

APPENDIX E: COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE TO I&APS

Project Announcement and Registration Phase

Letter 1: Notice of the Scoping and EIA Process

PO Box 27688 Greenacres 6057
120 Diaz Road Adcockvale, PE 6001
Phone 041 374 8426 Fax 041 373 2002
Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za
Ck 97/32984/23 VAT 44601 68273



Public Process Consultants
Environmental Impact Assessment and
Public Participation Management

30 August 2017

«Title» «Name» «Surname»
«Organisation_and_Position»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«City»
«Code»

Dear «Title» «Surname»

RE: NOTICE OF SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published in GN R326, 327, 325 and 324, promulgated under Chapter Five of the National Environmental Management Act (as amended), you have been identified as an interested and/ or affected party (I&AP) for the above project. The project proponent, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlake 98 (~852.12ha), Sundays River Valley Municipality (SRVM), for the cultivation of annual crops (e.g. maize) and the establishment of a variety of citrus. The area which will form part of this assessment process measures ~852ha and is located approximately 6km north of Sunland. The Farm is currently zoned for agriculture and the area to be cultivated, including associated infrastructure, will be determined by the outcome of the various specialist assessments forming part of this Scoping and EIA process. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, a new dam/ s will have to be constructed. Additionally, the proposed development will require the installation of irrigation pipelines of various diameters.

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published in GN R326, 327, 325 and 324, promulgated under Chapter Five of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMAA), and published in Government Gazette 40772 on the 7 April 2017, the project requires full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (Scoping & EIA), because it includes, amongst others, the following listed activity in GN R325 (Listing Notice 2):

“15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation...”

A full list of the listed activities which may be triggered by the proposed development and require Environmental Authorisation are contained in the accompanying Background Information Document (BID).

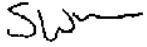
Public Process Consultants has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA process for this project.

You have been identified as an interested and/ or affected party (I&AP) for the above project and have been included on the project I&AP database. In order to ensure that any issues and or concerns you may have, are included in the **Draft Consultation Scoping Report**, you are kindly requested to submit any comments to the EAP indicated above, during the comment period which extends from the **30 August 2017 to the 2 October 2017**. To assist you in the submission of your comments, we have enclosed with this

correspondence a **Background Information Document, locality map**, as well as a **comment form**. Further project information can be accessed on the website: **www.publicprocess.co.za**

We look forward to your input and participation in this process. Should you have any queries, please contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby or Zandri Grobbelaar using the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Letter 1: Email sent to I&APs - Notification of Scoping and EIA



Wed 2017/08/30 9:06 AM

Marisa Jacoby

NOTICE OF SCOPING AND EIA: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

To

Bcc 'john.adendorff@sanparks.org'; 'bloemm@dwa.gov.za'; 'willem@sunrivercitrus.co.za'; 'chiltonp@dws.gov.za'; 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za'; 'pdupless@mandelametro.co.za'; 'GcinileD@daff.gov.za'; 'Fouriel@dwaf.gov.za'; 'Jayshree.Govender@nmmu.ac.za'; 'morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za'; 'adriaan.grobler85@gmail.com'; 'hume@kirkwood.co.za'; 'ngkausele@gmail.com'; 'KuneneB@dws.gov.za'; 'Peter.Lotter@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'Ruffus.Maloma@drdar.gov.za'; 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za'; 'randall.moore@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'marliza@intekom.co.za'; 'nellyn@srvm.gov.za'; 'nokoyot@dwa.gov.za'; 'hank.prinsloo@drdlr.gov.za'; 'Russel.Smart@nmmu.ac.za'; 'rsmart@nmmu.ac.za'; 'Alan.Southwood@deaet.ecape.gov.za'; 'Andries.Struwig@dedea.gov.za'; 'boeram@srvalley.co.za'; 'dvcromans@gmail.com'; 'adwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'edwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'mbali.zuma@drdlr.gov.za'; 'cecil@suncitrus.co.za'



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30 August 2017

Dear Interested and Affected Party/ Organ of State

RE: NOTICE OF SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

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In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published in GN R326, 327, 325 and 324, promulgated under Chapter Five of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMAA), and published in Government Gazette 40772 on the 7 April 2017, the project requires full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (Scoping & EIA), because it includes, amongst others, the following listed activity in GN R325 (Listing Notice 2):

"15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation..."

