

# APPENDIX E: CORRESPONDENCE TO I&APS

## Application Phase: Submission of Final Scoping Report

### 1. Letter 4: Notice of Submission of FSR

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14 November 2018

«Title» «First\_Name» «Surname»  
«Organisation»  
«Address1»  
«Address2»  
«City»  
«Code»

Dear «Title» «Surname»

**RE: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)**

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on the database for the above project, this serves as a notification of the submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) to the competent authority, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region.

Please find included with this correspondence an Executive Summary of the FSR. Information on the project, including the FSR, can be accessed on the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

Chapter Six of the FSR provides an outline of the specialist studies proposed to form part of the EIA Phase of the assessment process, as well as the aspects that need to be assessed. Responses to comments which have been received to date by I&APs, are summarised in the Comments and Responses Trail contained in Chapter Four and copies thereof are included as Appendix F to the report.

#### **Next Step in the Process**

The competent authority must, within 43 days of receipt of the FSR, accept the report with or without conditions and advise the applicant to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or, refuse Environmental Authorisation. As a registered I&AP you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the decision-making process on the FSR.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby or Zandri Grobbelaar at the contact details above. We look forward to your participation in this stage of the process.

Yours sincerely



**SANDY WREN**  
**EIA PROJECT LEADER**



## 2. Letter 4: Executive Summary of the FSR

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### INTRODUCTION

The project applicant, 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. *Located within the boundary of the property is Portion 10 of Farm 98 (~31ha), within which the Scheepersvlakte Dam, owned by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for water supply to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), is situated. Portion 10 of Farm 98 **does not** form part of this assessment process.* Scheepers Vlakte Farm is located ~6km north of Sunland, in the SRVM and the nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is located ~7km east of the Farm (See Chapter One of the Final Scoping Report for a Locality Map).

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 and EIA), prior to the commencement of any activities on the site due to, amongst others, activities listed in GN R325, namely:

*"15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -..."*

At this stage of the assessment process a cautious approach has been adopted towards the identification of listed activities, and where there is uncertainty as to whether a listed activity applies to this project, it has been included. The following listed activities potentially require Environmental Authorisation:

- Listing Notice 1 (GN R327): 19. and 24. (ii);
- Listing Notice 2 (GN R325): 15. and 16.
- Listing Notice 3 (GN R324): 2. a. ii. (dd) and (ff); 4. a. i. (ee) and (gg); 10. a. i. (ee) and (gg); 12. a. i. and 14. (ii) (a) and (c) a. i. (ff) and (hh)

Chapter Four of this report provides details of the listed activities which require Environmental Authorisation. The project applicant has appointed Public Process Consultants as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA for the proposed agricultural development. The competent authority who must consider and decide upon this application is the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region.

Scheepers Vlakte Farm (~852ha) is currently undeveloped and zoned Agriculture I. It is proposed that an area of ~516ha be transformed to ultimately establish ~504ha of citrus orchards, including associated infrastructure (irrigation pipelines, internal roads, windbreaks, laydown areas etc.). The preferred development footprint, including associated infrastructure, will be informed by the outcome of the various specialist assessments which form part of this Scoping and EIA process.

In addition, an area of ~5ha will be transformed to accommodate the proposed logistical services area, including a pre-sort packhouse, and a further ~7ha is required to be disturbed to facilitate the construction of a proposed new irrigation water storage dam (~140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity). Two supply pipelines are proposed to convey irrigation water from the offtake point on the canal to the proposed irrigation water storage dam. These will have an internal diameter of 450mm each and will be installed over a distance of ~700m.

Access to the Farm is proposed via an ~6m wide private road onto the gravel MN50077 road, ~4km east of the surfaced DR01983 road; and which crosses a portion of the LSRWUA canal (via an existing bridge) on the southern boundary of the Farm. This existing access road is proposed to be upgraded and widened (~8m wide) to service the proposed agricultural development.

The applicant 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 000m<sup>3</sup> per annum) of water from the LSRWUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, a new dam (~140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity/ ~7ha footprint) will have to be constructed. Additionally, the proposed development will require the installation of irrigation pipelines of various diameters. It is proposed that the irrigation infrastructure include pivot irrigation for maize, as well as pipes for drip/ micro irrigation of citrus. The length and diameters of the irrigation pipelines will be determined by a qualified irrigation specialist through the assessment process.

In order to provide administrative and logistical support to the agricultural development, a new logistical services area is proposed to be constructed near the southern boundary of the Farm. The proposed logistical services area will measure ~5ha in extent and will include the following:

- Pre-sort packhouse (~6500 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Tractor/ trailer off-loading and receiving slab
- Dispatch truck loading slab
- Access road including turning circles
- Workshop and storage area (300m<sup>2</sup>)
- Office/ administration area (150m<sup>2</sup>)
- Other staff facilities including ablution blocks (150m<sup>2</sup>)
- Staff housing (5 x 60m<sup>2</sup>)
- Onsite domestic effluent treatment system (e.g. Clearedge system) (641m<sup>2</sup>)
- Stormwater detention facilities (2 260m<sup>2</sup>)
- Water storage and treatment facilities (1 575m<sup>2</sup>)

The proposed workshop and storage area will include a fully enclosed bunded, roofed facility with a capacity to store ~30m<sup>3</sup> of chemicals required for the proposed agricultural development. Provision will also be made within the logistical services area for the aboveground storage of fuel (~14000L/14m<sup>3</sup>), with associated bund wall.

The footprint and provision of bulk services for the proposed additional infrastructure on site will be determined by a qualified civil engineer, in consultation with the project applicant through the assessment process.

The additional buildings proposed on site, as well as the pumping infrastructure associated with the proposed new dam, may require additional electrical infrastructure. This will be confirmed through the assessment process.

