

Project Flower



PROJECT FLOWER

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Client:	Project Flower Pty Ltd
Project Name:	The proposed establishment of greenhouses for agricultural purposes in De Aar, Northern Cape Province
Report Type:	Background Information Document
Ecocompliance Ref:	PF2018/01/11
Compiled by:	Percy Ngidi

1. Introduction

Ecocompliance was appointed by Project Flower Pty Ltd (herein referred to as “PH”) as the lead consultant to manage the permitting process for the establishment of the proposed greenhouses and associated infrastructure located on Portion 3 of Farm Paarde Valley 145. The site is located approximately 9km north east from De Aar town in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed project is envisaged to take approximately 19ha although the area considered for the proposed development is larger than the required development area. This will allow for flexibility in the designs of the layout plans. The study area is located within the jurisdiction of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality and Emthanjeni Local Municipality. Although the proposed development does not trigger an EIA process; it falls within an area that was assessed during an EIA process for a solar project. The HIA undertaken on the proposed development area is attached for more information. The nature and extent of the proposed facility is explored in more detail in this background document.

2. Aim of the Background information Document

This BID aims to provide the competent authority with an overview of the proposed agricultural development.

3. Project Overview

The facility is proposed on **Portion 3 of Farm Paarde Valley 145 (“Paarde Valley”)** which is located approximately 9km north east of De Aar. The north western border of the study site is traversed by the regional route R48 connecting De Aar and Phillipstown (see locality map). The study area is considered to be highly desirable for the establishment of greenhouses based on several key factors such as the disturbed nature of the development area, the fact that the proposed development is an agricultural practice, climatic conditions, extent of the site, orographic conditions, availability of land, and the site's close proximity to De Aar, Phillipstown as a potential labour source. Part of the infrastructure required is the construction of a road longer than 300m which triggers Section 38 of the NHRA.

A broader study area of approximately **95ha** is being considered within which the facility is to be constructed, although the actual development footprint of the proposed facility would be smaller in extent.

Infrastructure associated with the facility will include, *inter alia*:

- Perimeter fencing for security purposes
- Office buildings
- Access road from the R48
- Internal access road; and
- Workshop area for maintenance and storage.



Figure 1: a photo of the proposed greenhouses



Figure 2: photos showing the outside of a greenhouse

5. Environmental Impact Assessment Process

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), Project Flower (Pty) Ltd does not meet any of the thresholds required to trigger an EIA process. However; Section 38 of the NHRA is triggered and this BID is submitted in effort to give a better overview of the proposed agricultural development.

6. Potential Impacts Associated with The Proposed Facility

A number of potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, associated with the proposed Solar Energy Facility have been identified. These include the following:

Ecology	Construction of the facility and associated disturbance of vegetation may result in impacts on ecology.
Social	The construction and operation of the facility will result in much needed job opportunities in the area.
Agriculture	The proposed development is in line with the agricultural zoning of the development site.
Visual	The proposed development has a potential impact on visual and aesthetic value of the site. However, greenhouses for agricultural practices are not a strange feature in farming communities.
Heritage	Disturbance to or destruction of heritage sites and fossils/palaeontology may result during the construction of the facility. However, based on the HIA undertaken during an EIA process for a solar project located on the same property, no heritage features were found on the proposed development area.
Avifauna	Potential impacts on birds in the area.

7. Comments & Queries

Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

Mr Percy Ngidi - Ecocompliance	
Cell	082-802-3728
Email	percy@ecocompliance.co.za
Fax	086-609-8823

Figure 3: Locality Map

