

# 1. BACKGROUND

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Mbombela Local Municipality is faced with housing shortage caused by lack of suitable land for residential development, shortage of serviced stands and inadequate supply of housing subsidies by the Provincial Department of Human Settlements. On the other hand, it is linked with the rapid population growth caused by the migration of people in search of better job opportunities and lives, especially Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities. According to Mbombela Local Municipality, integrated human settlement is one of the 13 priorities to be implemented within the period of five (5) years (2012-2017). Therefore to implement the integrated human settlement, the Municipality has identified suitable land around its areas for housing, but currently there is nothing that has been done to fast track the delivery of houses.

The applicant, **Zenani Properties (PTY) LTD** intends to establish a township with residential, commercial stands and a private hospital, at Hazyview. The main objective of the proposed township establishment is to meet the request of the Municipality in utilizing available land that is strategically well located for the establishment of formal settlements to ensure adequate housing and in addition business evens in Hazyview. Also the aim of the planned project is to enable the development of multifunctional mixed land uses in such a way that they not only benefit the immediate community, but also play a catalytic role in stimulating further economic investment in the area. These will on the other hand benefit people and the economy of Mbombela Local Municipality and the Mpumalanga Province. The lives of people will be improved by providing houses, businesses stands and a private hospital. Temporary job opportunities will be created in the construction industry and permanent jobs as domestic workers, medical staff and other jobs which is related to a hospital.

The proposed development will be situated on the remainder of Portion 127 and 131 of the farm De Rust 12 JU, Hazyview under the jurisdiction of the Mbombela Local Municipality that is identified as the most suitable site. It is situated approximately 1.2km south of Hazyview CBD and easily accessed off the R40 provincial road to Nelspruit. It is bordered by farms and business areas, and is close to Blue Haze Mall. The proposed site has Mango orchards, natural areas, and cattle are roaming on the farm. The aerial extent of the proposed development area is approximately 22 hectares, the development will use approximately 19 hectares.

The applicant, **ZENANI PROPERTIES (PTY) LTD** has appointed **WANDIMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** as independent environmental consultants, to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed establishment of a township on the remainder of Portion 127 & 131 of the Farm De Rust 12 JU in Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province.

The aim of the Environmental Impact Assessment is to ensure that:

- Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activities are taken into consideration;

- Public Participation Process is conducted, i.e. to afford any Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) sufficient opportunity to provide comments; and
- Sufficient information is submitted to decision makers in order to ensure an informed decision making process.

## 1.2 PROJECT MANAGERS

<b>Project applicant:</b>	ZENANI PROPERTIES (PTY) LTD		
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<b>Qualifications:</b>			
<b>Professional affiliations (if any):</b>	B.A ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		

## 1.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Wandima Environmental Services Pty (Ltd) was appointed as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by **Zenani Properties (PTY) LTD**, owned by **Ms N Fakude** to do a Basic Assessment Process according to the NEMA Regulations R543, 2010. Potential impacts of the proposed development are to be identified and assessed to recommend mitigations for this project.

## 1.4 REGULATING AUTHORITY

An application was lodged with the Mpumalanga Department Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET). The reference number is **17/2/3/E-210**. The responsible officer for the project is **Ms Robyn Luyt**.

## 1.5 ASSUMPTIONS

For the purpose of this report it has been assumed that all information received from the developer and project manager has been correct.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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### 2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The proposed project will involve the transformation of approximately 19ha of derelict land into a township for the primary use of residents, business/commercial and institutional (hospital) in Hazyview town and nearby communities. It must be noted that the farm is 22ha, the footprint of the development will be 19ha and 3.5ha of the drainage area will be zoned as private open space. Table 1 describes the number of ervens and approximately sizes of the different land uses in the land use table.

Table 1: the land use of the proposed development:

LAND USE TABLE			
Use Zone	No. of Ervens	Apprx. Total Area	ERF Number
Residential 2	2	7ha	7
Business	2	3.1ha	2 and 4
Institution	1	3.6ha	1 and 3
Residential 3	1	1.9ha	8
Road	1	2.9ha	9
Public Open Space	2	3.5ha	5 and 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22ha</b>	

In terms of section 24 (2)(a) and 24(d) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act no 107 of 1998, the proposed establishment of a township on the remainder of portion 127 & 131 of the farm De Rust in Hazyview triggers listed activities that falls under the R543 of June 2010, LN 1 activity 23 (i) for the transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, retail, commercial, recreation, industrial or institutional use, inside urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares.

### 2.2 NEED AND DESIRABILITY

#### 2.2.1 NEED FOR THE ACTIVITY

The need for the intended development could be motivated as follows:

- According to SDF, 2013 of Mbombela Local Municipality, the municipality is faced with housing shortage which needs to be dealt with. It has incorporated a strategy in the SDF to deal with the problem such as identifying suitable lands within the municipality for housing development. The following identified lands are Nelspruit, Plaston, and White River.
- The proposed development is situated approximately 1.2km south of Hazyview CBD that is 37.3 km north east of White River and 39.5 km of Plaston.
- The proposed development is best located to benefit Hazyview community and other surrounding communities at Mbombela Local Municipality with affordable houses, job opportunities and institutional facility.

## 2.2.2 2.2.2 DESIRABILITY FOR THE ACTIVITY

The desirability of the proposed project can be motivated as follows:

- The development is the best practicable environmental option for the land because the surrounding business activities and the position of the property will benefit the nearby communities. They will be able to access the houses, business and hospital that will be built from the area.
- The site was previously used for agricultural purposes such as mangoes and orchards plantation but now lays barren.
- The proposed development will change lots of people and will contribute in achieving the Municipal goal of building houses for people and in addition contribute to the goal of eliminating poverty in the municipality.

## 2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

The proposed site for the township establishment is approximately 1.2km south of Hazyview CBD on the R40 to Nelspruit, on portion 127 and 131 of the farm De Rust 12 JU in Hazyview. Hazyview is under the jurisdiction of the Mbombela Local Municipality, and the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The farm is 22ha of which the footprint of the development area will be approximately 19ha. The farm is currently zoned for agriculture use with existing Mangos orchards, orchards that was removed but did not recover to natural area, natural areas, a drainage line and grazing for several years now. The coordinates of the proposed development site is 25°06'29" S, 31°08' 12" E.

