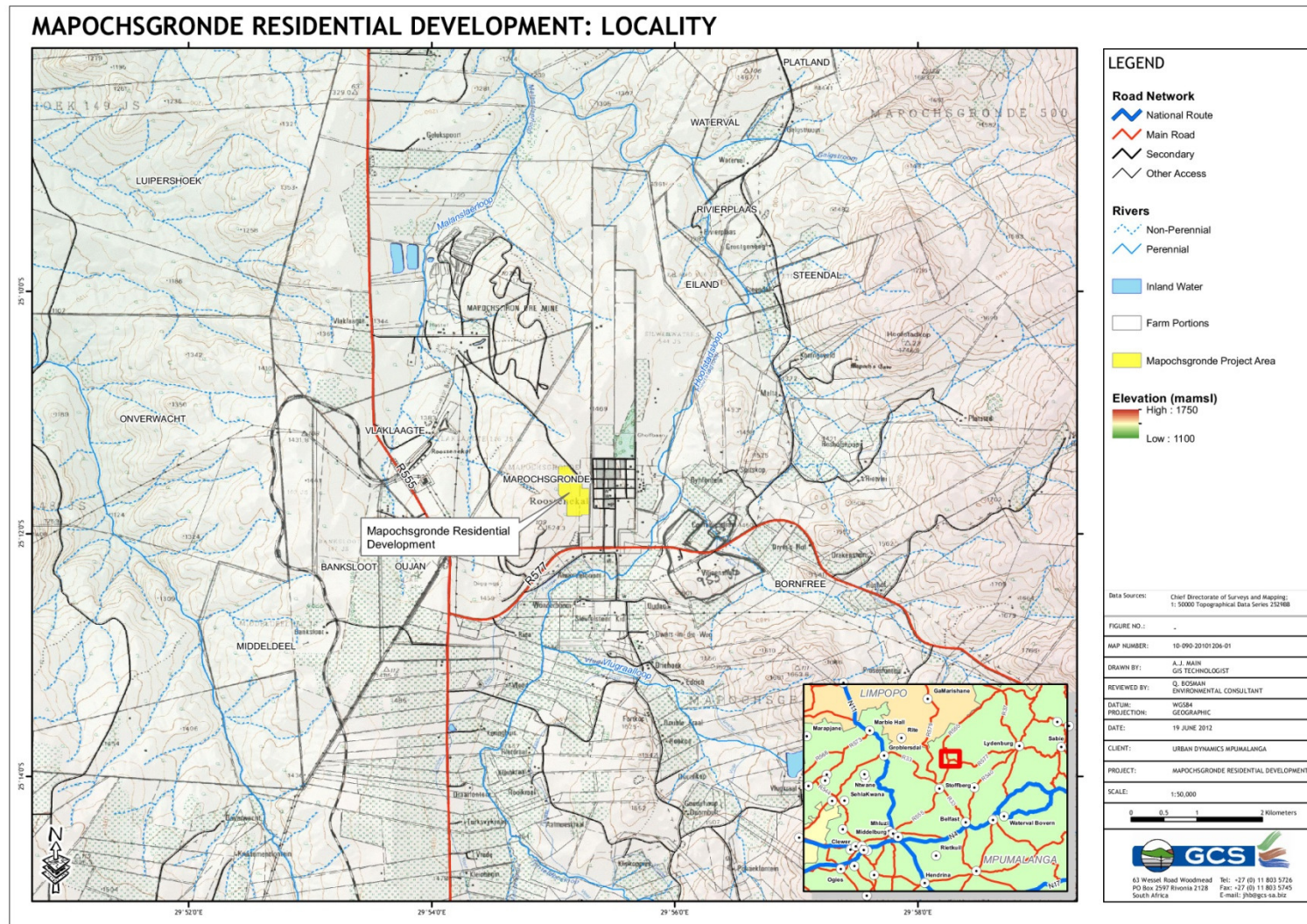


Figure 1 Locality map of Proposed Mapochsgronde Residential Development.

