

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



THE PROPOSED PIGGERY ON PORTION 196 OF FARM NO. 416 (SAM FARM), ROCKLANDS, 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 Mrs L. Sam, to apply for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Waste Management Licence (WML) 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. The development of the facility is proposed to take place on Portion 196 of Farm No. 416, Rocklands, located within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, of the Eastern Cape province (Figure 1). The property has a total extent of approximately 47.5 hectares (ha), but the proposed development is will only consist of approximately 1 ha and can be accessed via the Elands River road and a gravel road leading to the farm.



Figure 1: Location of Portion 196 of Farm No. 416, Rocklands.

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 Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) has approved the implementation of the Sam Piggery project. 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:
 - Breeding/weaner house (180 m²)
 - Grower house (140 m²)
- Waste handling system consisting of two (2) lagoons (2100 m³ each);
- Carcass disposal pit;
- Construction of boreholes and water reticulation system;
- Electricity supply from the existing ESKOM transformers;
- Construction of new access roads; and
- Provision of storm-water drains and pipes.



Figure 2: The proposed development site in relation to the drainage lines and wetlands in the area.

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 next to a non-perennial drainage line that joins 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).

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) 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 (as amended in GN R. 327) are triggered:

NEMA activities potentially triggered by the proposed development¹.

Activity No.	Description	Applicability to this Development
LISTING NOTICE 1 – GN R. 983 (GN R. 327)		
Activity 4	<i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed— (ii) 8 square meters per small stock unit and; b. more than 250 pigs per facility excluding piglets that are not yet weaned.</i>	The proposed facility will have the capacity to house more than 250 pigs.
Activity 8	<i>The development and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.</i>	The development is likely to exceed 2 000 m ² and will be considered as an agri-industrial facility.
Activity 27	<i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</i>	The development may require the clearance of an area greater than 1 ha of vegetation.

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:

List of waste management activities published in GN R. 921 (as amended) that are potentially triggered by the proposed development.

Activity No.	Description	Triggering activity
CATEGORY A WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES		
1	<i>The storage of general waste in lagoons.</i>	The development of the waste handling system may trigger this activity.
6	<i>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.</i>	The waste handling system may have the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons of general waste.
12	<i>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).</i>	A waste handling system may be constructed as per the abovementioned listed waste activities.

Based on the listed activities identified in **Listing Notice 1 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

¹ A detailed list of the activities requiring environmental authorisation will be identified upon receipt of detailed engineering information from the client.

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 borehole(s).
b	Storing water.	Water abstracted from the boreholes may be stored in dams and/or reservoirs at the facility.
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 non-perennial drainage line, and within 500m of a wetland and ground water.
i	Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.	Construction of the development will take place within 100 m of a non-perennial drainage line and within 500m of a wetland.

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.

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

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 categorized as –
 (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—
 (i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent

must at the very early 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 exceed 5 000 m² in extent and will change the character of the site. The provincial heritage authority will need to be notified of the project and the relevant heritage studies (archaeological and paleontological) conducted in conjunction with the NEMA process.

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 4). 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.

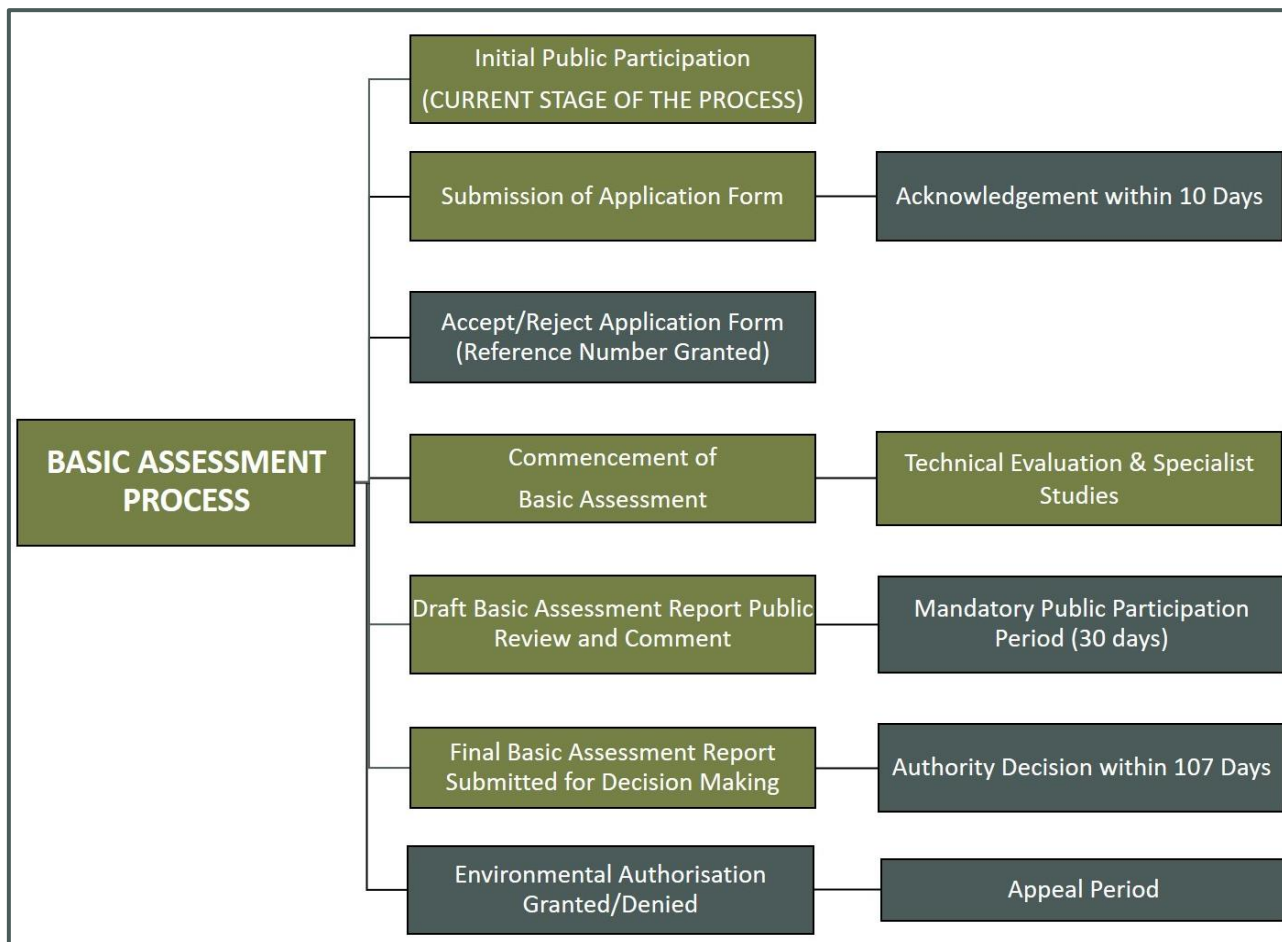


Figure 4: Basic Assessment process.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT

The following potential impacts have been identified for the various project phases (planning, construction and operation). These impacts will be addressed in the assessment in order to identify measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts:

- 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, and to enhance the positive impacts, will be provided in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

In terms of NEMA, public participation forms an integral part of the EIA process. The Public Participation Process (PPP) provides people who may be (or have been) affected by the 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 competent authority.

INVITATION TO COMMENT

Should you wish to express your views regarding this 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.

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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