



ENVIRONAMICS

Environmental Consultants

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Basic Assessment for the proposed feedlot on Portion 2 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 173 near Steynsrus,
Free State Province

1. Introduction

The activities entail the development of a feedlot and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 173, Registration Division Senekal, Free State Province situated within the Moqhaka Local Municipality area of jurisdiction. The town of Steynsrus is located approximately 9 km northwest of the proposed development (refer to the attached locality map).

There is an existing feedlot located on Portion 2 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 173 which has a capacity to accommodate 1600 small stock units in 24 camps. The proposed development is for the expansion of the feedlot to accommodate approximately 15 000 small stock units in 16 camps with a density of approximately 3.5m² per stock unit. The Applicant for the development is Tlios (Pty) Ltd.

The purpose of this background information document (BID) is to provide interested and affected parties (I&APs) with:

- Information on the need for a Basic Assessment (BA);
- An overview of the proposed feedlot;
- An overview of the Basic Assessment process and specialist studies being conducted to explain the potential impacts associated with the proposed development; and
- Details of how I&APs may become involved in the process, receive information, or raise issues, which may concern and/or interest them.

2. The need for an EIA

The EIA Regulations, 2014 (GN. R.326 as amended) published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) determine that an environmental authorisation is required for certain listed activities, which might have detrimental impacts on the environment. The following activities have been identified with special reference to the proposed development and are listed in the EIA Regulations:

- Activity 4(ii) (GN.R. 327): *“The development and related operations of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals (for the purpose of commercial production) in densities that exceed (ii) 8 square metres per small stock unit...”*
- Activity 27 (GN.R. 327): *“The clearance of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.”*
- Activity 4(b)(i)(ee) (GN.R. 324): *“The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres, (b) in the Free State province, (i) outside urban areas, (ee) in Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans ”*
- Activity 12 (b)(i)(ii) (GN.R. 324): *“The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation in the (b) Free State within (i) any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; and in (ii) Critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.”*

- Activity 18 (b)(i)(ee) (GN.R. 324): The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre, (b) in the Free State province, (i) outside urban areas, in (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans”

Being listed under Listing Notice 1 and 3 (GN.R. 327 & 324) implies that the development is considered as potentially having a significant impact on the environment. The ‘basic assessment process’ involves the identification and assessment of environmental impacts through specialist studies, as well as public participation. The ‘basic assessment (BA) process’ will be undertaken as per the requirements described in Regulation 19 – 20.

3. Project description

There is an existing feedlot located on Portion 2 of the Farm Rietfontein No. 173 which has a capacity to accommodate 1600 small stock units in 24 camps. The proposed development is for the expansion of the feedlot to accommodate approximately 15 000 small stock units in 16 camps with a density of approximately 3.5m² per stock unit.

Specific infrastructure will be developed for the operation of the feedlot which includes the camps, roads, shearing and feed sheds, manure dump etc.

4. Specialist studies to be conducted

There are a number of environmental impacts, both positive and negative that are associated with the development of a feedlot. Specialist studies will be conducted to identify and assess these potential impacts. Specialist studies will be guided by existing information, field observations and input from the public participation process. For this project, the following specialist studies have been identified as relevant:

- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Ecological and Wetland Impact Assessment
- Palaeontological Impact Assessment
- Stormwater Management Plan

5. The BA process and timeline for the project

Public participation is an integral part of the BA process and aims to involve Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the process by notifying them of the proposed

project and encouraging them to voice their issues and concerns.

Through the BA process of the project, the process is transparent and allows I&APs to comment on the project or raise concerns, which are included in the Basic Assessment Report and are taken into consideration during the authorities’ assessment of the project. Table 1 indicates the key steps of the BA process and the timelines for the project.

Table 1: Key steps of the BA process

Activity	Prescribed timeframe	Timeframe
Public participation (BID)	30 Days	11 July – 11 Aug. 2022
Submit application form and Draft BAR	-	Aug. 2022
Public participation (DBAR)	30 Days	Aug. 2022 – Sept 2022
Submit Final BAR	90 Days	Sept. 2022
Decision	107 Days	Jan. 2023
Public participation (decision) & submission of appeals	20 Days	Feb. 2023

6. Your involvement

I&APs include individuals, communities or groups whose interest may be positively or negatively affected by the proposed development. You may get involved in the public participation process by:

- Registering as an I&AP.
- Submitting your issues, concerns and questions in writing by sending an email or message to Environamics (as per the contact details provided in the next section).
- Attending any public meetings which may be held during the course of the BA process. As a registered I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings., if relevant.
- Reviewing and commenting on the reports within the stipulated public review periods.

7. Comments and queries

All comments and queries may be directed to the following contact person:

Contact person: Lisa de Lange / Christia van Dyk
Telephone: 084 920 3111 / 078 470 5252 (Cell)
Electronic mail: participation@environamics.co.za