The proposed agricultural development on the Farm can be divided into the following phases:

- Preconstruction
- Construction
- Operational

### **Preconstruction Phase**

The cultivation of *maize* for the local market requires that the desired cultivar be booked in advance, to ensure that planting occurs at the desired time (September-October). For different *citrus* cultivars, however, this process varies. In order to meet the requirements of export stock, seed (the foundation block seed) is required to be booked well in advance and purchased from a certified agency, the Citrus Foundation. The seed is provided to a certified nursery for a two-year grow-out period, during which the seeds are germinated and the seedlings grown to sapling stage. The preconstruction phase for securing of the maize and citrus cultivars occurs in parallel to site preparation.

### **Construction Phase**

The project will entail the clearing of vegetation, levelling of the site, and the installation of a pivot irrigation system for maize, as well as micro/ drip irrigation system for citrus. Both irrigation systems (pivot and drip/ micro) are proposed to be installed simultaneously. Once the site is prepared it is proposed that initially, only ~150ha of citrus (lemons and late mandarins) be planted along with ~100ha maize. Thereafter, citrus will only be planted once maize has first been cultivated for ~1-2 years. This process will continue for ~2-5 years, until ultimately an orchard area of ~504ha (includes associated infrastructure e.g. roads, laydown areas, windbreaks etc.) with ~468ha of citrus trees, is achieved.

The cultivation of maize will be done to prepare the soil for the establishment of a variety of citrus, whilst simultaneously eliminating a potentially harmful root system fungus which has recently been identified in the Sundays River Valley area, which is prone to attacking a specific citrus cultivar.

It is anticipated that vegetation clearing, landscaping, site preparation and planting will be done both by hand and with the aid of suitable earth moving equipment (excavators, bulldozers, TLBs). No workers' accommodation will be provided on site during the construction phase.

Site preparation will entail the following activities on site, not necessarily in this order:

- Clearing of indigenous vegetation;
- Landscaping and levelling the site;

- Construction of the new irrigation dam;
- Installation of internal water reticulation and irrigation infrastructure (pivot and drip/ micro);
- Planting of crops (maize), as well as a variety of citrus and windbreaks (if required);
- Establishment of internal unpaved service roads and upgrading (widening) of the existing access road;
- Construction of the new logistical services area; and
- Construction of permanent staff housing.

### **Operational Phase**

Once the site is suitably prepared, the area will be utilised for the cultivation of annual crops (e.g. maize) and the establishment of citrus orchards. Equipment required for the new operations will be stored on site, in the proposed new storage facilities associated with the logistical services area. The following operational phase activities are associated with the project:

- Initial establishment (Phase 1) of ~150ha of citrus and ~100ha of maize.
- Thereafter (subsequent phases), cultivation of maize for a period of 2-5 years, followed by the establishment of citrus orchards.
- Utilisation of the additional services and administration facilities, as well as accommodation.
- Water for the development will be supplied from the LSRWUA canal system which will be reticulated from the proposed new irrigation water storage dam into the orchards and to the water treatment and storage facilities associated with the logistical services area; and
- It is anticipated that a number of additional seasonal and permanent employment opportunities will be created by the project.

For a detailed project description, see Chapter Two of the Report.

### **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

Scheepers Vlakte Farm is situated in a predominantly agricultural area, as indicated by the adjacent surrounding land uses. Although the vegetation is largely untransformed on the property under assessment, directly adjacent to the northern, eastern and western boundaries, surrounding properties are currently engaged in commercial agricultural activities including citrus orchards, commercial chicken production and livestock/ game grazing. A portion of Farm 713, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the property under assessment, has been zoned to Open Space III. The southern boundary of the property under assessment abuts existing agricultural lands including citrus orchards and cultivated fields (e.g. lucerne). The northern boundary of the property under assessment is adjacent to the Enon Mission Station communal land, showing signs of livestock grazing. Based on the surrounding land uses mentioned above, the proposed agricultural development on Scheepers Vlakte Farm is not likely to cause a significant change in character within the surrounding landscape, as the surrounding area is currently predominantly agricultural in nature.

The dominant vegetation type on Scheepers Vlakte Farm is a combination of natural to moderately degraded Sundays Thicket. The NBA and STEP mapping resources have mapped a section of the Farm as Albany Alluvial Vegetation/ Sundays Doringveld, respectively (although the two are synonymous). A 1: 50 000 undefined drainage line, bisecting the Farm in a north-south direction, contained vegetation of a riparian nature.

Modified/ transformed areas are notable across the Farm. Towards the southern boundary, modified areas are represented by existing farm structures, the Scheepersvlakte Dam (owned by the DWS, not part of this assessment) dam on Portion 10 of Farm 98, as well as several internal vehicle tracks. Further, portions of the Farm are encroached by *Opuntia ficus indica*, which is an indicator of a degraded vegetation state, possibly due to previous livestock grazing and browsing. Several grassy, open patches, devoid of Thicket vegetation are also visible across the Farm.

A wetland area was observed along the southern boundary of the Farm. The Scheepersvlakte Dam located within the boundaries of Scheepers Vlakte Farm, on Portion 10 of Farm 98 (owned by the DWS, not part of this assessment), receives water from the LSRWUA canal and supplies water to Port Elizabeth. The overflow dam, just south of the southern boundary of the Farm, receives overflow from the Scheepersvlakte Dam. This has resulted in a stand of *Phragmites australis*, which has expanded over time, since the discharge commenced. Historical aerial imagery (1957) shows the absence of this reed bed; and thus, the artificial nature of the wetland area. These findings will have to be assessed and verified by an aquatic specialist during the EIA phase of the assessment.

For further information regarding the affected environment see Chapter Three of the Report.

## OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This Scoping and EIA Process is being implemented in four phases, the details of which are outlined in Chapter Four of this report:

- Pre-Application Scoping Phase
- Application and Scoping Phase (**WE ARE HERE**)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Phase
- Decision Making and Appeal Period

Notice of Intention to commence with Scoping and EIA was submitted to the competent authority, DEDEAT, on 29 August 2017 and sent to all identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Organs of State on 30 August 2017. Comments and issues that have been raised to date, as well as appropriate responses that have been provided by the EAP, are included in the Comments and Responses Trail contained in Chapter Four of the Report and copies thereof included in Appendix F.