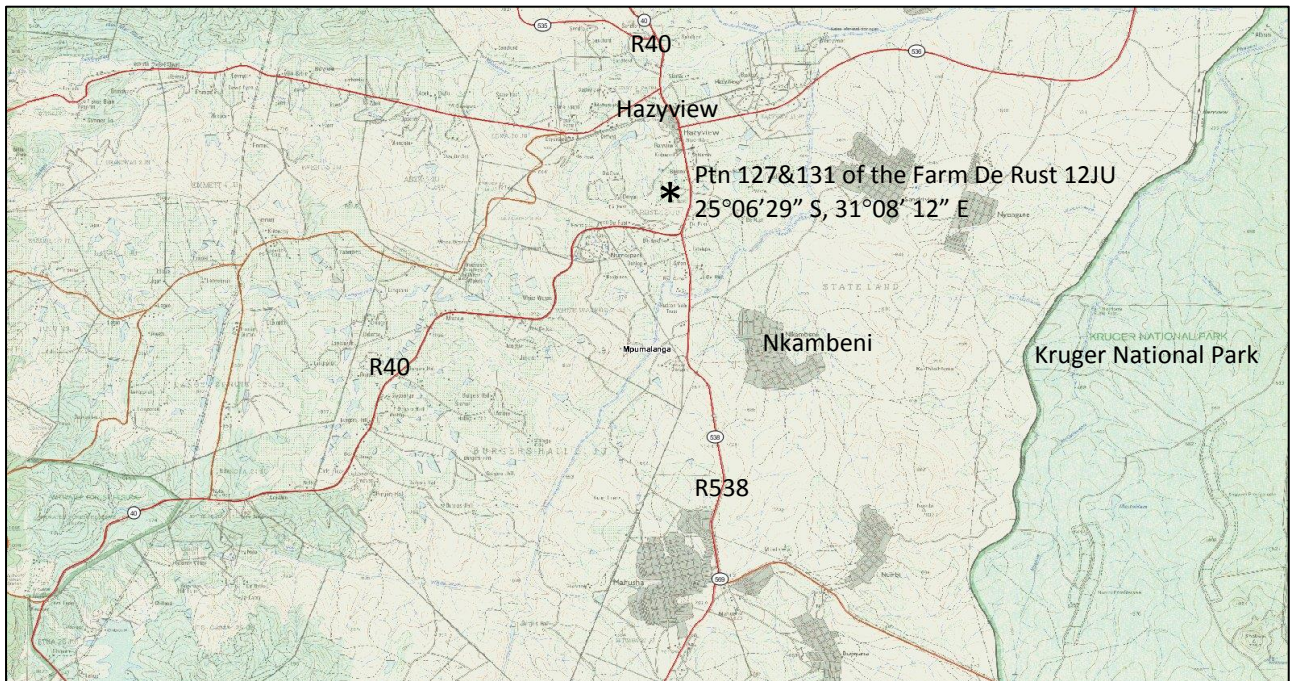


Figure 1: Locality map for the proposed township development on Portion 127 of the Farm De Rust 12JU, Hazyview.





Figure 2: Site map of the proposed development area for the township establishment, Hazyview.

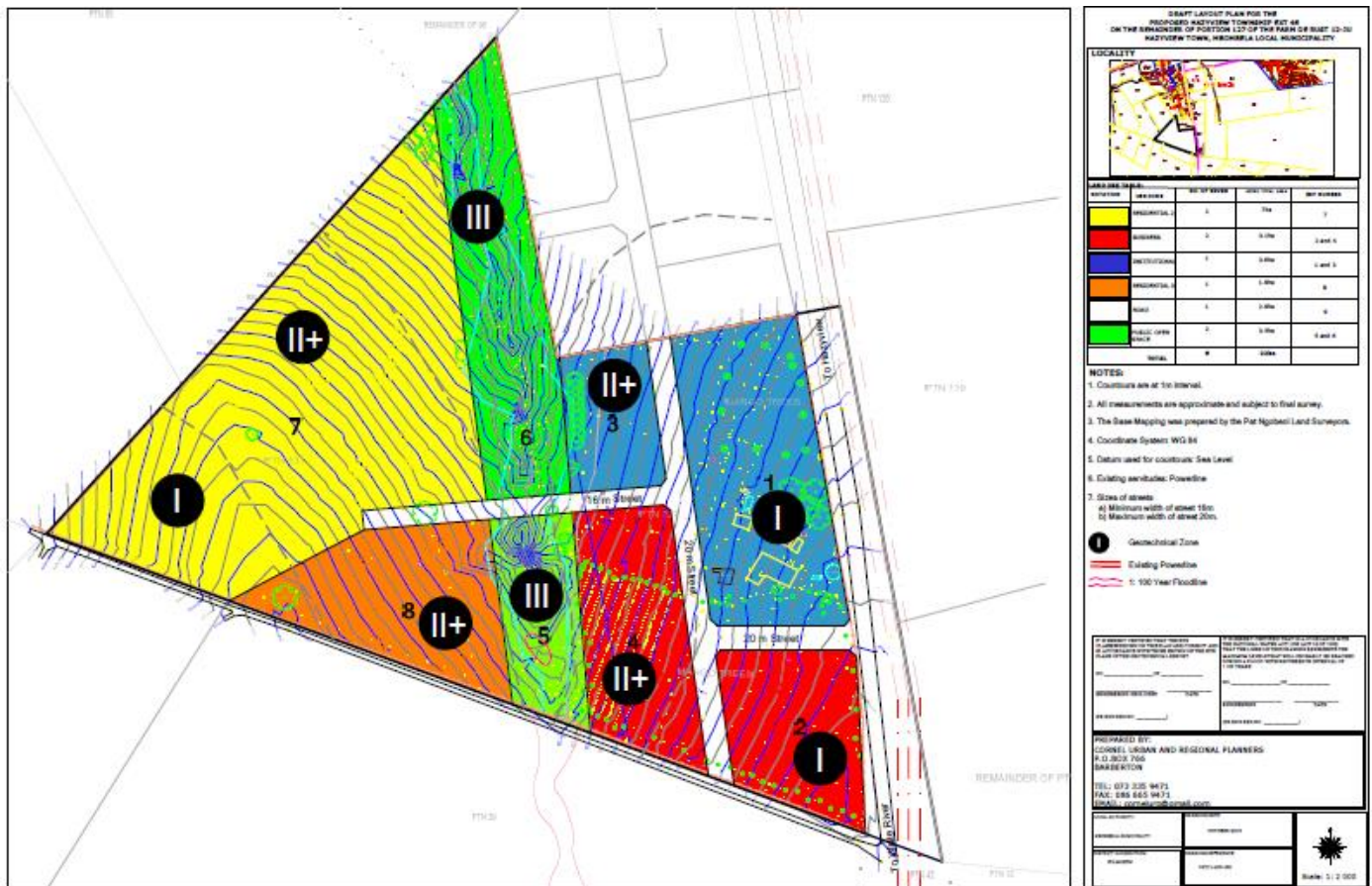


Figure 3: Layout plan of the proposed development area for the township establishment, Hazyview.

## **2.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The purpose of providing this information is to understand the possible effects of the proposed project on the environment. The affected environment includes the biophysical, social, economic and heritage environment that could be affected by, or could affect, the proposed development activity.

Portion 127 & 131 of the Farm De Rust is surrounded by business activities with BUCO hardware shop on the north and a filling station on the east. The farm is classified as least concern according to the MBCP, 2006 and the municipal services are available for the proposed development. Although minimal negative environmental impacts are foreseen, protected trees were noted on site and the farmhouse is older than 60 years. All the necessary permits will be applied for if necessary.

### **2.4.1. TOPOGRAPHY**

The proposed site occupies a broad valley with a tributary of the Sabie River traversing the middle of the site in a south-north direction. The site is underlain by fallow sands, fruit orchards, agricultural fields, grazing fields and open grassveld on a gentle slope. The farmstead is situated on the eastern boundary of the, in the south eastern quadrant of the erf.

### **2.4.2. GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Most of the area is underlain by granite and gneiss of the Nelspruit suite. Soils are of the Glenrosa, Hutton and Clovelly forms weathering to a shallow, leached, red to yellow-brown sand to sandy loam. Land types includes Ae, Ab, Ba and Fb (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). The site shows no outcrop of granite and the bedrock granite is covered with transported and residual soils.

The site investigation according to the geotechnical report compiled by the GEO3 (September, 2000), showed that the following subsoils were present on site, which includes hillwash, alluvium, pebble marker, reworked residual granite. The hillwash is present throughout the site consisting of a surficial horizon with a thickness of 0.3m-2.10m. It is slightly moist, brown becoming reddish brown with depth, very loose-dense, open textured, slightly clayey, silty sand with scattered gravels and ferruginous cemented with depth on the east bank adjacent to the river. Alluvium is present beneath the hillwash on the banks of the stream and in the drainage line that crosses the site, in the stream it consists of alternating silty sand and sandy clay horizons and adjacent to the stream it consists of weakly ferruginous cemented silty sands. Pebble marker is present in most part of the site but not well developed. The reworked residual granite is present beneath the transported soils, it consists of about 1.8m of slightly moist, reddish brown, medium dense-dense, open textured, silty sand with numerous medium and fine gravels, and the drainage line consists of a firm to stiff, open textured clayey sand. With depth the reworked horizon grades into residual granite, which generally comprises greater than 0.5m of slightly moist, yellow-brown speckled white and black, dense becoming very dense with depth, intact, silty sand with numerous fine gravels.