A full list of the listed activities which may be triggered by the proposed development and require Environmental Authorisation are contained in the accompanying Background Information Document (BID).

Public Process Consultants has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA process for this project.

You have been identified as an interested and/ or affected party (I&AP) for the above project and have been included on the project I&AP database. In order to ensure that any issues and or concerns you may have, are included in the **Draft Consultation Scoping Report**, you are kindly requested to submit any comments to the EAP indicated above, during the comment period which extends from the **30 August 2017 to the 2 October 2017**. To assist you in the submission of your comments, we have enclosed with this correspondence a **Background Information Document, locality map**, as well as a **comment form**. Further project information can be accessed on the website: www.publicprocess.co.za

We look forward to your input and participation in this process. Should you have any queries, please contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby or Zandri Grobbelaar using the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Please Note: A hard copy of this correspondence has also been sent via normal mail.

Regards

Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Public Process Consultants

120 Diaz Road

Adcockvale

Port Elizabeth

Phone: 041 374 8426 Fax: 041 373 2002

Cell: 083 233 5612

Website: www.publicprocess.co.za







Wed 2017/09/06 11:08 AM

Marisa Jacoby

FW: NOTICE OF SCOPING AND EIA: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

To 'screechmbride@gmail.com'

 Scheepersvlakte - Comment Form - Pre Application - final - 28Aug2017.pdf
.pdf File

 Scheepersvlakte - BID - final - 28August2017.pdf
.pdf File

Good Afternoon Mr Screech

NOTICE OF SCOPING AND EIA: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

We initially forgot to include you on the I&AP register for the Scoping and EIA process for the abovementioned Assessment.

Please see the correspondence below and attached BID (including locality map) and comment form which was sent out on Wednesday (30 Aug 2017) in order to initiate the Scoping and EIA process on behalf of Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd. As a representative of the Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd we are of the opinion that you should be included on the I&AP register in order to receive information on the project as the Scoping and EIA process progresses.

We trust you will find the above in order.

Thank you.

Regards
Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Public Process Consultants
120 Diaz Road
Adcockvale
Port Elizabeth
Phone: 041 374 8426 Fax: 041 373 2002
Cell: 083 233 5612
Website: www.publicprocess.co.za

From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 30 August 2017 9:06 AM
Subject: NOTICE OF SCOPING AND EIA: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY.

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30 August 2017

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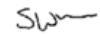
A full list of the listed activities which may be triggered by the proposed development and require Environmental Authorisation are contained in the accompanying Background Information Document (BID).

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Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Please Note: A hard copy of this correspondence has also been sent via normal mail.

Regards
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Cell: 083 233 5612
Website: www.publicprocess.co.za



Comment Form Mailed with Letter 1

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Pre-Application Comment and Registration Form

Proponent: Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd
Project: Agricultural Development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlakke No. 98, SRVM.
Primary Listed Activity: GN R 325 (Listing Notice 2) Activity No 15.

Return Completed Reply Form to:

Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27088, Greenacres 0057
Phone: 041 – 374 8426 or Fax 041-373 2002 or Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za

Complete all Relevant Sections Below and Return by: 2 October 2017

Please provide your full contact details:

FIRST NAME:	SURNAME:
ORGANISATION:	TITLE/ POSITION:
POSTAL ADDRESS:	
CODE:	
PHONE:	FAX:
CELL:	EMAIL:

Would you like to register as an Interested and affected party? (please tick the appropriate box)

NOTE: You are required to register as an I&AP in order to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process.

YES
NO

Please clearly state any interest you may have in the project and/or list your issues and comments or questions you may have (use additional pages if required)

Registration and comment form for Issues and Concerns

Background Information Document Mailed with Letter 1

FULL SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

*Agricultural Development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm
Scheepers Vlakte No. 98, in the Sundays River Valley Municipality*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, AUGUST 2017



INTRODUCTION

The project proponent, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlakte 98 (~852.12ha), Sundays River Valley Municipality (SRVM), for the cultivation of annual crops (e.g. maize) and the establishment of a variety of citrus. The area which will form part of this assessment process measures ~852ha. The Farm is currently zoned for agriculture and the area to be cultivated, including associated infrastructure, will be determined by the outcome of the various specialist assessments forming part of this Scoping and EIA process. Located within the boundary of the same property, is Portion 10 of Farm 98, within which a dam, belonging to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for water supply to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), measuring ~31ha, is situated. Portion 10 of Farm 98 **does not** form part of this assessment process.