In order to commence the legislated portion of the Scoping and EIA process, an Application Form for Environmental Authorisation, in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), was submitted to DEDEAT on 5 October 2018, together with the release of the **Consultation Scoping Report (CSR)** for the legislated 30-day consultation period. All registered I&APs were notified in writing of the release of the CSR for the legislated 30-day comment period which extended from 5 October 2018 to 5 November 2018. Acknowledgement of receipt of the Application Form and CSR was received from DEDEAT on 22 October 2018 and reference number EC06/C/LN2/M/47-2018 assigned to the application. Additional comment was received from DEDEAT on 5 November 2018, requesting that a Visual Impact Assessment be included in the list of specialist studies to be undertaken during the assessment. The PoS for EIA has been amended to include the ToR for a Visual Impact Assessment which is required to be undertaken during the EIA phase of this assessment.

The Final Scoping Report (FSR), together with the Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA (this report), has been prepared for submission to the Provincial DEDEAT for their decision-making, within 44 days of submission of the Application Form. The FSR includes all the comments received from I&APs during the Pre-Application (project announcement and Draft CSR), as well as Application Phase of the assessment (CSR). Should DEDEAT accept the Scoping Report and approve the PoS for EIA, the assessment process will enter into the EIA Phase.

For further detail regarding the Scoping and EIA Process including Public Participation, see Chapter Four of the Report.

### Identification of Issues

Issues and concerns identified for inclusion in the Scoping Report, that require specialist assessment in the EIA phase, have been identified using the following methods:

- Site Visits.
- Preliminary input from specialists.
- Desktop review of regional planning documentation and frameworks.
- Scoping of issues and concerns with I&APs, including authorities and affected Organs of State, through correspondence received (emails, comment forms) in response to the project announcement and Draft CSR.

Based on issues identified thus far in the process, the table below indicates the specialist studies/ input required for the EIA Phase of the Assessment Process:

Specialist Study	Broad Scope of Assessment	Proposed Specialist
Biophysical Assessment	To include an assessment of the potential impacts on vegetation and fauna (desktop), as well as the delineation of sensitive No-Go areas including conservation target areas and the determination of appropriate buffer zones. An aquatic assessment will be undertaken to assess the impacts on aquatic features identified on the site, including wetlands, watercourses and drainage lines. Determination of the PES of the site and assessment of the CBA and ESA mapping resources, as included in various biodiversity planning frameworks (i.e. the ECBCP and NFEPA mapping resources). Provision of recommendations for management/mitigation of residual impacts.	Deborah Vromans, Vegetation and Aquatic Specialist  Marisa Jacoby, Public Process Consultants  Zandri Grobbelaar, Public Process Consultants

Phase 1 Paleontological Impact Assessment	Determination of palaeontological features on site and the impact of the proposed development thereon. Provision of recommendations for management/ mitigation of residual impacts.	Dr John Almond, Natura Viva
Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment	Determination of archaeological features on site and the impact of the proposed development thereon. Provision of recommendations for management/ mitigation of residual impacts.	Dr Johan Binneman, Eastern Cape Heritage Consultants
Soil Suitability Assessment	Soil suitability assessment to determine the agricultural potential of the soils for commercial crop and citrus production and provision of amelioration measures for soil limiting factors. Desktop slope analysis.	Freddie Ellis
Traffic Impact Statement	Determine the impact of the additional trip generation on the public road network, as well as the suitability and safety of the proposed access point.	Cary Hastie, Engineering Advice and Services
<u>Visual Impact Assessment</u>	<u>Assess the potential visual impact of the proposed agricultural development on the surrounding area, including the potential visual impact on the Addo Elephant National Park Viewshed Protection Area.</u>	<u>Mr Mark Marshall, Sandula Conservation</u>
<b>TECHNICAL TEAM</b>		
Irrigation Infrastructure	Estimate the quantity of water required to irrigate the proposed development and to be stored on site in proposed new dam. Confirm associated irrigation infrastructure (including pivot and drip/ micro irrigation) layout including pipe diameters and length, as well as dam location, dimensions, storage capacity and design.	Mr Louis Grobler, CFT
Civil Engineering Services	Determine the footprint and locality of additional structures on site (logistical services area etc.), as well as bulk services requirements (domestic water, effluent management and stormwater management).	Jaco Spies, JJ Spies Civil Engineers

The full specialist Terms of Reference (ToR) are contained in Chapter Six of the Report. The results of the specialist studies and other relevant project information will be integrated into the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Draft EIA Report).

### **Current Stage in the Process**

The Scoping & EIA Process is currently at the stage where the FSR and PoS for EIA (this report) has been prepared for submission to DEDEAT for their decision-making. Should DEDEAT accept the Scoping Report and approve the PoS for EIA, the assessment process will enter the EIA Phase. No comment period is being provided for the FSR.

## Letter 4: Email sent to all I&APs: Notice of Submission of FSR

 Wed 2018/11/14 11:52 AM  
Marisa Jacoby  
NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

To  
Cc Sandra Wren

Bcc 'john.adendorff@sanparks.org'; 'maretha.alant@sanparks.org'; 'bloemm@dwa.gov.za'; 'willem@sunrivercitrus.co.za'; 'cecil@suncitrus.co.za'; 'mcalitz@humkoop.co.za'; 'chiltonp@dws.gov.za'; 'andrecrouse@iafrica.com'; 'Luzuko.Dali@dedea.gov.za'; 'werner@djlw.co.za'; 'Div.DeVilliers@dedea.gov.za'; 'pdupless@mandelametro.gov.za'; 'GcinileD@daff.gov.za'; 'gerard@sunrivercitrus.co.za'; 'Jayshree.Govender@nmmu.ac.za'; 'morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za'; 'adriaan.grobler85@gmail.com'; 'hume@kirkwood.co.za'; 'sherif@suncitrus.co.za'; 'ngkausele55555@gmail.com'; 'KuneneB@dws.gov.za'; 'Peter.Lotter@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'Margaret.Lowies@aurecongroup.com'; 'Ruffus.Maloma@drdar.gov.za'; 'randall.moore@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'MooreT@dws.gov.za'; 'mugumom@dws.gov.za'; 'marliza@intekom.co.za'; 'nellyn@srvn.gov.za'; 'royniven2003@gmail.com'; 'rfrniven@imagine.co.za'; 'NokoyoD@daff.gov.za'; 'hank.prinsloo@drdir.gov.za'; 'screemcbride@gmail.com'; 'rsmart@nmmu.ac.za'; 'andries.struwig@deat.ecape.gov.za'; 'Erik.VanDerBerg@aurecongroup.com'; 'boeram@srvalley.co.za'; 'dvcromans@gmail.com'; 'adwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'edwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'XalabileN@dws.gov.za'; 'mbali.zuma@drdir.gov.za'