## Required Authorisations - Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The environmental authorisation processes for the Proposed Mapochsgronde Residential Development, will be undertaken in accordance with the NEMA. These Act and its various processes and requirements are discussed below.

### National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

Section 24 of the NEMA requires that activities (e.g. construction), which may impact on the environment must obtain an environmental authorisation from a relevant authority before commencing with the activities. Such activities are listed under Regulations Listing Notice 1 Government Notice (GN) 544 and Listing Notice 2 GN 545 (dated 2 August 2010) of NEMA. In terms of the proposed project, the LDEDET is regarded to be the competent authority for environmental authorization.

The activities which are triggered by the proposed project are listed under Regulations R544 and R545, and as such require an application for an Environmental Authorisation in the form of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. All activities under Notice 1 GN 544 which requires a Basic Assessment (BA) will be included as part of the full EIA process.

The purpose of the EIA process is to identify and assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed project, and to develop measures to management and/or mitigate the negative impacts, and enhance any potential positive impacts.

The following listed activities according to the EIA Regulations, 2010 listed under Government Notice (GN) R544 and R545 of June 2010 will require environmental authorisation in terms NEMA:

Number and date of the relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant or notice):	Listed activity:
<b>National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2012</b>		
<b>NEMA GN R 544 of June 2010</b>	9	The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of a sewage and water, including storm water in pipelines with an internal diameter of 0.36 meters or more.
<b>National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2012</b>		
<b>NEMA GN R 545 of June 2010</b>	15	Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelicts land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational, institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 Hectares or more.

## Environmental Assessment Practitioner GCS (PTY) LTD

GCS (Pty) Ltd is a fully integrated water, environmental, and earth science consulting services company based in the Republic of South Africa. GCS provides a professional consulting service in the fields of environmental, water and earth sciences. GCS has a team of highly trained staff with considerable experience in the fields of environmental and water science.

GCS will act as the Independent (EAP), as well as the Public Participation Practitioner for this EIA, environmental authorisation processes and PPP.

## Public Participation Process

The public participation process is an integral part of the EIA process, and continues throughout the EIA process.

The key objective of public participation during an EIA is to assist stakeholders to identify issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits, and to comment on the findings of the EIA.

Proposed steps in and scheduling of the process are as follows:

### ***Step 1: Notify I&APs and identify issues***

- Notify I&APs of the project proposal;
- Identify any issues/concerns of I&APs;
- Provide I&APs with a Background Information Document (BID) on the project, including a locality map and a Registration and Comment Sheet; and
- I&APs are required to register their interest in the project to receive further project information.

### ***Step 2: I&AP review of Draft Scoping Report***

- Issues and concerns raised by I&APs are contained in a Comment and Responses Report for inclusion in the Draft Scoping Report;
- The report is released for a 30 day comment period; and
- All registered I&APs on the project database are notified in writing of the opportunity to comment.

To assist I&APs with their understanding of the project, a public meeting, to which all I&APs are invited, will be held during the review period. Copies of the report will be made available on the GCS website [www.gcs-sa.biz](http://www.gcs-sa.biz).

### ***Step 3: Final Scoping Report***

Comments received from I&APs during the review process are considered in the compilation of the Final Scoping Report before it is submitted to the LDEDET for their decision making.

All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final Scoping Report to the LDEDET. All comments received from I&APs and authorities are compiled into the Comment and Responses Report

for inclusion in the Final EIA.

**Step 4: Draft EIR and EMPr for I&AP review**

Compilation and release of a Draft EIA (including the draft EMPr) for a 30 day review period.

**Step 5: Final EIR and Draft EMPr**

The Final EIR, including the Comment and Responses Report and Draft EMPr will be compiled for submission to LDEDET for decision making.

**Step 6: Notify I&APs of Environmental Authorisation and Appeal Period**

All registered I&APs will be notified in writing of the environmental authorisation for the project and the appeal period, as well as the manner of appeal.