The proponent has obtained a water use licence from DWS for the taking of water from a water resource in terms of section 21 (a) of the National Water Act which entitles them to utilise 650ha (5 850 000m³ per annum) of water from the LSRWUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, a new dam/ s will have to be constructed. Additionally, the proposed development will require the installation of irrigation pipelines of various diameters. The water storage capacity of the new dam/ s, as well as the length and diameters of the irrigation pipelines, will be determined through the assessment process.

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), published in GN R326, 327, 325 and 324, promulgated under Chapter Five of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMAA), and published in Government Gazette 40772 on the 7 April 2017, the project requires full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (Scoping & EIA). The applicant has appointed Public Process Consultants as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the assessment, including the public participation for this project.

PROJECT LOCALITY

Scheepers Vlakte Farm is located ~6km north of Sunland, in the SRVM. Access to the Farm is proposed via an existing gravel road on the southern boundary of the site which links the farm with the gravel MN50077. The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is located ~7km east of the Farm. The locality map attached provides an overview of the location of the property under assessment.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

In terms of regulation 42(b) of Government Notice R326, interested and affected parties (I&APs) are to request in writing that their names be placed on the register of interested and affected parties. To register on the database, complete the comment and registration form included with this correspondence or submit your contact details (via fax or email), stating your full name, address and contact numbers, to the consultant indicated in this documentation. In terms of regulation 43(1) a registered I&AP is entitled to comment in writing on all reports and plans submitted as part of the public participation process and raise any issues which may be of significance to the consideration of the application. Additionally, I&APs are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application. By registering on the project database, you will be notified as and when information on the project is available for I&AP review and comment.

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document provides you, as an interested and or affected party (I&AP), with background information on the proposed agricultural development, as well as the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation Process. It indicates how you can become involved in the project, receive information and raise issues that may interest and/ or concern you. The sharing of information forms an important component of the public participation process and provides you with the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA process from the outset. The input received from I&APs together with scientific and technical investigations assists the

competent authority, in this instance the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Cacadu Region, with their decision-making.

ALTERNATIVES AND SITE SELECTION

A key component of the EIA process is the identification and assessment of reasonable and feasible alternatives. The following alternatives have been identified and will be considered in the assessment process:

- No-go alternative
- Layout/ footprint alternatives
- Alternatives as identified by I&APs

Reasonable and feasible alternatives as raised by I&APs, specialists and the technical team will be considered in the assessment process.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The area under assessment is located on Portion 7 of Farm Scheepers Vlakte 98, known as Scheepers Vlakte Farm, ~6km north of Sunland in the SRVM. The area that will be assessed measures ~852ha in extent. The farm is currently zoned for agricultural use. The total area to be cleared, including associated infrastructure (dam/s, internal roads, laydown areas, logistical and administration area) will be determined through specialist and technical input, authority consultation as well as consultation with I&APs.

Irrigation water for the proposed development will be supplied from the LSRWUA canal system, located on the southern boundary of the site. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, a new dam/ s will have to be constructed. Additionally, the proposed development will require the installation of irrigation pipelines of various diameters, as well as associated infrastructure. The size and measurements of the new dam/ s, as well as the length and diameters of the irrigation pipelines, will be determined through the assessment process.

Existing infrastructure on Scheepers Vlakte Farm will be used to provide technical and logistical support to the proposed farming operation. However, additional infrastructure will be required, including a pre-sort packhouse (~7 000m² for the delivery of equipment and collection of fruit), logistical as well as administration facilities and staff housing (five houses). It is further anticipated that the proposed development will entail the following activities on the site:

- Vegetation clearing
- Levelling and landscaping the site to provide runoff control
- Establishment of unpaved internal roads to provide access to the cultivated areas / orchards
- Construction of a new dam/ s
- Installation of irrigation infrastructure
- Planting crops/ orchards and windbreaks (if required)
- Construction of logistical and administration/ service facilities

Once the necessary infrastructure has been established, the area will be used for the cultivation of annual crops (e.g. maize) and the establishment of a variety of citrus. The proponent proposes to construct additional logistical and service buildings on the Farm, which will require additional associated services infrastructure such as electricity, sanitation and domestic water.