### 2.4.3. CLIMATE

The climate of the area is characterized as a summer rainfall with dry winters. The average annual rainfall varies between 550-800mm and frost is scarce in the area. The mean monthly maximum temperature for Hazyview area is 37.3°C in October and the mean minimum is 5.2°C in July (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006).

### 2.4.4. FLORA

The proposed area is situated in Pretoriuskop sour Bushveld (SV 10) which is least threatened, see Fig 4. The vegetation structure of the area is open tree Savanna dominated by *Terminalia sercea* and *Dichrostachys cinerea* with relatively few low shrubs, grassy layer dense and dominated by sour grasses such as *Hyperthelia dissoluta*, *Elionurus muticus* and *Hyparrhenia hirta*, mainly in the uplands. On the midslopes, grass composition changes and in the narrow bottomlands species dominate such as *Acacia nilotica*, *A. gerrardii* and *A. tortilis*, *Digitaria eriantha*, *Eragrostis superb* and *Aristida congesta* (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

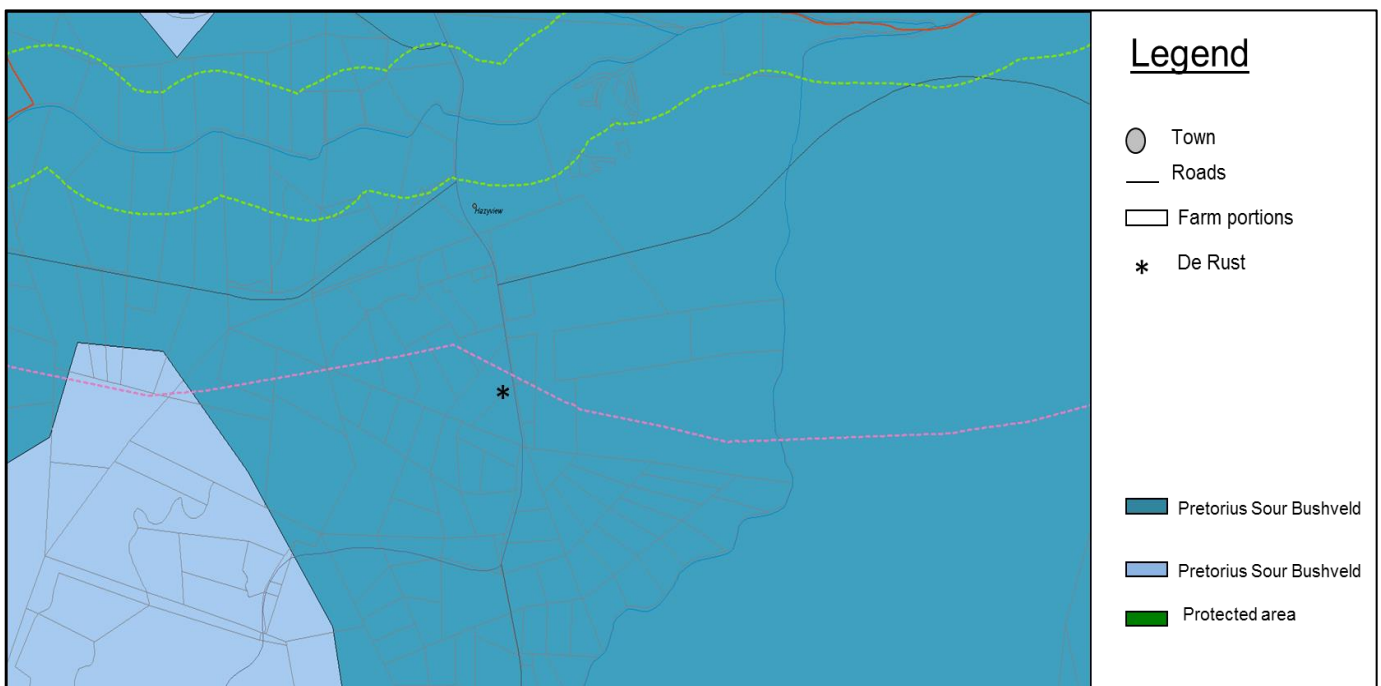


Figure 4: The ecological sensitivity of the proposed development area on the Farm De Rust 12 JU (MBCP, 2010).

According to MBCP (2010), is the ecological sensitivity classified as “Least concern” and/or “No natural habitat remains” on the proposed site, See Fig 5. Currently there are still activities such as mango and Mangos orchards and cattle roaming on the farm.

According to the Terrestrial Ecological Report (See Appendix D-2), the study area is mainly uplands with open tree Savanna dominated by *Terminalia sericea* and *Dichrostachys cinerea* with relative few low shrubs, a dense grassy layer, dominated by grasses such as *Hyperthelia dissolute*, *Elionurus muticus* and *Hyparrhenia hirta*. grass composition changes somewhat on the midslopes, and in the narrow bottomlands dominant species include *Acacia nilotica*, *A. gerrardii* and *A. tortilis*, *Digitaria eriantha*, *Eragrostis superba* and *Aristida congesta*. Important taxa in the unit include:

Tall trees such as *Sclerocarya birrea* subsp. *Caffra* and *Pterocarpus angolensis* (protected by National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No 84 of 1998)).



Figure 5: The sensitivity rating of the proposed development area on the Farm De Rust 12 JU (MBCP, 2010).

Small trees: *Combretum apiculatum*, *C. zeyheri*, *Peltophorum africanum*, *Piliostigma venosum*, *C. collinum* subsp. *Gazense*, *C. molle*, *Ficus petersii*, *Parinari curatellifolia*, and *Ximenia cafra*.

Tall shrubs: *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Gymnosperia senegalensis*, *Strychnos madagascariensis*, *Grewia bicolor*, *G. monticola*, *Strychnos spinosa*, *Turraea nilotica*.

Low shrubs: *Agathisanthemum bojeri*, *Aptosimum lineare*, *Barleria obtuse*, *Gymnosporia glaucophylla*, *Melhania rehmannii*, *Sida chrysantha*.

Succulent shrubs: *Aloe petricola* (Protected by Mpumalanga Conservation Act (Act 10 of 1998))

Woody climber: *Bauhinia galpinii*.

Herbs: *Chamaecrista mimosoides*, *Tricliceras glanduliferum*.

Graminoids: *Aristida congesta*, *Digitaria eriantha* subsp. *Eriantha*, *Elionurus muticus*, *Eragrostis rigidior*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *hyperthelia dissolute*, *panicum coloratum*, *Pogonarthria squarrosa*, *Bothriochloa radicans*, *Diheteropogon amplexans*, *Eragrostis atrovirens*, *E. lappula*, *Hyparrhenia filipendula*, *Melinis repens*, *Perotis patens*, *Setaria sphacelata*, *Urochloa mosambicensis*.

The several important exotic/ invader species found on site includes *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Psidium guajava* and *Lantana camara*.



#### 2.4.5. FAUNA

The transformed nature and the proximity of the agricultural and rural residential area make the occurrence of larger mammals highly unlikely. Terrestrial fauna in this area is small non-habitat specific species in the form of small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The proposed development will not affect small mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians as construction of De Rust Township will be concentrated on the already disturbed area, the old agricultural fields and existing houses. No signs of small mammals on the proposed development area were found during the 2 surveys conducted by Mr SD Dlamini on March 2014.

**It is not anticipated that animals present on site will be adversely affected by the development if the drainage line is a private open space and mitigation measures are implemented.**

#### 2.4.6. LAND USE

The proposed development is planned on a farm with mangoes, orchards and goats and is to be rezoned as a township development for the primary use of the residents of Hazyview town and nearby communities.