 Scheepersvlakte - FSR - Executive Summary - final - Nov2018.pdf  
.pdf File

 Scheepersvlakte - Locality Map - Oct2018cmprsd.jpg  
.jpg File

### NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

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Please find included with this correspondence an Executive Summary of the FSR and a locality map. Information on the project, including the FSR, can be accessed on the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

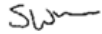
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Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN  
EIA PROJECT LEADER

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



Regards  
Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
Public Process Consultants  
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Website: [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

## Letter 4: Email and Copy of FSR sent to Mike Primmer – Lower Sundays River Water Users Association

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**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 12:30 PM  
**To:** 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za'  
**Subject:** Email 2 of 2: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)  
**Attachments:** Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App G - Supporting Documentation - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App H - Locality Map - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App C - Site Notice & Advert - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App D - Project Databases - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - FSR - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final - Nov2018.pdf

### Email 2 of 2...

Thank you,

Regards  
Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
Public Process Consultants  
120 Diaz Road  
Adcockvale  
Port Elizabeth  
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Website: [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 12:28 PM  
**To:** info@sundaysriverwater.co.za  
**Subject:** Email 1 of 2: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

### Email 1 of 2...

PO Box 27688 Greenacres 6057  
120 Diaz Road Adcockvale, PE 6001  
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Email [sandy@publicprocess.co.za](mailto:sandy@publicprocess.co.za)  
Ck 97/32984/23 VAT 44601 68273

14 November 2018

Mr Mike Primmer  
Lower Sundays River Water Users Association  
PO Box 10  
Sunland



6115

Dear Mr Primmer

**RE: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)**

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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  
Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner  
Public Process Consultants  
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## Letter 4: Email and Copy of FSR sent to Sello Mokhanya – Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

---

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 12:04 PM  
**To:** smokhanya@ecphra.org.za  
**Subject:** Email 2 of 2: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)  
**Attachments:** Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App D - Project Databases - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final- Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App G - Supporting Documentation - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App H - Locality Map - final - Nov2018.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - FSR - App C - Site Notice & Advert - final - Nov2018.pdf

### Email 2 of 2...

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 12:01 PM  
**To:** smokhanya@ecphra.org.za  
**Subject:** Email 1 of 2: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

### Email 1 of 2...

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

14 November 2018

Mr Sello Mokhanya  
Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority  
Cnr Amalinda Drive and Scholl Street  
East London

5252

Dear Mr Mokhanya

**RE: NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF FINAL SCOPING REPORT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)**

As an Organ of State registered on the database for the above project, this serves as a notification of the submission of the Final Scoping Report (FSR) to the competent authority, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region.

Please find attached with this correspondence an electronic copy of the FSR including an Executive Summary. Information on the project, including the FSR, can also be accessed on the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

Chapter Six of the FSR provides an outline of the specialist studies proposed to form part of the EIA Phase of the assessment process, as well as the aspects that need to be assessed. Responses to comments which have been received to date by I&APs, are summarised in the Comments and Responses Trail contained in Chapter Four and copies thereof are included as Appendix F to the report.

**Next Step in the Process**

The competent authority must, within 43 days of receipt of the FSR, accept the report with or without conditions and advise the applicant to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or, refuse Environmental Authorisation. As a registered I&AP you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the decision-making process on the FSR.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby or Zandri Grobbelaar at the contact details above. We look forward to your participation in this stage of the process.

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)



**Letter 4: Proof of Delivery of Copies of the FSR to Organs of State**

- CDs sent with Registered Letters

*\*Customer Copy*

<b>Project Name:</b>	Scheepersvlakte: Final Scoping Report
<b>Name and Address of Sender:</b>	Marisa Jacoby, Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27688, Greenacres, 6057. Tel: 041 374 8426

No.	Name of Addressees	Address of Addressees	Affix Track and Trace
1	Mr John Adendorff	PO Box 52, Addo, 6105	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654214ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
2	Mr Cecil Brummer	PO Box 2120, Hermanus, 7200	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654228ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
3	Mr Gcinile Dumse	Private Bag X4, Tecoma, East London, 5214	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654245ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
4	Cllr Gloria Kausele	PO Box 47, Kirkwood, 6120	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654201ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
5	Mr Bhekokwakhe Kunene	PO Box 7019, East London, 5200	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654262ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
6	Mr Peter Lotter	PO Box 11100, Algoa Park 6005	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654259ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
7	Mr Randall Moore	PO Box 11100, Algoa Park 6005	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654260ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
8	Mr Lonwabo Ngoqo	PO Box 47, Kirkwood, 6120	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654276ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
9	Mr Russel Smart	PO Box 76693, NMMU, Port Elizabeth, 6031	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654302ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R
10	Ms Maretha Alant	PO Box 3542, Knysna, 6570	REGISTERED LETTER <small>SA Post Office Limited ShareCall 0800 111 002 www.sppo.co.za</small> RC325654293ZA CUSTOMER COPY 001028R

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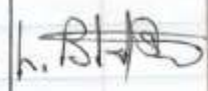


**Date Stamp**

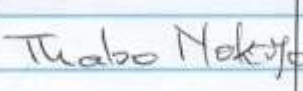
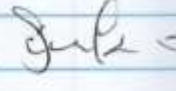
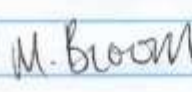
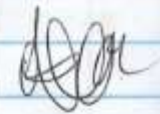
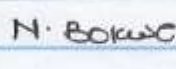
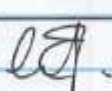
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14 NOV 2018