The final design and layout/ footprint of the proposed development will be informed by technical and environmental specialist input during the EIA process.

OVERVIEW OF THE SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (S&EIR) PROCESS

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), published in GN R326, 327, 325 and 324, promulgated under Chapter Five of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMAA), and published in Government Gazette 40772 on the 7 April 2017, the project requires full Scoping and EIA. The table below lists potential listed activities in GN R327, 325 and 324, which trigger either a Basic Assessment or full Scoping and EIA, which may require Environmental Authorisation, should such be granted. A cautious approach has been adopted towards the identification of listed activities. Where there is currently uncertainty with regards to the applicability of a listed activity, it has been included in the table below.

GN R327 – Listing Notice 1 requiring Basic Assessment	
Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
9. The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water— (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or	Irrigation water for the proposed development is to be supplied from the Lower Sundays River Water Users Association canal system located on the southern boundary of the site. The length and throughput capacity of the supply pipe will be confirmed through

<p>more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;</p>	<p>the assessment process.</p>
<p>12. The development of— (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —</p>	<p>New dam/ s will be required to be constructed to provide the necessary irrigation water for the proposed agricultural development. The capacity and location of the new dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process. In addition, vehicle tracks, as well as irrigation pipelines may require construction/ installation through watercourses on the site. The layout for the proposed development will be informed by specialists through the assessment process.</p>
<p>13. The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic metres or more, unless such storage falls within the ambit of activity 16 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014.</p>	<p>New dam/ s will be required to provide the necessary irrigation water for the proposed agricultural development. The capacity and location of the new dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process.</p>
<p>19. The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</p>	<p>Vehicle tracks, as well as irrigation pipelines may require construction/ installation through watercourses on the site, which may result in the removal of more than 10 cubic meters of soil from a watercourse. The layout for the proposed development will be informed by specialists through the assessment process.</p>
<p>24. The development of a road— (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</p>	<p>While internal roads for the areas to be cultivated are not anticipated to be wider than 13.5 meters, access to the site is required for heavy vehicles, and therefore the width of these roads may exceed 8 meters.</p>
<p>56. The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre— (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres;</p>	<p>Access to the site is proposed off an existing access road on the southern boundary of the site. The Traffic Impact Assessment, which will form part of the Scoping and EIA process, will make recommendations with regards to access to the site. The existing access road may need to be widened and / or lengthened in order to provide the necessary access for vehicles to the site.</p>
<p>GN R325 – Listing Notice 2 requiring Full Scoping and EIA</p>	
<p>Listed Activity</p>	<p>Listed Activity</p>
<p>15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation ...</p>	<p>The area under assessment measures ~852 ha. The area to be cleared for cultivation, including associated infrastructure will exceed 20ha. The final layout will be informed by the specialist input forming part of this assessment process.</p>
<p>16. The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the highwater mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.</p>	<p>The area proposed for cultivation will require the construction of new dam/ s. The capacity of the dam/ s will be determined by specialist input through the assessment process.</p>

GN R324 – Listing Notice 3 requiring Basic Assessment	
Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>2. The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas, in: (dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (ff) 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;</p>	<p>The proposed agricultural development will require the construction of new dam/ s, which is anticipated to exceed 250 cubic meters. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan. The location of the dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process.</p>
<p>4. The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>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 areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas;</p>	<p>It is anticipated that internal vehicle tracks in excess of 4 meters will be required to service various sections of the proposed cultivated areas. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan. The width of the internal roads will be determined through the assessment process.</p>
<p>10. The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>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 areas of a biosphere reserve; (ii) Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined;</p>	<p>The proposed development will require the temporary storage of chemicals on site, as well as the above ground storage of ~14 000 litres of fuel. It is therefore anticipated that combined capacity to store dangerous goods on site may exceed 30 cubic metres. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>
<p>12. The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>i. Within 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;</p>	<p>A portion of the vegetation on site has been identified as Albany Alluvial Vegetation by the NBA and VegMap mapping resources. This vegetation type is listed as endangered in terms of Section 52 of NEMBA. The vegetation types which occur on site will be confirmed by a vegetation specialist through the assessment process.</p>