#### 2.4.7. SURFACE WATER, SANITATION & ELECTRICITY USE

A drainage line cross through the proposed development site and the sensitivity of the drainage line has to be taken into consideration. No surface water was noted during the rainy season (February 2014) or in the winter. The drainage line is already disturbed with an existing crossing that blocks the water flow.

#### 2.4.8. AIR QUALITY

The proposed development is situated inside the urban edge of Hazyview, directly to the west of the R40 and there are no signs of air pollution, therefore the air quality is considered as good. **The proposed development will have a negative impact during construction caused by construction vehicles but the impact is insignificant.**

#### 2.4.9. NOISE

Noise levels of the area may be produced by industrial activities due to the fact that it is located 1.2km south of Hazyview CBD on the R40, agricultural activities since some of the surrounding areas will not be occupied by the development and the existing R40 road which will be an addition to noise pollution. **The proposed development will not have a negative acoustic impact in the area and vice versa.**

#### 2.4.10. VISUAL

The proposed activity will be 2 storeys and an insignificant negative impact is foreseen because of the neighbouring commercial properties, the distance of approximately 1.2km from Hazyview CBD and existing Provincial road (R40), next to the proposed development.

### 2.4.11. SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES

The site occupies a broad valley with a tributary of the Sabie River traversing the middle of the site in a South-north direction. The proposed development area is outside an area that is classified as “ecological sensitive”, see Fig 6.

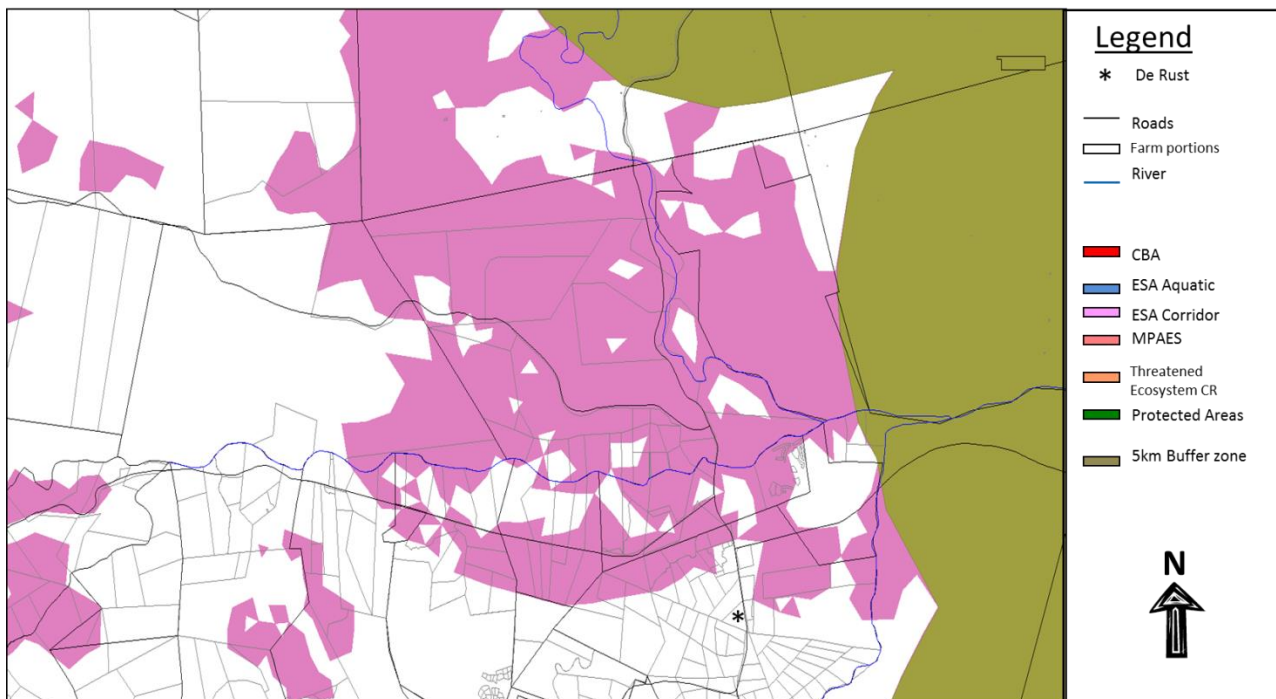


Figure 6: The ecological sensitivity of the proposed development area on the Farm De Rust 12 JU (MBCP, 2010).

### 2.4.12. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SITES

There are no sites of archaeological interest or graves on the proposed site, although features with historic value were noted, i.e. original farmhouse and one outer building dated from 1948. The heritage specialist finds no reasons, apart from these features, which may prevent the proposed development to continue on the remaining sections of the farm.

### 2.4.13. SOCIO ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The community will benefit from the proposed development such that more houses will be available for them, as well as a hospital. Additional jobs will be created during construction and operational phase.

### 2.4.14. ROADS: ACCESS

A new access road has to be considered that will be suitable for vehicles and busses.

### 2.4.15. BULK SERVICES

Electricity, water supply and sanitation will be provided by Mbombela LM.

## **2.5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The proposed site on the remainder of Portion 127 and Portion 131 of the Farm De Rust 12-JU in Hazyview Town has the most features that support the project. Different layout plans will be investigated. The recent layout plan was the most appropriate plan with the least environmental impact. No other alternatives such as alternative processes or activities were considered.



### 3. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT OF BA STUDY

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#### 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The BA has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2010 and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

Activities identified in terms of the 2010 Regulation, R543 may not commence without environmental authorization from the competent authority, MDEDET and in respect of which the investigation, assessment and communication of activities must follow the EIA procedure as described in section 22. An application has been lodged at the MDEDET according to section 21 of R543 of the EIA regulations, 2010. The following activities are registered under GN 543 (LN1), 2010:

- **Activity 23(ii)** for the transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, retail, commercial, recreation, industrial or institutional use, inside urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares.

The Basic Assessment process will be undertaken in two stages namely Draft and final BA phase:

#### **DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT PHASE:**

After the project has been registered at the DEDET, a public participation process (PPP) started according to section 54 of Reg 543. Public were invited in June, 2013 to register as interested and affected parties (I&AP) and to comment on the Draft BA Report that will be available for comments during June, 2014 at the office of **Wandima ES**, the **office of the project managers** and on **Wandima ES website**. The report includes the description of the proposed project, an assessment of the environmental impacts and a draft EMPr.

#### **FINAL BA PHASE:**

The FINAL BA Process consists of the following phases:

- The impact assessment phase during which the environmental impacts of issues identified by I&AP's are re-evaluated to determine their potential impacts and the mitigations thereof;
- The Reporting phase, during which the findings and recommendations are integrated into a Final BA Report;
- A twenty one (21) day comment period for government Departments, and
- The decision making phase during which the authorities decide whether the project should go ahead and what conditions would apply if it is approved.

### 3.2 OTHER LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Other legislation, plans and policies that are related to this proposed project will be used in the compilation of the reports and is listed in table 2.