TELLER 5  
GREENACRES 6057

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DATE	REPORT	ORGANISATION	RECIPIENT	
			PRINT	SIGN
14/11/2018	Scheepers Vlakke - FSR (hard copy + CD)	NEDEAT -> Anelies Struwig		
14/11/2018	Scheepers Vlakke - FSR (hard copy)	BEDEAT -> Luwuko Dali		

14/11/2018	Scheepers Vlakke - FSR (CD)	DAFF -> Thabo Nkomo		
14/11/2018	Scheepers Vlakke - FSR (hard copy + CD)	DWS -> Marisa Bloom		
14/11/2018	Scheepers Vlakke - FSR (CD)	DRDAR -> Ruffus Makhona		

# Environmental Impact Assessment Phase: Notice of Draft EIA Report Comment Period

## 1. Letter 5: Notice of Draft EIA Report Comment Period

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

5 March 2019

«Title» «First\_Name» «Surname»  
«Organisation»  
«Address1»  
«Address2»  
«City»  
«Code»

Dear «Title» «Surname»



**RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)**

The applicant, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to clear ~516ha on the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlakke 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, as well as associated infrastructure. The farm is currently zoned Agriculture I.

The applicant 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 000m<sup>3</sup> per annum) of water from the LSRWUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, the construction of a new irrigation water storage dam (140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity; 7ha footprint), as well as the installation of irrigation pipelines of varying diameters, is required. In addition, to provide support services to the proposed development, a new logistical services area (~6ha footprint) is proposed to be constructed.

As a registered interested and affected party (I&AP) on the database for the above project you are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for a **31-day comment period** extending from the **5 March 2019 to 5 April 2019**.

### Availability of Information

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the Draft EIA Report, we have enclosed with this correspondence, an Executive Summary of the Draft EIA Report, as well as a comment form. Full copies of the report, including the EMPr can be downloaded from the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft EIA Report or EMPr by the **5 April 2019**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), contact details above.

### Next Step in the Process

This Draft EIA Report has been compiled in line with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The next step in the process entails the incorporation of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the Final EIA Report, which will then be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region, for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final EIA Report to the competent authority.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby, Zandri Grobbelaar at the contact details above. We look forward to your participation in this stage of the process.

Yours sincerely

**SANDY WREN**  
**EIA PROJECT LEADER**

## **2. Letter 5: Executive Summary of Draft EIA**

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW**

The project applicant, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to clear ~516ha on 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, as well as associated infrastructure. The farm is currently zoned Agriculture I (see Chapter One of the Draft EIA Report for a Locality Map).

The applicant 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 000m<sup>3</sup> per annum) of water from the LSRWUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, the construction of a new irrigation water storage dam (140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity; 7ha footprint), as well as the installation of irrigation pipelines of varying diameters is required. In addition, to provide support services to the proposed development, a new logistical services area (~6ha footprint) is proposed to be constructed.

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 road. The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is located ~7km east of the farm.

A detailed project description is provided in Chapter Two of this report.

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 (S&EIA), prior to the commencement of any activities on the site. The applicant appointed Public Process Consultants as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the S&EIA for the project.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE EIA PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

This Draft EIA has been preceded by a comprehensive Scoping Process with the Final Scoping Report (FSR), including the Plan of Study for EIA, being submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) on the 14 November 2018. On the 19 December 2018 acceptance of the FSR and approval of the Plan of Study for EIA was received from the DEDEAT. This marked the end of the Scoping Phase of the EIA Process. The project then moved into the EIA Phase of the assessment.

The key issues identified during the Scoping Process, which have been the subject of separate specialist assessments during the EIA, are outlined below:

- Biophysical (Biological and Physical) site assessment including:
  - Potential project related impacts on natural vegetation and faunal habitat on the farm.
  - The consideration of any potential impacts on the Addo Elephant National Park and other areas in proximity to the proposed development area set aside for conservation purposes.
  - An aquatic survey to identify and map wetlands and watercourses on the farm.
  - Assign suitable buffers for aquatic resources identified on the farm.
  - Provide comment on the potential impact of the proposed development on Aquatic and Terrestrial CBAs, as identified in the ECBCP.
  - The determination of suitable buffers associated with meeting biodiversity conservation targets specific to the vegetation types on the farm, and in line with those targets indicated by the relevant planning frameworks for the area.
- The undertaking of a Phase 1 Palaeontological and Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment to identify heritage resources, materials and artefacts that occur within the area under assessment and recommendations regarding the conservation thereof.
- The undertaking of a Traffic Impact Assessment to determine the impact of the additional trip generation and the suitability of the proposed access point to ensure safe access and egress from the site.
- The undertaking of a Soil Suitability Assessment in the form of a Reconnaissance Soil Survey, to determine the suitability of the soil for the establishment of citrus orchards and maize, to inform the proposed layout.
- A Visual Impact Assessment to determine the visual impact of the proposed agricultural development on the surrounding area, including the Addo Elephant National Park.

- The undertaking of a Roads and Wet Services Report to determine the footprint of the logistical services area including the pre-sort packhouse and staff housing as well as recommendations for the provision of bulk services (domestic water, stormwater, effluent management) for these facilities.

The primary objective of EIA Phase of the assessment is to present to I&APs and affected/ Juristic Organs of State and State Departments an overview of the predicted impacts, proposed mitigation measures (both positive and negative), closure outcomes, residual impacts of the activity and management actions required to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts; or enhance the positive impacts of the project. This report is being released for a 31-day I&AP review period to enable the authorities and I&APs to provide input and comment before the report is finalised and submitted to the DEDEAT for their decision-making. The comment period for the Draft EIA Report extends from the **5 March 2019 to the 5 April 2019**. A copy of the Draft EIA Report and EMPr can be downloaded from the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za). For further details on the EIA Process and Public Participation see Chapter Four of the EIA Report.