<p>14. The development of— <i>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p>where such development occurs— <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i> <i>(hh) 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;</i></p>	<p>The proposed agricultural development will require the construction of new dam/ s on the site. The size and location of the new dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process. In addition, vehicle tracks, as well as irrigation pipelines may require construction/ installation through watercourses on the site. The layout for the proposed development will be informed by specialists through the assessment process. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>
<p>18. The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i> <i>(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;</i> <i>(kk) A watercourse; or</i></p>	<p>Access to the site is proposed off an existing access road on the southern boundary of the site. The Traffic Impact Assessment, which will form part of the Scoping and EIA process, will make recommendations with regards to access to the site. The existing access road may need to be widened and / or lengthened in order to provide the necessary access for the vehicles that will be utilised on site. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>

The applicability of all the listed activities indicated above will be determined through the assessment process. The listed activities require Environmental Authorisation from the DEDEAT prior to the commencement of any activities on the site. The EIA needs to show the competent authority, the DEDEAT, and the project proponent, what the consequences of their choices will be in biophysical, social and economic terms. Public involvement forms an important component of this process, by assisting in the identification of issues and alternatives to be evaluated. The EIA Process being implemented can be divided into four phases namely:

- **Pre-Application Scoping Phase**
 - Project Announcement and registration of I&APs (30 days)
 - Draft Consultation Scoping Report review (30 days)
- **Application and Scoping Phase**
 - Submit Application form for Environmental Authorisation to the DEDEAT
 - Review of the Consultation Scoping Report (30 days)
 - Submit Final Scoping Report to the DEDEAT
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Phase (EIA Phase)**
 - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Review (30 days)
 - Submit Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the DEDEAT
- **Decision Making and Appeal Period**
 - Notice to I&APs of decision and appeal period

To meet the timeframes as prescribed in the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), specialist studies to be included as part of this assessment process will commence in parallel to the Scoping process. The following specialist studies are proposed to be undertaken for this assessment:

- Vegetation and Aquatic Assessment
- Soil Suitability Assessment

- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

Phase 1: Pre-Application Scoping Phase (Current Stage)

- **Project Announcement and registration of I&APs**

The first stage in the process entails notification to the DEDEAT, as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the intention to proceed with the Scoping and EIA process. Identified I&APs are provided with a Background Information Document (BID) on the project, a locality map and a comment form. An advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and a site notice board will be erected at the site. I&APs are required to register their interest in the project to receive further project information. I&APs will be provided with a **30-day** period to register their interest on the project database and raise any issues for inclusion in the Draft Consultation Scoping Report (Draft CSR).

- **Draft Consultation Scoping Report Review**

A Draft CSR will be compiled which will include a Comments and Responses Trail – indicating the issues and concerns raised by I&APs during the **30-day** project announcement period. This report will include the Plan of Study for EIA, which will outline the specialist studies proposed to be undertaken for this assessment process, as well as the methodology for the identification, and rating of impacts. In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, the Scoping process is to, amongst others, through a consultative process:

- *identify policies and legislation relevant to the activity;*
- *motivate the need and desirability of the proposed activity and its location*
- *identify and confirm the preferred activity, technology alternative and/ or site alternative; or if no alternatives, including location alternatives were investigated, the motivation for such;*
- *identify the key issues to be addressed in the assessment phase;*
- *agree on the level of assessment, methodology and expertise required as well as the extent of further consultation to be undertaken to determine the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site to inform the location of the development footprint within the preferred site; and*
- *identify suitable measures to avoid, manage or mitigate identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.*

The **Draft CSR** will be released for a **30-day** comment period. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the opportunity to comment. In order to assist I&APs with their understanding of the project and to facilitate the identification of issues for inclusion in the Consultation Scoping Report (CSR), I&APs will be provided with an executive summary of the Draft CSR, as well as a comment form. Copies of the report will also be made available on the website www.publicprocess.co.za.