**Table 2: Other legislations related to the proposed agricultural project.**

LEGISLATION	IMPLICATIONS
Nature Conservation ordinance, 1974 (Act no 19 of 1974)	The protection of fauna and flora.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act no 43 of 1983)	Legislation – control of invasive alien plants.
Division of land ordinance, 1986 (Ordinance 20 of 1986)	Management of municipal areas.
Environmental Conservation Act, (Act no 73 of 1986)	Conservation of natural areas
Physical Planning Act, 1991 (Act no 125 of 1991)	Planning of municipal areas in an orderly manner.
Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act no 85 of 1993)	The protection of the health and safety of workers in the construction and operational phase of the development.
Development and Facility Act, 1995 – DFA (Act no 67 of 1995)	Planning of municipal areas in an orderly manner.
The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No 108 of 1996)	Section 24 of the Constitution provides for the environment that is not harmful for the health and people's wellbeing. The proposed development should be done following environmental impact assessment procedures to ensure a sustainable environment for all.
National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, 1997 (Act no 103 of 1997)	Control building standards to prevent houses that are a danger for the residents.
National Environmental Management Act 1998 - NEMA (Act No 107 of 1998)	The development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act no 117 of 1998)	Regulation of building standars.
Mpumalanga Conservation Act, 1998 (Act 10 of 1998)	Provides for the management and conservation of Mpumalanga's biodiversity.
National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No 84 of 1998)	Protection of endangered trees according to the list mentioned in the act.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998)	Legislation which gives a mandate to DWF to maintain good water quality.
National Heritage and Resources Act, 1999 (Act no 25 of 1999)	The protection of heritage areas.
Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No2 of 2000)	Legislation that allows the public access to information about activities that influence their well-being and to make contributions to decision making
National Health Act, 2003 (Act No 61 of 2003)	The development must be developed and operate according this regulations.
National Environmental Management : Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act no 10 of 2004)	The protection of the national biodiversity.
NEMA (Act 107 of 1998 and GN R385 (Regulations of NEMA, Chapter 5) and GN 386 & 387 (Listed Activities), 2006	Give the Department of Environment a change to evaluate possible impacts and the management there off.
Spatial Development Framework (SDF), 2006	Sound future municipal planning. The development has to be part of the future planning of MLM.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND IMPACTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed De Rust 12 JU township establishment on portion 127 of the farm De Rust 12 JU will have positive and negative environmental impacts. The positive impacts on the environment were identified and will be used to enhance the environment. The negative impacts were identified and mitigation measures will be proposed to minimize the adverse impacts on the receiving environment. These mitigation measures will be tabled in an Environmental Management Program (EMPr).

### 4.2 KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Key issues identified within the proposed project were:

- Environment
- Social issues
- Bulk services – Roads, sewerage management, water and electrical supply.

### 4.3 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 4.3.1 ENVIRONMENT

##### 4.3.1.1 Topography

- **Anticipated impacts:**

The proposed development area will be on previously cultivated agricultural fields with a gentle slope. Areas to be avoided are the rocky areas, valleys and riverine ecosystem due to the steep slopes in the riverine area and the presence of sensitive habitat. Erosion possibility is high during the construction phase if areas to be constructed are cleared and left bare for more than 7 days. Soil erosion could also cause accumulated sediments to the watercourses impacting on water quality of the Sabie River system.

- **Recommendations:**

Sensitive areas such as the valleys and the riverine areas should be protected and no activities or development are allowed within 32m of these areas. Only the planned building/constructed areas may be cleared from vegetation. Sandbags/gabions or retention dams have to be used to prevent silted storm water that could enter the Sabie River system during the rainy season. Areas that were cleared have to be constructed on within 7 days and/or have to be re-vegetated within 7 days to prevent erosion of bare areas.

##### 4.3.1.2 Geology & Soils

- **Anticipated impacts:**

Bare areas could cause possible erosion that will have a negative impact on the Sabie River System. No other impacts on the geology or soils are anticipated.

- **Recommendations**

See recommendations of 4.3.1.1.



#### 4.3.1.3 Flora

- **Anticipated impacts:**

The vegetation of the area to be developed has been disturbed previously by agricultural activities and it was burnt before. The area recovers with pioneer and some invader plants species and therefore this area is not considered as pristine indigenous vegetation according to the investigation on 15 April 2013. The predicted impacts on the proposed development area are considered as a **low impact**. Although no development will take place within 32m of the Sabie River, it is important to take note of the protected plants in the riverine area.

**Alien invader vegetation** is scattered on the proposed site and the regular burning of the veld has a negative impact on the establishment of indigenous vegetation. Alien invader species establish in natural vegetation, especially in disturbed areas, to the point of replacing it and destroying biodiversity and ecological functioning. If left unattended, the impact on the natural vegetation could be high.

**Protected vegetation:** The occurrence of Red Data- and medicinal species are possible in the area, but highly unlikely.

- **Recommendations:**

It is foreseen that the proposed development and associated activities will not have a negative impact on the flora. The layout plan of the development will be amended if necessary to have a minimum impact on the vegetation.

**Alien invader species:** Landowners are legally responsible, according to the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act no 43 of 1983)-CARA, for the control of invasive alien plants on their properties. Although the development will ensure that invader species be removed on a regular basis, it will be necessary to plan gardens with indigenous vegetation.

**Protected vegetation:** Protected indigenous plants are controlled under the Mpumalanga Conservation Act (Act 10 of 1998) and the National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No 84 of 1998). Permits for the removal and transportation of each of the species of concern must be obtained from the relevant authorities if species of concern are removed. In terms of the amended National Forest Act (No 84 of 1998) the removal, relocation or pruning of any protected plants will require a permit. **The protected plant species include the *Schlerocarpus caffra* and *Pterocarpus angolensis* but medical plants were found during the investigation on March 2014.** It is recommended that prior to clearance of the vegetation, any species of concern, such as medicinal plants or protected trees, must be identified, removed (with minimum damage) and transplanted under supervision of the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). If necessary the ECO must be assisted by an experienced person. The protected plants can be removed with the necessary permits from MPTA and/or DAFF and re-vegetated in gardens or in the private open areas.

#### 4.3.1.4 Fauna

- **Anticipated impacts:**

The transformed nature and the proximity of the agricultural and rural residential area make the occurrence of larger mammals highly unlikely. Terrestrial fauna in this area is small non-habitat specific species in the form of small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The proposed development will not affect small mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians as construction of De Rust Township will be concentrated on the already disturbed area, the old agricultural fields and existing houses. No signs of small mammals on the proposed development area were found during the 2 surveys conducted by Mr SD Dlamini on March 2014.

#### 4.3.1.5 Surface and Ground Water Quality

- **Anticipated Impact:**

The proposed development can have a **negative impact on the surface water** if silted storm water run into the Sabie River. There will be **no negative impact on the ground water quality**.

- **Recommendations:**

Sandbags/gabions and retention dams have to be used to prevent silted storm water that could enter the Sabie River system during rainy season. Areas that were cleared have to be constructed within 7 days and/or have to be re-vegetated within 7 days to prevent erosion of bare areas.

#### 4.3.1.6 Air Quality

- **Anticipated impacts:**

*Dust* could be generated from the activity during the construction phase, but will have **no significant negative impact** on the environment.

- **Recommendations**

*Dust* could be controlled by spraying gravel roads and construction area with water on a regular basis.

#### 4.3.1.7 Noise Pollution

- **Anticipated impacts:**

Noise may be generated during the construction phase by construction vehicles. During the operational phase ambulances can be a nuisance after 22:00. Although the proposed development is surrounded by commercial properties, it is normally quite after hours and neighbours may have problems with noise of ambulances. No noise impact which could affect human or animals in their natural habitat is anticipated during the day or during other activities on the site.

- **Recommendations**

*Construction phase:* Construction has to be during working hours – 8:00 till 17:00. If it is necessary that construction has to be done after working hours, neighbours have to be notified and permission has to be given by the neighbours.

*Operational phase:* Ambulances has to be notified that no sirens may be used after hours.

#### 4.3.1.8 Visual Impact

- **Anticipated impacts**

No significant visual impact is foreseen. The area where the proposed activities will take place is largely rural residential area and is surrounded by commercial properties and the visual impact will be insignificant.

- **Recommendations**

Buildings can be painted earth colours to blend in with the environment. Fast growing trees can be planted to mitigate any possible negative visual impact on the border of the property.

#### 4.3.2 SOCIAL ISSUES

- **Anticipated impacts:**

The proposed development will have a positive social impact in Hazyview and the Mbombela Local Municipality. It will create work opportunities in an area with and a high percentage of people that are unemployed and with many poor people. It will give the people of Hazyview the opportunity to use a private hospital with the newest technologies.