## **ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION**

- Loss of vegetation and associated habitat due to clearing (biodiversity loss).
- Loss of Critical Biodiversity Area and Ecological Support Area due to clearing of vegetation (biodiversity loss).
- Loss of floral and faunal species of conservation/ special concern due to vegetation clearing and poaching (biodiversity loss).
- Fragmentation and destruction of habitat on Scheepersvlakte Farm due to clearing (biodiversity loss).
- Potential loss of artificial wetland habitat and drainage systems (vegetation along the 1:50 000 drainage areas) (hydrological processes and biodiversity loss).
- Loss and fragmentation of drainage systems (vegetation along the 1:50 000 drainage areas) due to crossings and associated increase in run-off (hydrological processes and biodiversity loss).
- Potential hydrological process impacts on artificial wetland habitat and drainage systems due to increased surface run-off from orchards and associated access roads (erosion, sedimentation, saturation and consequent impacts on biota).
- Potential hydrological process impacts on drainage systems (vegetation along the 1:50 000 drainage areas) due to crossings and associated increase in run-off (hydrological processes and biodiversity loss).
- Potential increased water levels/ saturation in the artificial wetland habitats and drainage systems due to irrigation (hydrological processes).
- Water quality degradation of the artificial wetland habitat and drainage systems due to agricultural run-off high in pollutants (hydrological processes and biodiversity loss).
- Loss of vegetation along drainage areas due to maintenance repairs on the underground water supply pipelines and access roads at crossings (hydrological processes and biodiversity loss).

Potential Cumulative Impacts on the N40D catchment as a result of the proposed development include:

- Cumulative loss of vegetation due to clearing in the N40D catchments (biodiversity loss).
- Potential cumulative loss species of special concern due to clearing in the N40D catchment (biodiversity loss).
- Cumulative loss of riparian CBA and ESA buffers due to clearing of vegetation in the N40D catchments (biodiversity and hydrological process loss)
- Cumulative loss and modification of wetland habitat in the N40D catchments.
- Cumulative impacts on hydrological process of rivers and riparian areas in the N40D catchments (flow, water quality, erosion, sedimentation etc.).

All these impacts can be reduced by implementing the mitigation and management recommendations found in Chapters Six and Seven.

### ***Vegetation, Biodiversity Patterns and Processes***

The following recommendations are made with regards to the mitigation and management of impacts on vegetation:

- The biodiversity target areas indicated in Chapter Six should be retained (as per the proposed layout). which allows for a reduced loss of vegetation.
- Retain all the mapped Sundays Doringveld within the No-Go areas.
- The biodiversity No-Go Areas should be set aside for conservation in perpetuity.
- Remove only the required amount of vegetation for citrus/ crop cultivation activities i.e. minimize the extent of bare and exposed soils i.e. indiscriminate clearing should be avoided.
- If windbreaks are required, plant indigenous windbreaks, if possible.



- Existing crossings (across drainage areas) should be utilized as far as possible. In instances where vegetation is cleared to 'formalize' existing and new crossings, rehabilitation should be undertaken using indigenous flora.
- For all roads proposed within biodiversity No-Go areas, limit the width of the road to 4m.
- For any new roads within biodiversity No-Go areas, rehabilitate the equivalent number and length of existing roads within biodiversity No-Go Areas (this equates to an area of approximately 0.3ha or 0.4ha for a 4m or 6m wide road respectively).
- Rehabilitation of disturbed areas post-establishment with indigenous species, if necessary. Plants, however, can be used in the 'rehabilitation' of other disturbed areas that will be retained in the No-Go areas on the Farm. Succulents, such as the Aloes, will be easier to transplant and should be used.
- Rescue and translocation programme to be implemented.
- As many of the species should be rescued and then translocated elsewhere on the farm, noting that other areas outside the proposed agricultural area do support most of these species. It should be acknowledged that some of the species are weedy, pioneer species, which establish easily where disturbance has occurred, especially *Mesembryanthemum aitonis*, *Drosanthemum hispidum*, and *Delosperma* species. Focus should thus be on the Aloes, bulbs and other vygies.
- Permit applications to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism for the protected species.
- Permit application to the Department of Forestry (of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) for the removal of *Sideroxylon inerme* trees.
- Control and management of alien invasive plants, such as *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *O. aurantiaca*, particularly within the No-Go areas; to be viewed as an additional biodiversity offset measure.
- Audit reporting by the Environmental Control Officer during construction/ clearing of cultivation areas.
- Compliance with regulations pertaining to the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (43 of 1983), where applicable.
- Applicant/ Landowner/ Farm Manager to monitor strict compliance with the biodiversity no-go areas.

### **Fauna**

It is anticipated that the vegetation on the site, as identified by the vegetation specialist, would provide habitat to several small to medium mammal, reptilian and amphibian species. The site is likely also frequented by a variety of avifaunal species. In addition, the wetland habitat associated with the aquatic habitats identified on the farm are also expected to provide significant faunal habitat. It is anticipated that most of the faunal species remaining on the farm will in all likelihood move off to undisturbed portions of the site as soon as site preparation commences.

Approximately 67.28ha (7.9%) of the natural vegetation on site has been modified historically. Thus, most of the vegetation on the farm can be described as near-natural or degraded. At the time of the site visit evidence of bush pig and porcupine presence was noted. Livestock grazing (cattle, sheep and goats) and intensive cultivation were historically undertaken on the farm, however, the livestock grazing apparently terminated ~14 years ago, whereas cultivation occurred in the 1950's.

The following provides recommendations for the management of impacts on fauna:

- The mobile fauna which may be occurring on the site are expected to vacate the area that is to be developed once vegetation clearing and other site preparation activities commence and will seek refuge in intact natural or near-natural areas that are not proposed for development.
- Measures must be implemented to ensure that fauna on site are not harmed during site preparation or operational phase activities associated with the development, e.g. environmental induction process for construction personnel and/ or farm workers.
- Before site preparation and vegetation clearing commences, affected areas must be thoroughly searched for fauna that can be relocated. This is to be undertaken by a professional faunal specialist (with the necessary permits) and released into no-go areas or other suitable refuge areas.
- A professional reptile remover needs to be contacted to remove dangerous reptiles when in conflict with the workers.
- Search and rescue operations before and during the site preparation phase will decrease the impacts considerably.
- Provide fencing that is more permeable to smaller fauna, thus increasing movement through the Farm.
- No fauna encountered on site to be intentionally harmed.
- Implement regular inspections for signs of poaching / illegal harvesting activities on the Farm, e.g. wire snares. All poaching materials to be removed from the property.