Phase 2: Application and Scoping Phase

- **Application Form Submission**

An application form for Scoping and EIA will be compiled based on the relevant project information provided by the project proponent, as well as preliminary specialist input and will be submitted to the DEDEAT.

- **Consultation Scoping Report Review**

In parallel to the compilation and submission of the application form, the CSR will be compiled which will include a Comments and Responses Trail – indicating the issues and concerns raised by I&APs during the 30-day project announcement period as well as the 30-day review of the Draft CSR (Phase 1: Pre-application scoping phase).

Subsequent to the submission of the application form to the competent authority, the CSR will be released for a minimum, legislated 30-day comment period. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the opportunity to comment. In order to assist I&APs with their understanding of the project and to facilitate the identification of issues for inclusion in the Final Scoping Report (FSR), I&APs will be provided with an executive summary of the CSR, as well as a comment form. Copies of the report will also be made available on the website www.publicprocess.co.za.

- **Final Scoping Report Submission**

The FSR, together with the Plan of Study for EIA, will be prepared for submission to the DEDEAT for their decision-making, within 44 days of submission of the application form. The comments received from I&APs, the competent authority and other organs of state, during the review processes are included in the **FSR** before it is submitted to the DEDEAT for their consideration. All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the submission of the FSR to the competent authority. The FSR will include the Plan of Study for EIA and Terms of Reference for specialist studies to be undertaken as part of the EIA process. The FSR and the Plan of Study is subject to consideration by the competent authority.

Phase 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Phase

Once DEDEAT accepts the FSR, with or without conditions, and upon receipt of the approval thereof, the EIA Phase may proceed or continue with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA. The purpose of this stage of the EIA is to undertake specialist investigations to address the issues identified through the Scoping process which may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The specialists will build on the information that was gathered for Stage 1, but will focus their studies on the area under assessment. The specialist studies will include the assessment of alternatives, identification of impacts and the determination of the significance of impacts. Specialists will, where appropriate, formulate mitigatory measures to maximise positive benefits or avoid/ minimise potential negative impacts.

- **Draft EIA Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) Review**

The Draft EIA Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be prepared and released for a **30-day** review period and will include, amongst others, the following:

Address issues that have been raised through the Scoping process

Assess alternatives in relation to the proposed activity, including different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity (including No Go Option)

Assess potential impacts

Recommend management actions to enhance positive benefits or avoid/minimise negative impacts.

All registered I&APs will be notified of the 30-day comment period in writing. All comments received from I&APs and authorities via meetings held or written correspondence during this period are compiled into a Comments and Responses Trail for inclusion in the Final EIA Report. The Comments and Responses Trail will indicate the nature of the comment, when and who raised the comment, as well as indicate how the comment received has been considered in the Final EIA Report, in the project design or the EMPr for the project.

- **Final EIA Report and EMPr Submission**

The Final EIA Report, including the Comments and Responses Trail and EMPr will be compiled for submission to the competent authority for their consideration (DEDEAT). The applicant must within **106 days** of acceptance of the Scoping Report submit to the competent authority an Environmental Impact Report, inclusive of specialist studies and an EMPr which has been subjected to a **30-day** public participation process. All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final EIA Report.

Phase 4: Decision Making and Appeal Period

All I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing once the competent authority has reached a decision on the application. The applicant must, within 14 days of the date of the decision, notify all registered I&APs of the decision and provide them with access to the decision and reasons for the decision, as well as indicate the manner of appeal.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP?

1. I&APs are required to respond to the letters of notification and/ or newspaper advertisements and register their interest on the project database.
 - By emailing, faxing or mailing a comment form to the participation consultant indicated below.
 - By registering your interest in the project, you will be kept informed of the process and will be notified of any opportunities to comment.
2. I&APs are required to state their area of interest and/ or concern in the matter.
 - By emailing, faxing or mailing a comment form to the public participation consultant indicated below.
3. By telephonically contacting the public participation consultant if you have a query, comment, or require further project information.
4. By reviewing the Draft Reports and submitting any comments/ issues within the specified comment periods.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Sandy Wren, Public Process Consultants