#### 4.3.3 BULK SERVICES

##### 4.3.3.1 Roads – Access

- **Anticipated impacts:**

The existing access road is from the R40. The layout will be amended to have access road across the access of the filling station.

- **Recommendations:**

Mbombela LM and the Provincial Department of Roads and Transport has to approve the proposed access road.

##### 4.3.3.2 Sewerage management, water and electricity supply.

- **Anticipated impacts:**

Mbombela LM will provide the proposed development with services. No environmental impact is foreseen.

A summary of the key issues that were identified in the Draft Basic assessment phase is summarised in Table 3. It includes the potential impacts and if specialist investigations were needed.

**Table 3: Issues identified, their potential impacts and recommendations for specialist studies**

ISSUE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>Topography</b>	Area designated for the buildings is planned on the existing agricultural fields and the farmhouse. These areas are not prone to erosion.	Construct during dry season and use sandbags/gabions and retention dams to prevent erosion. Storm management plan has to be included in the planning phase. No additional studies required.
<b>Geology and soils</b>	Potential impacts associated with erosion risk are not anticipated to be significant.	The removal of vegetation has to be planned properly to prevent soil erosion during storm events. Same recommendations as in previous point. No additional studies required.
<b>Flora (Vegetation)</b>	Due to the fact that the vegetation of the fields have already been disturbed, the impact will not be significant.	A Biodiversity assessment was conducted. No additional studies required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invader specie</li> </ul>	Impact on biodiversity of indigenous vegetation. Invader species could increase in areas that are disturbed. Landowners are legally responsible for the control of invasive alien plants on their properties.	A management program to control invader plant spp will be part of the planning and management of the site. No additional studies required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected plant spp</li> </ul>	Two (2) protected tree spp were found in the riverine area. No medical plants were found during the initial investigation March 2014	An ecological assessment was compiled by SD Dlamini. It would be necessary to apply for permits if it is necessary to remove protected tree spp. No additional studies required.
<b>Fauna</b>	The impacts on large and small terrestrial fauna, including mammals, reptiles and amphibians is	No additional studies required.



ISSUE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	RECOMMENDATIONS
	considered to be of <b>low significance</b> .	
<b>Surface &amp; Ground Water quality</b>	No impact on ground water is foreseen. Surface water can be impacted negatively if there is erosion during storm events. Soil erosion risk is not anticipated to be significant.	See conditions under "Topography" to prevent soil erosion. No additional studies required.
<b>Air quality</b>	Dust can be created during the construction phase. No significant impact is anticipated.	No additional studies required
<b>Noise pollution</b>	Noise can be created during the construction period. Ambulance sirens can be a nuisance after 22:00 – Bylaw of MLM to prevent noise pollution.	No sirens must be allowed after 22:00.
<b>Visual</b>	The development will be double story. No significant impact is anticipated.	Indigenous trees can be planted to mitigate any possible negative impact. No additional studies required
<b>Socio-economic</b>	The project will have a positive impact, it will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create work opportunities,</li> <li>• have a positive economic impact on Hazyview and nearby townships.</li> </ul>	No additional studies required
<b>Bulk services</b>		
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access road has to be approved by MLM and Provincial Department of Roads and Transport.</li> </ul>	MLM have to comment on the position of the planned future road.
Sewerage management, water and electricity supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLM has to supply all the services.</li> <li>• Renewable energy has to be implemented</li> </ul>	The development will use solar energy and in case of emergency electricity from MLM will be used.

#### 4.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

##### 4.4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS

The following was done to determine possible impacts:

- determine the current environmental conditions (i.e. baseline) against which to assess impacts;
- determine the future changes in the receiving environment baseline if the project does not proceed;
- an understanding of the proposed activity in sufficient detail; and
- all findings from the Basic Assessment process was taken into account.
- Comments from I&AP was incorporated in the mitigation of impacts.

The classification of an issue as a '**key issue**' during the Basic assessment phase does not necessarily imply that an impact of high significance will result. The significance of the impact can only be ascertained once a specialist assessment has been conducted. After such an assessment, it is possible that a **key issue** may turn out to have an impact of **low** or **no** significance.

##### 4.4.2 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The methodology for assessing impacts and assigning significance to the key issues is according to "Guideline 5: Assessment of alternatives and Impacts in support of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006" published by DEAT in June 2006. The description and prediction of the impacts include the following components:

- **Nature of impact**

<b>Describes the type of effect that a proposed activity would have on the environment ("what would be affected and how?")</b>
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indicates whether the impact is direct, indirect or cumulative;
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indicates whether the impact occurs during the construction, operations Or decommissioning phases of the project.

- **Magnitude / Intensity of the impact**

<b>Low</b>	where no environmental functions and processes are affected
<b>Medium</b>	where the environment continues to function but in a modified manner
<b>High</b>	where environmental functions and processes are altered such that they temporarily or permanently cease

- **Extent / location**

<b>whether the impact would be site specific and limited to the immediate area of the development site</b>	
<b>local</b>	limited to within approximately 5km of the site
<b>regional</b>	Limited to the region
<b>National/ international</b>	National impact

- **Duration**

<b>the lifetime of the impact, whether the impact is permanent or reversible</b>	
<b>short-term</b>	(0 – 5 years),
<b>medium-term</b>	(5 - 15 years),
<b>long-term</b>	(>15 years but where the impacts would cease after the operation of the site); and/or whether the impact is intermittent or continuous.

- **Probability**

<b>considers the likelihood of the impact occurring</b>	
<b>improbable</b>	low likelihood
<b>probable</b>	distinct possibility
<b>highly probable</b>	most likely
<b>definite</b>	impact would occur regardless of prevention measures

- **Significance**

<b>Based on a synthesis of the above predictions, the significance of the impact shall be evaluated as follows:</b>	
<b>Low</b>	Where the impact would not have an influence on the decision or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design.
<b>Medium</b>	Where it could have an influence on the environment which would require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation.
<b>High</b>	Where it could have a 'no-go' implication for the project unless effective measures are taken to avoid or mitigate the impact.

The degree of confidence with respect to the assessment of significance in the prediction of the impacts is based on the availability of information. The significance of impacts was evaluated **before** mitigation was suggested (“as predicted” impacts). Most impacts are mitigated or will have a low impact after mitigation. The predicted impacts before mitigation were analysed and summarised in Table 4. Also summarised is if the impacts will be positive or negative impacts.

#### 4.5 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND MONITORING

The following was done to suggest management and monitoring actions of possible impacts:

- Where negative impacts are identified, mitigation objectives and mitigation actions (i.e. ways of avoiding or reducing negative impacts) is set. Where no mitigation is feasible, this will be stated and the reasons given.
- Where positive impacts are identified, actions to enhance the benefit will be recommended.
- Quantifiable standards for measuring the effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement will be set. In addition, monitoring and review programmes will be recommended in order to assess the effectiveness of mitigation.

The suggested management actions to mitigate possible negative impacts are summarised in Table 5.

