

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



THE PROPOSED PIGGERY ON PORTION 46 OF THE FARM BRAKKEFONTIEN 416, WITHIN THE NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

INTRODUCTION

Habitat Link Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), on behalf of Mr Unathi Mafuya, to apply for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Waste Licence for the abovementioned project. Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended) of the proposed piggery unit on Portion 46 of the Farm Brakkefontein 416 (Uster Rangers Hill Farm), located within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), Eastern Cape Province (Figure 1). The piggery will accommodate 200 pigs and will include a breeding house (180 m²), a grower house (140 m²) as well as a double lagoon effluent system (2 100 m³ each) with associated infrastructure including water supply, electricity, new access roads and storm water drains. The development will be situated approximately 2.2 km west of the Rocklands Road (R334), approximately 35 km from the Port Elizabeth city centre.



Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed Uster Rangers Hill Piggery.

AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to ensure that people who are interested in, or affected by, the proposed project are provided with the relevant information, including the process being followed. Registering as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) allows individuals or groups to contribute ideas, issues, and concerns relating to the proposed project. I&APs also have an opportunity to review all of the reports and submit their comments on these reports. All of the comments that are received will be included in the final reports that are submitted to the Competent Authority (CA). All I&APs are hereby invited to register their interest and submit initial comments on any aspect of the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The DRDAR has approved the implementation of the Uster Rangers Hill project within the Rocklands agricultural area of the NMBM. The farmer is currently undertaking pig farming on open land within depleted zinc structures resulting in high mortality and inhibiting livestock growth. It is thus the intention of the DRDAR to assist the farmer with the formalisation of the piggery by establishing a facility that can accommodate a 20-sow unit (200 pigs of average 60 kg each) within a previously disturbed area of the existing farm.

The proposed development includes the following aspects:

- Site clearance including the removal and disposal of debris;
- Development of piggery housing:
 - o Breeding/weaner house (180 m²)
 - o Grower house (140 m²)
- Waste handling system consisting of two (2) lagoons (2 100 m³ each)
- Carcass disposal pit
- Construction of boreholes and water reticulation system
- Electricity supply from the existing ESKOM transformers
- Construction of new access roads
- Provision of storm water drains and pipes.

The proposed development will require a footprint of approximately 2 000 m² of the 88-hectare property. The study area consists of predominantly cleared and transformed agricultural land with some existing farm structures, while the surrounding land is mostly undeveloped and consists of natural bush. Located between two tributaries of the Hol River, a non-perennial river that feeds into the Elands River, the proposed development will need to ensure that effluent and storm water is correctly managed in order to avoid pollution of the watercourses (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Location of the proposed development in relation to the Hol River.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

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

The proposed development constitutes listed activities in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017) as promulgated under NEMA. As such, the proposed development requires an EA prior to commencement of construction and operation. The following listed activities published in GN R. 983 and 985 (as amended in GN R. 327 and 324) are triggered:

Activity No.	Description	Triggering activity
LISTING NOTICE 1 – GN R. 983 (GN R. 327)		
Activity 4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed— (i) 8 square meters per small stock unit and; b. more than 250 pigs per facility excluding piglets that are not yet weaned.	The proposed piggery will have a density of approximately 1.6 m ² per pig and may have the capacity for the concentration of more than 250 pigs.
LISTING NOTICE 3 – GN R. 985 (GN R. 324)		
Activity 4	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. a. Eastern Cape i. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.	The proposed development will require new access roads that may be wider than 4 m. This will be located approximately 3.5 km from the boundary of the Groendal Nature Reserve, a protected area as defined by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. The development will also be located within a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA 1) as defined by the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2007).

National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM:WA) (Act No. 59 of 2008, as amended)

In addition to the NEMA, the proposed development is likely to include waste management activities in respect of which a waste management licence is required, as per GN R. 921 (as amended) promulgated under NEM:WA. The following waste management activities are likely to be triggered:

Activity No.	Description	Triggering activity
CATEGORY A WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES		
1	The storage of general waste in lagoons.	The development of the waste handling system will consist of two (2) lagoons with a total capacity of 4 200 m ³ .
6	The treatment of general waste using any form of treatment at a facility that has the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons but less than 100 tons.	The waste handling system may have the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons of general waste.
12	The construction of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category A of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated waste management activity).	A waste handling system will be constructed as per the abovementioned listed waste activities.

Based on the listed activities identified in **Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations**, as well as in **Category A of the NEM:WA List of Waste Management Activities**, the proposed project will be **subject to a Basic Assessment process**. In order to comply with the NEMA and NEM:WA, the impacts associated with the activities listed above will need to be identified and assessed during this process and will include the necessary specialist studies. The Competent Authority (CA) for this project is identified as the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

National Water Act (NWA) (Act No. 36 of 1998, as amended)

The NWA is the primary regulatory legislation for the control, management and use of water resources. Section 21 of the NWA sets out water uses that may require registration or licencing and include the following:

Activity No.	Description	Triggering activity
WATER USES AS DEFINED BY SECTION 21 OF THE NWA		
a	Taking water from a water resource.	Groundwater will be abstracted from the proposed boreholes.
b	Storing water.	Water abstracted from the boreholes will be stored at the facility.
c	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.	Construction of the development will take place within 100 m of the Hol River.
e	Engaging in a controlled activity: irrigation of any land with waste or water containing waste generated through any industrial activity or by a waterwork.	Land may be irrigated with the treated effluent water from the waste handling system.
g	Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.	The operation of the waste handling system has the potential to detrimentally impact on the Hol River.
i	Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.	Construction of the development will take place within 100 m of the Hol River.