- Access to No-Go areas to be restricted to authorised personnel only. Signage to this effect to be erected and a fine system implemented for personnel found to be trespassing.

### **Aquatic Features (artificial and natural)**

No natural wetlands were recorded on the Farm.

The field survey concluded the presence of 14 artificial wetland habitats<sup>1</sup>, including the Scheepersvlakte Dam, and a number of dry 1:50 000 drainage areas (Figure 7.4; Table 7.3). The drainage areas are not typical streams/ rivers, but rather 'undefined', meaning that they presented without channel morphology (bed or banks), for the most part. Furthermore, riparian obligates and a marginal or non-marginal zone is not supported in these drainage areas.

A small dam (no. 5) was also recorded. This dam (no. 5) did not present with soil mottling or gleying during the 2017 field survey, despite supporting wetland obligates during the 2014 field survey. Consequently, it was classed as a dam and *not* 'artificial wetland' (artificial wetland, in this instance, would mean 'a dam that supports artificial wetland') due to the lack of wetland soils.

The Scheepersvlakte Dam (constructed in 1990) has a side channel (ogee) overflow (40m long), with a concrete spillway. The relevance being, that it will channel excess stormwater run-off during rainfall periods onto the property thus potentially increasing soil moisture levels.

The artificial wetlands, located on the Farm, are considered to be of *Low* ecological importance and sensitivity, whereas the hydro-functional importance is *Low* to *Very Low*.

The following mitigation and management is recommended to protect the aquatic resources on site:

- Adopt the recommended biodiversity No-Go areas including the 20m buffer around dams with artificial wetland habitat and the drainage areas.
  - The 20m buffer will not apply to Dam no. 5 (not classified as an artificial wetland), as no rare, unique or threatened species or large populations are supported and it is not a natural wetland. The proposed orchard layout avoids this dam.
- Dam no. 5 (not classified as an artificial wetland) could act as a monitoring site, to monitor potential impacts e.g. increased water/saturation and pollution impacts.
- The remaining artificial wetlands (created due to the formation of small livestock dams), to act as monitoring sites, to monitor potential impacts e.g. increased water/saturation and pollution impacts.
- Where existing crossings are utilized and some vegetation is cleared to 'formalize' the access roads, rehabilitate these areas with indigenous flora on site. In addition, limit the width of these crossings to a maximum of 4m.
- Rehabilitate the equivalent number of existing crossings as new crossings within the biodiversity No-Go areas i.e. 3 existing crossings in the biodiversity No-Go areas should be rehabilitated.
- **A water use application to be processed** with the DWS in terms of Section 21(c) and 21(i) of the National Water Act, where **crossings** are proposed.
- **A water use application should not be required** in terms of Section 21(c) and 21(i) of the National Water Act, as it relates to the **orchards** as the orchards are beyond the mapped 1:50 000 drainage areas.
- Audit reporting by the Environmental Control Officer during establishment of citrus orchards and associated infrastructure.
- Compliance with regulations pertaining to the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (43 of 1983), which *does not permit cultivation within the flood area of a watercourse or within 10m horizontally outside the flood area of a watercourse*.
- Monitor the buffers and crossings during operations to ensure ongoing compliance.
- An agricultural stormwater and erosion control plan should be developed. This could include:
  - Infiltration swales or narrow linear and shallow trenches (within indigenous grasses or plants) along orchards to minimize impacts on the dams with artificial wetland habitat.
  - Where existing crossings of the drainage areas occur, adequate measures should be implemented, where necessary.

<sup>1</sup> *The National Wetland Classification System (NWCS) classifies wetlands into natural and artificial wetlands. Artificial wetlands are produced anthropogenically; and are not naturally occurring. The NWCS defines a wetland as: an area of marsh, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed ten metres (Ollis et al, 2013; SANBI, 2009).*

- Mulching, to increase retention of soil moisture in-situ/ at tree; and if feasible, narrow, indigenous vegetation strips between orchards.
- Any other mitigation measures for the Scheepersvlakte Dam, as required by the Department of Water and Sanitation, should be adopted.

It is recommended that the following are included as conditions in the Environmental Authorisation:

- No-go areas for development (including aquatic and ecological buffer areas) must be demarcated on site before vegetation clearing commences.
- Any lay-down areas must be contained within the proposed disturbance area and may not encroach on any no-go areas on the site.
- Before site clearing commences, the development area must be surveyed for plant and faunal SSC by a suitably qualified specialist. Plant and faunal species of special concern must be translocated to the remaining patches of intact vegetation or buffer areas on the property. Permits must be obtained from the relevant authorities for the removal or transfer of protected flora and faunal species.
- No fauna encountered on site to be intentionally harmed.
- Exotic plants present on the site, which are listed in CARA (Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983) or the NEMBA Alien Invasive Species List should be progressively removed from the site. In addition, regular follow-up clearing should be conducted for the duration of the project lifetime to ensure that the No-go areas are kept free of these plants.

All of the ecological impacts (vegetation, faunal and aquatic) that have been rated as having a potential *Medium to High Negative* impact can be mitigated to *Medium* or *Low Negative* or *Neutral*. For further information on the Ecological Impact Assessment and the Aquatic Impact Assessment see Chapters Six and Seven, respectively of the EIA Report.