**Table 4: Assessment of predicted impacts before mitigation measurements are applied in the operational phase**

ISSUE	NATURE OF IMPACT	DIRECT / INDIRECT / CUMULATIVE	MAGNITUDE / INTENSITY	EXTENT / LOCATION	DURATION	PROBABILITY	SIGNIFICANCE	STATUS
<b>Topography</b>	Gentle slopes - Erosion	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
<b>Geology and soils</b>	Erosion	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
<b>Flora (Vegetation)</b>	Pristine vegetation	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
• Invader species	Biodiversity of indigenous plant species will be reduced.	Indirect	Medium	Local	Long-term	Highly probable	High	Negative
• Protected plant spp	Protected trees and Medical Plants	Direct	Medium	Local	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
<b>Fauna</b>	Biodiversity of indigenous animal species.	Indirect	Low	Local	Long-term	Improbable	Low	Negative
<b>Surface &amp; Ground water quality</b>	Silted storm water can have a negative impact on the White River.	Direct	Medium	Regional	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
	No impact on ground water is foreseen.	Direct	Low	Local	Short-term	Improbable	Low	Negative
<b>Air quality</b>	Dust during construction phase.	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Probable	Low	Negative
<b>Noise pollution</b>	Noise created by construction vehicles.	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Improbable	Low	Negative
	Noise created by ambulances.	Direct	High	Local	Long-term	Definite	High	Negative
<b>Visual</b>	No significance impact	Indirect	Low	Local	Long-term	Improbable	Low	Negative
<b>Socio-economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job creation,</li> <li>• Boost of local economy</li> </ul>	Direct	High	Regional	Long-term	Definite	High	Positive
<b>Bulk services</b>								
<b>Sewerage management, Water &amp;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services will be provided by MLM.</li> </ul>	Direct	Low	Local	Long-term	Improbable	Low	Negative
<b>Electricity supply</b>	Electricity is a country wide problem. Renewable energy has to be implemented	Direct	Medium	Local	Long-term	Highly Probable	High	Negative

**Table 5: Suggested management actions to mitigate possible negative impacts.**

ISSUE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	MONITORING OF IMPACTS
<b>Topography</b>	Area designated for the buildings is planned on the existing agricultural fields and the farmhouse. These areas are not prone to erosion.	Construct during dry season and use sandbags/gabions and retention dams to prevent erosion. Storm management plan has to be included in the planning phase.	Monitor the effectiveness of sandbags daily during construction phase and rainy season. Monitor gabions and retention dams monthly in rainy season during operation phase.
<b>Geology and soils</b>	Potential impacts associated with erosion risk are not anticipated to be significant.	The removal of vegetation has to be planned properly to prevent soil erosion during storm events. Same recommendations as in previous point.	Monitor the effectiveness of sandbags daily during construction phase and rainy season. Monitor gabions and retention dams monthly in rainy season during operation phase.
<b>Flora (Vegetation)</b>	Due to the fact that the vegetation of the fields have already been disturbed, the impact will not be significant.	No management actions.	Monitor private open space yearly to ensure biodiversity of vegetation.
• Invader species	Impact on biodiversity of indigenous vegetation. Invader species could increase in areas that are disturbed. Landowners are legally responsible for the control of invasive alien plants on their properties.	A management program to control invader plant spp will be part of the planning and management of the site.	Monthly monitoring for alien plant species.
• Protected plant spp	Two (2) protected tree spp were found in the riverine area. No medicinal plants were found during the initial investigation on <b>March 2014</b> .	Apply for permits if it is necessary to remove protected tree spp. Plant additional protected trees in gardens and open area. It is recommended that prior to clearance of the vegetation any species of concern, such as medicinal plants and protected trees, must be identified, removed (with minimum damage) and transplanted by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). If necessary the ECO must be assisted by an experienced person	Approval from the ECO before an area can be cleared. Management of gardens by Sec 21 Home Owners association. Monthly monitoring of protected plants during the operational phase.
<b>Fauna</b>	The impacts on large and small terrestrial fauna, including mammals, reptiles and amphibians is considered to be <b>of low significance</b> .	Improvement of vegetation diversity by planting of indigenous vegetation in the private open space and gardens.	Management of gardens by Sec 21 Home Owners association. Monthly monitoring of protected plants during the operational phase.
<b>Surface &amp; Ground water quality</b>	No impact on ground water is foreseen. Surface water can be impacted negatively if there is erosion during storm events. Soil erosion risk is not anticipated to be significant.	See conditions under "Topography" to prevent soil erosion.	No monitoring needed.
<b>Air quality</b>	Dust can be created during the construction phase. No significant impact is anticipated.	No management actions	No monitoring needed.
<b>Noise pollution</b>	Noise can be created during the construction period. Ambulance sirens can be a nuisance after 22:00.	Bylaw of MLM to prevent noise pollution. No sirens must be allowed after 22:00.	No monitoring needed
<b>Visual</b>	The development will be double story. No significant impact is anticipated.	Indigenous trees can be planted to mitigate any possible negative impact.	No monitoring needed

ISSUE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	MONITORING OF IMPACTS
<b>Socio-economic</b>	The project will have a positive impact, it will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create work opportunities,</li> <li>• have a positive economic impact on Hazyview and nearby townships.</li> </ul>	No management actions	No monitoring needed.
<b>Bulk services</b>			
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access road has to be approved by MLM and Provincial Department of Roads and Transport.</li> </ul>	MLM have to comment on the position of the planned future road.	
Sewerage management, water and electricity supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLM has to supply all the services.</li> </ul>	No management actions	No monitoring needed.
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access road has to be approved by MLM and Provincial Department of Roads and Transport.</li> </ul>	MLM have to comment on the position of the planned future access road.	No monitoring needed.
Sewerage management, water and electricity supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLM has to supply all the services.</li> <li>• Renewable energy has to be implemented</li> </ul>	The development will use solar energy and in case of emergency electricity from MLM will be used.	No monitoring needed.



## 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### 5.1 BACKGROUND

The public participation process was undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulation R543, 2010 section 54 (1-8). The involvement of I&AP encourages them to comment during the Draft BA phase of the project. This process also identifies issues in order to enhance the social and environmental benefits, whilst minimizing social and ecological costs to the project.

Public participation gives I&AP the opportunity to raise their concerns regarding the proposed development. In terms of EIA Regulations, R543, 2010, section 55, a register of all I&AP has to be kept. According to Section 56(1) a registered I&AP is entitled to comment in writing on all written submissions including draft reports that was made available to the competent authority by the applicant. I&AP were informed and involved from the initiation to promote participation and transparency.

### 5.2 METHODOLOGY

#### 5.2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP'S)

The key I&AP's identified at the beginning of the process include the direct neighbours (100m from the proposed development), the Local Municipality, National and Provincial Government Departments. Direct neighbours were given notice and registered as I&AP. The National, Provincial and Local Government Departments were identified by the EAP for formal comments. See Table 6 and 7 for the lists of I&AP identified.

**Table 6: Persons register as I&AP.**

Neighbouring Farm	Contact Person	Contact details
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 6)	W Coetzee	T: 013 737 6371 C: 082 627 3774 E: <a href="mailto:smhazyview@cashbuild.co.za">smhazyview@cashbuild.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 12)	Percy Brotherton Family Trust	T: C: 083 252 3045 E: <a href="mailto:jack@seasonsinafrica.com">jack@seasonsinafrica.com</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 37)	Johannes Labuschagne	T: 013 737 7817 C: 082 824 4564 E: <a href="mailto:lappies@lapsan.co.za">lappies@lapsan.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 38)	Christopher Harvie	T: 013 737 7700 C: 082 549 9265 E: <a href="mailto:info@rissington.co.za">info@rissington.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 39)	OTJ Family Trust Mrs Ngwenyama	T: 013 737 6476 C: 083 354 1972
	Lindi Theledi	T: 013 737 6250 E: <a href="mailto:kunotour@telkomsa.net">kunotour@telkomsa.net</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 42)	Mr Winston Scorgie	T: 013 737 9500 C: 082 576 1714 E: <a href="mailto:Winston@savebuild.co.za">Winston@savebuild.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 84)	ABSA Property	T:

Neighbouring Farm	Contact Person	Contact details
	Sam Nkosi	C: E: <a href="mailto:sam.nkosi@absa.co.za">sam.nkosi@absa.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 85)	ABSA Property Sam Nkosi	T: C: E:
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 96)	Numbi Laerskool	T: C: E:
	Motorland Franko van Eeden & Johan Swart	T: 013 737 8888 C: E: <a href="mailto:motorland@webstorm.co.za">motorland@webstorm.co.za</a>
	Department of Justice Welma Ackerman	T: 013 751 1147 C: E: <a href="mailto:wackerman@justice.gov.za">wackerman@justice.gov.za</a>
	Department of Justice Herbert Malapane	T: 013 753 9300 C: 083 656 7841 E: <a href="mailto:mhmalapane@justic.co.za">mhmalapane@justic.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 119)	NTT Toyota Hazyview, Financial manager: Lidia Jordt	T: 013 737 6055 C: 082 414 8845 E: <a href="mailto:ljordt@nttgroup.co.za">ljordt@nttgroup.co.za</a>
	NTT Toyota White River & Hazyview: Dealer Principal: Johan Venter	T: 013 737 6055 C: 082 414 8845 E: <a href="mailto:ljordt@nttgroup.co.za">ljordt@nttgroup.co.za</a>
De Rust 12 JU (ptn 120)	Scopefull 186 Pty (Ltd) Willem Fick	T: 013 737 7301 C: 083 675 3533 E: <a href="mailto:willem@hotelnumbi.co.za">willem@hotelnumbi.co.za</a>
BUCO Iliad Group Hazyview	Manager BUCO Hazyview: Chris Louw	T: 013 737 7142 C: 083 3090 193 E: <a href="mailto:chirslouw@buco.co.za">chirslouw@buco.co.za</a>
Landlord - Bucu	WH& Sons Properties (Pty) Ltd Janti van Zyl	T: 013 755 1369 C: E: <a href="mailto:janti@civicon.co.za">janti@civicon.co.za</a>

**Table 7: Register of Government Departments**

Department	Person	Contact details
Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (EIA Section)	Robyn Luyt	C: E: <a href="mailto:rluyt@mpg.gov.za">rluyt@mpg.gov.za</a>
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (DAFF)	Love Shabane	T: 013 754 0734 C: 082 4284480 E: <a href="mailto:loves@nda.agric.za">loves@nda.agric.za</a>
Department of Water Affairs (DWA)	Sampie Shabangu	T: 013 759 7419 C: E: <a href="mailto:shabagus2@dwaf.gov.za">shabagus2@dwaf.gov.za</a>
Department of Health and Social Services	Thapelo Nhlapo	T: 013 755 5100 C: E: <a href="mailto:thapelon@social.mpu.gov.za">thapelon@social.mpu.gov.za</a>
Department of Roads & Transport (R40)	John Mojapelo	T: 013 759 2356 C: E: <a href="mailto:jmojapelo@nel.mpu.gov.za">jmojapelo@nel.mpu.gov.za</a>
Mbombela Local Municipality	Sihle Mthembu	T: 013 759 2356 C: 076 991 1195 E: <a href="mailto:sihle.mthembu@mbombela.gov.za">sihle.mthembu@mbombela.gov.za</a>
Ehlanzeni District municipality (EDM)	Louw Winterbach	T: 013 759 8500 C: E: <a href="mailto:lwinterbach@ledc.gov.za">lwinterbach@ledc.gov.za</a>

Department	Person	Contact details
Department of Health	Mokoemo J.S	T: F: Cell: 0828424976 E-mail:
Department of Health	Malope T	T: F: Cell: 0733965280 E-mail:
Department of Health	Mbuli H	T: F: Cell:0720801821 E-mail:
Department of Health	Mbuli E.N	T: F: Cell: 0824535589 Email:
Department of Health	Mdluli L.P	T: F: Cell: 0795626373 E-mail:
Department of Health	Saliwa S	T: F: Cell:0832657405 E-mail:
Ehlanzeni District Municipality	Khosa E	T: F: Cell: 0828505189 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ekhosa@ehlanzeni.gov.za">ekhosa@ehlanzeni.gov.za</a>
Department of social development	Mokoena. S	T:F: Cell: E-mail: <a href="mailto:selbym@social.mpu.gov.za">selbym@social.mpu.gov.za</a>

### 5.2.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

The main objective of the BID is to inform and introduce the proposed project to any I&AP. Flyers were handed out to neighbours 100m from the proposed development and the BID was handed out to neighbours that need more information. See Appendix B for a copy of the BID and the flyer.

### 5.2.3 ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisements were placed in the Lowvelder on **Friday, 14 June 2013** to announce the proposed development and to provide the public the opportunity to register as I&AP. See Appendix B for the advertisements in the local newspapers (The Lowvelder).

### 5.2.4 SITE NOTICES

A laminated site notice (60X42cm) was displayed from **21 June 2013** at the access road of the property. See Appendix B for the copy of the notice board and a copy of the flyers handed out.

### **5.2.5 PUBLIC MEETING**

Registered I&AP's were invited to a public meeting on **17 July 2013** at the Municipal Office in Hazyview. The minutes of the meeting is attached in Appendix B.

### **5.2.6 ISSUES AND RESPONSES**

The purpose of this section is to reflect the environmental issues associated with the proposed project and to identify those which are considered key issues requiring more detailed assessment. This part will be completed after the PPP for the Final Draft BAR.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The proposed development will be situated on the remainder of Portion 127 and 131 of the farm De Rust 12 JU, Hazyview. It will involve the transformation of approximately 19ha of undeveloped land into a township development for the primary use of the residential and business/commercial stands as well as a private hospital. It is proposed that the township development will include 3 residential areas (2 and 3), 2 businesses, 1 institution, 1 road and 2 public open spaces. The proposed site is already in use as a farm and has been in use for such for several years now. The site is bordered by business and is accessed will be from the R40 provincial road. The property is owned by the applicant and currently zoned agricultural.

The proposed project will have positive and negative impacts on the environment. The positive impacts will be used to enhance the environment, whereas the negative impacts will be mitigated to minimize the adverse impacts on the receiving environment. The proposed development will have minimal impacts on the biodiversity of the area. However, the mitigation measures are tabled in an Environmental Management Program (EMPr) and must be fully implemented.

The negative impacts identified on site and must be considered risks are:

1. Rehabilitation of constructed areas after construction
2. Prevention of erosion.
3. Storm Water Management.
4. Protection of natural/pristine vegetation and fauna species in the natural areas – drainage area zoned as private open space.
5. Mitigate visual impact by planting indigenous vegetation.
6. Prevent noise pollution in the construction and operational phase.
7. Traffic Impacts associated with the Provincial R40 road.
8. Surface and Groundwater pollution.
9. Bulk services.

**Whereas the positive impacts that** will benefit Mpumalanga Province, Mbombela Local Municipality, the Hazyview community and neighbouring communities are as follows:

- Change the land-use from agricultural to residential use, in order to provide housing to people.
- Create temporary and permanent job opportunities.
- Close work place for communities of the area.
- Boost the economy.
- Attract commercial and business investment, as well as deem the provision of the essential social infrastructure viable.
- Low impact on disturbed vegetation on most of the site.

Key issues identified within the proposed project were the environment, social issues and bulk services such as roads, sewerage, water and electricity supply. Some of these key issues may have an impact on the environment but will not affect it significantly.

**The ECO has to compile quarterly audit reports for the Compliance Section of MDEDET till end of construction.**



## 7. REFERENCES

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- Dlamini, S.D.** 2014. Proposed establish of a township on the remainder of Portion 127 and Portion 131 of the farm De Rust 12 JU in Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province. Terrestrial Ecology Report. Ligoga Consulting & Trading.
- Mucina, L & Rutherford, M.C. (eds)** 2006. The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Streilitzia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.
- Schurink, H.J.** 2000. Report on Engineering Geological investigations undertaken for township proclamation purposes of Hazyview Extension 10, Mpumalanga.
- Van Wyk Rowe. C.** 2014. Phase 1 archaeological / heritage impact assessment for Proposed Township establishment, Portion 127 & 131 of the Farm De Rust 12 JU, Hazyview. Mpumalanga province.