## Be an Integral Part of the Environmental Management Process

Public involvement is an essential part of any environmental assessment process. You have been identified as an I&AP who may want to receive information regarding the above-mentioned project and be allowed to provide your input into the environmental assessment process. All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

I&APs include any person who will be directly or indirectly involved and/or affected by the project. To be recognised as an I&AP one must register with GCS (Pty) Ltd to be added to the stakeholder database for the project and may communicate via fax, email or telephone to obtain further information or comment on the Proposed Mapochsgronde Residential Development, Roosenekal. All registered I&APs will be kept informed of the decision taken by the LDEDET.

## How do you get involved?

- By registering your interest in the project with GCS as indicated below;
- By responding to our invitation for your involvement advertised in the Die Dallers Newspaper;
- By completing and forwarding the Registration and Comment Sheet to GCS if you have a query, comment, or require further project information;
- By telephonically contacting GCS;
- By reviewing the various reports within the stipulated comment period; and
- By attending any feedback meetings, which may be held during the review period.

## Public Notification

A major part of the Public Participation Process is to notify members of the public of the proposed activities, particularly those who may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project. This will be achieved via the following means:

- The placement of an advertisement in a regional newspaper, i.e. the Steelburger Newspaper on 10 January 2013
- Notices, in English will be placed at the site;

- Distribution of BIDs to landowners and occupiers of land adjacent to the proposed prospecting area and to I&APs on request; and
- Local authorities will be notified in writing and automatically registered as I&APs.

## Documents for Public Review

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for public review and comment, from **22 January 2013** to **22 February 2013** at the following public venues:

Venue	Address	Office hours
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality	2 Grobler Avenue Groblersdal 0470	08h00 - 16h00

Comments on the Draft Scoping Report must be forwarded to GCS (see contact details on overleaf) on or before 22 February 2013 for inclusion in the Final Report to be submitted to the LDEDET.

## How to comment

Should you wish to register as an I&AP in order to be kept informed, please complete the registration form on the overleaf and submit to GCS via fax, post or email. Any further enquiries can be directed to GCS telephonically, or via fax or email. It is important that you provide your contact details so that we may respond to your comments or questions.

Please note that should you require any one else to be contacted, please provide their contact details as well.

## Contact Us

**Contact Person:** Fatima Matlou  
**Tel:** 011 803 5726  
**Fax:** 011 803 5745  
**Email:** [fatima@gcs-sa.biz](mailto:fatima@gcs-sa.biz)  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 2597  
Rivonia  
JOHANNESBURG  
2128







**PROPOSED MAPOCHSGRONDE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**I&AP Comment and Registration Form**  
 LDEDET Reference Number: 12/1/9/2-GS20  
 NEAS Reference Number: LIM/EIA/0000438/2012  
 GCS Ref No: 10-090

Name:		Surname:	
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Organisation / interest:

Postal / Residential address			
	Area:		Code:

Contact details	Tel:	(      )
	Fax:	(      )
	Mobile:	(      )
	Email:	

Please mark with an X to indicate whether you would like to participate in the process:

Yes, I would like to participate in this process and receive periodical updates	
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No, I am not interested in participating and do not wish to receive further information	
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Preferred method of communication	Email		Fax		Post
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Date commented	( DD / MM / YYYY )
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Please indicate any issues, comments and concerns with regards to the proposed project


Please indicate in which aspects you would require more information


Please indicate the contact details of any I&APs whom you think should be contacted

Name:		Surname:	
Tel:	(      )	Fax:	(      )
Mobile:	(      )		
Email:			

In order to be registered as an I&AP for this project, fax, mail, or e-mail the completed registration form before **22 February 2013** to Fatima Matlou at:

Tel: (011) 803 5726  
 Fax: (011) 803 5745  
 Email: fatima@gcs-sa.biz  
 Post: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, 2128