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Phone 041-374 8426

Fax 041-373 2002

Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za

Information on the project can be downloaded from the following website: www.publicprocess.co.za

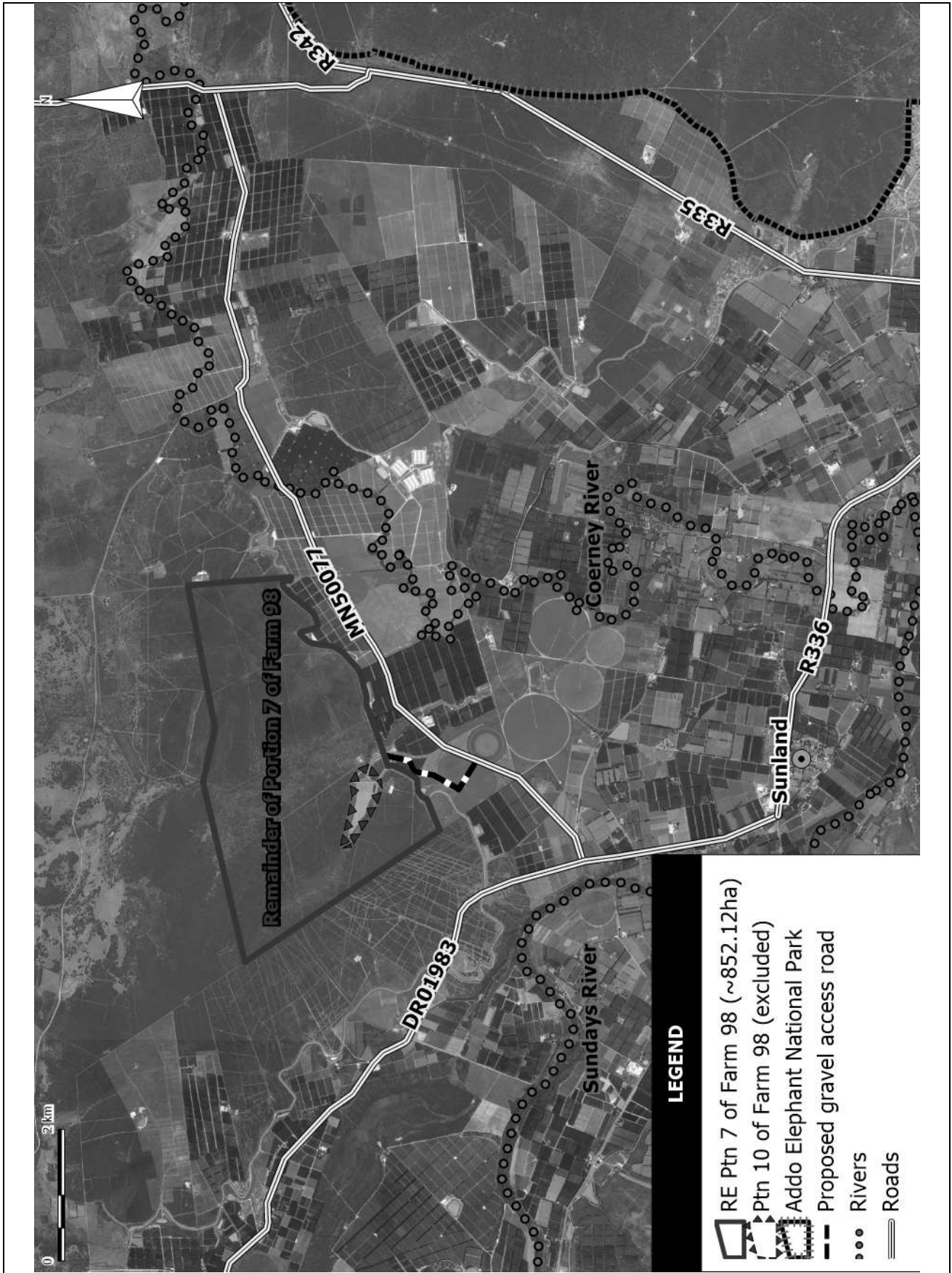


Figure 1: Locality of the Remainder of Portion 7 of Farm 98 in relation to major roads and towns, in the Sundays River Valley Municipality.