The need for a water use authorisation (WUA) will need to be discussed with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and will likely result in the requirement of a Water Use Licence. Should a WUA be required, this will be undertaken in parallel with the basic assessment process.

National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999, as amended)

The NHRA provides for the protection and management of South Africa's heritage resources. Section 38 of the NHRA notes that '*any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as—*

(c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—

(i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent

(ii) exceeding 300 m in length

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.'

The proposed development will change the character of the site. As such, a Heritage Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) will thus need to be submitted to the provincial heritage authority, along with a Heritage Assessment. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the NEMA process.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The listed activities trigger the requirement of a Basic Assessment process (Figure 3). A draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be compiled and will comprehensively describe the activities and impacts that the project may have on the receiving environment, including specialist reports and details from the public participation (PPP) process. In addition, an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled for the proposed development in order to make provision for relevant environmental management and mitigation measures. The draft BAR and EMPr will be published for a 30-day public commenting period. Subsequent to the review and commenting period, a final BAR will be compiled for submission to the competent authority. This will include all public comments and responses to issues raised by stakeholders. Following the issuing of the EA, all registered I&APs will be notified accordingly and given the opportunity to appeal against the decision, should they so wish to do so.

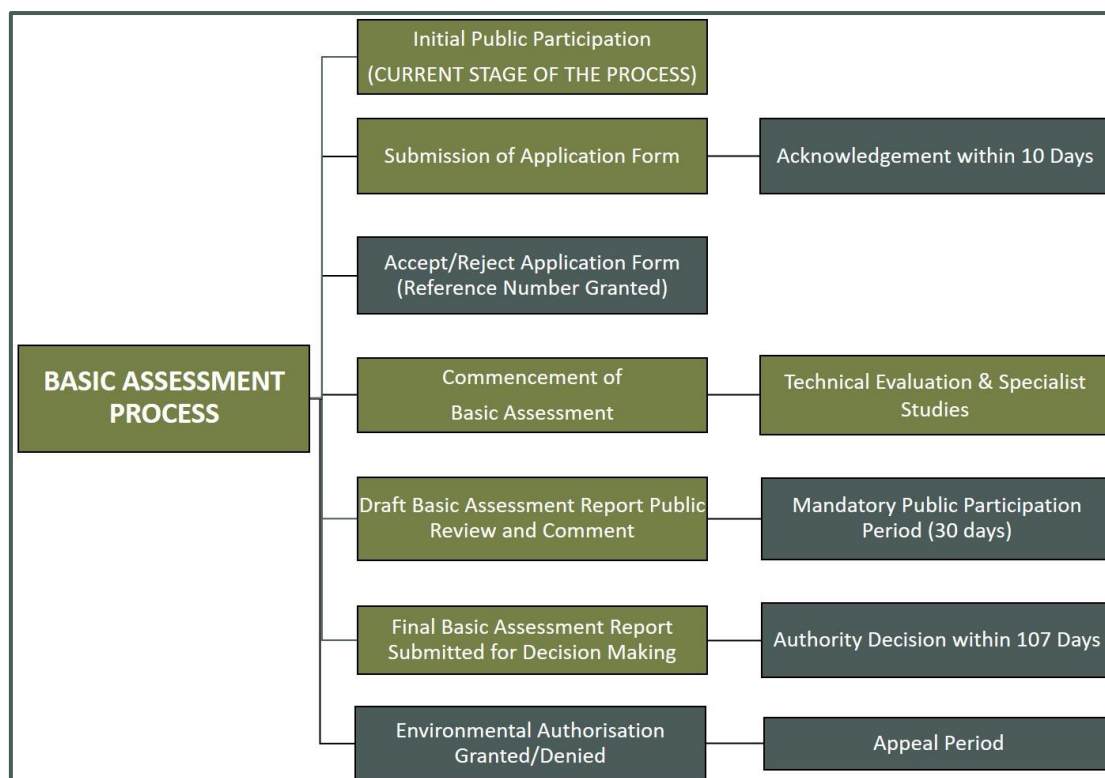


Figure 3: Basic Assessment process.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT

The following preliminary environmental issues have been identified and will be investigated during the application process:

- Impacts on surface and groundwater pollution and water availability;
- Stormwater management;
- Soil compaction and erosion;
- Dust, noise, traffic, odour and other nuisance aspects;
- Generation and management of waste including effluent;
- Impact on visual aesthetics;
- Loss of sites of archaeological and/or palaeontological importance;
- Employment creation and socio-economic benefits; and
- Improvement in food security.

These and other impacts will be assessed in detail during the Basic Assessment process and mitigation measures to reduce the significance of the negative impacts will be provided in the EMPr.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

In terms of the NEMA, public participation forms an integral part of the Basic Assessment process. The Public Participation Process (PPP) provides people who may be affected by the proposed development with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project, or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project. Comments and issues raised during the PPP will be captured, evaluated and included in an Issues and Responses Trail (IRT). These issues will be addressed and included in the final versions of the reports, which will be submitted to the DEDEAT.

INVITATION TO COMMENT

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed development, please send us your written comments. The names of all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), together with the comments received, will be incorporated into the IRT and will be submitted to the competent authority (DEDEAT). Please note that I&APs must provide their name, contact details (postal address, telephone number and email address) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest they may have in the approval or refusal of the proposed development.

Please submit your name, contact information (address, telephone number, email address, postal address) and any written comments to Habitat Link Consulting:



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