## HERITAGE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

The study area on the Farm Scheepers Vlakke 7/ 98, is largely underlain by Early Cretaceous marine sediments of the Sundays River Formation (Uitenhage Group). This mudrock-dominated succession with subordinate sandstones has yielded rich fossil assemblages of marine invertebrates (notably molluscs, such as ammonites and bivalves), plant remains (e.g. driftwood), as well as very rare vertebrate remains (e.g. dinosaurs) from the Algoa Basin of the Eastern Cape. Several fossil localities have been recorded along the flanks of the Sundays River Valley to the west of Addo by McLachlan and Anderson (1976) and earlier authors. However, on Farm Scheepers Vlakke 7/ 98, the Sundays River Formation is largely mantled by Neogene (Late Tertiary) river gravels of the Kudus Kloof Formation, as well as by calcrete hardpans and thick alluvial soils that may be up to several meters thick and are, at most, very sparsely fossiliferous. Continental sediments of the Early Cretaceous Kirkwood Formation are mapped along the northern margin of the study area but were not encountered during fieldwork, perhaps due to lack of exposure.

It proved difficult to locate archaeological sites/ materials since most of the area is covered by dense/ impenetrable Thicket vegetation, low bushes and grass. Stone tools were the only archaeological material located and were mainly observed in areas where the river gravel is exposed and top soil has been disturbed by existing tracks, dams or other small-scale farming activities. Regardless of the large areas investigated on foot, no other remains such as bone, ostrich eggshell or pottery were observed. However, it is possible that sites/ materials are covered by vegetation and soil. *All the stone tools were in secondary context and not associated with any other archaeological material and of low cultural significance. No further action is required. There are no known graves or buildings older than 60 years on the property. In general, it would appear that the area is of low cultural sensitivity and that it is unlikely that any sensitive archaeological remains will be exposed during the development.*

### **Impacts and Management of Heritage Resources**

*Significant impacts on fossil heritage resources are, therefore, not anticipated here. No fossil remains were recorded during the site visit within the Cretaceous bedrocks, which are minimally exposed in this region, or from the Late Caenozoic superficial sediments.*

The main impact on archaeological sites/ remains (if any) will be the physical disturbance of the material and its context. The clearing of vegetation for the proposed agricultural development (~516ha) will expose, disturb and displace archaeological sites/ material. However, from the investigation it would appear that the proposed area earmarked for development is of *low archaeological sensitivity*. The Middle Stone Age stone tools observed in the proposed area to be developed are considered to be of *low cultural significance*, because they are in secondary context and not associated with any other archaeological remains. Notwithstanding, important materials may be covered by soil and vegetation.

The following actions are recommended:

- No further Palaeontological Specialist Studies or specialist mitigation are required for the proposed agricultural project, pending the discovery or exposure of any substantial fossil remains (e.g. vertebrate bones and teeth, large blocks of petrified wood, fossil plant-rich horizons, buried laminated shales) during the construction phase.
- The ECO responsible for these developments should be alerted to the possibility of important fossil remains and concentrations of archaeological materials and/ or human remains being found either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations during construction and should be informed before construction starts on the possible types of heritage sites and cultural material they may encounter and the procedures to follow when they find sites. It is suggested that a person be trained (ECO) to be on site to report to the site manager if sites are found.
- An archaeologist should conduct a walkthrough of the area after the vegetation has been cleared, to check if any significant sites/ materials have been exposed. Further recommendations will follow after the investigation.
- Should such heritage resources be discovered during construction, these should be safeguarded (preferably *in situ*) and the ECO should alert the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA. Contact details: Mr Sello Mokhanya, 74 Alexander Road, King Williams Town 5600; Email: smokhanya@ecphra.org.za). This is so that appropriate mitigation (e.g. recording, sampling or collection) can be taken by a professional palaeontologist (See tabulated Chance Fossil Finds Procedure appended to the EMP). The specialist involved would require a collection permit from ECPHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an approved repository (e.g. museum or university collection) and all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies developed by SAHRA (2013).
- Sufficient time should be allowed to investigate and to remove/ collect such material.

For further information on the Heritage Impact Assessments see Chapters Ten (Palaeontological) and Eleven (Archaeological), respectively of the EIA Report.

#### TRAFFIC IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn from the traffic specialist study:

- Access to the proposed development can be provided directly from MN50077 at the location indicated (see Chapter Nine) as sight distances are in excess of the prescribed minimum requirements;
- A total of 944 trips over the 95-week day picking season (472 in and 472 out), generated at full operational capacity (20 trips per day), will have minimal impact on the operational capacity of the adjacent road network, should regular maintenance be conducted.

The table below provides a summary of the key direct and indirect impacts associated with the development that have been identified by the traffic specialist. Only impacts that are rated as having a potential *Medium to High or Very High* negative impact are listed below:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	DEVELOPMENT PHASE	PRE-MITIGATION	POST-MITIGATION
Additional traffic volumes	Establishment	MEDIUM	LOW
Traffic Safety Impact due to slow moving traffic	Establishment	HIGH	MEDIUM
Additional traffic	Operational	HIGH	MEDIUM
Deterioration of Public Road Network	Operational	HIGH	LOW
Generation of Dust	Operational	MEDIUM	MEDIUM POSITIVE

In view of the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

- This TIA be approved by the Eastern Cape Department of Transport;
- Access to the proposed development be provided from MN50077, as indicated on Figure 9.2;
- Suitable warning signage be erected on the approaches to the proposed access point;
- Advanced warning signage be erected on either side of the narrow culvert on DR01983;
- Regular maintenance of DR01983/ MN50077 be conducted by the provincial Department of Transport.

For further information on the Traffic Impact Assessment see Chapter Nine of the EIA Report.

#### VISUAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development covers a large area of land but is **not visible** from any main roads, towns or from within the Addo Elephant National Park, even though it is located within 15km of all these receptors. The only visual points that will have visibility of the proposed development are Viewpoints V2 (located on the farm; full visibility) and V10 (partial

visibility from the Park main gate), all located within 3km of the farm. None of the other identified viewpoints will have visibility (partial or complete) of the proposed development, as they all will be screened by existing vegetation and topography. Depending on the view point, the overall visibility and sensitivity may vary from LOW to MODERATE. None of the points were regarded as having a HIGH significance.

Overall, the impact for all viewpoints are regarded as:

- **LOW**, where the impact should not have an influence on the decision.

Only 2 of the identified receptors will have visibility of the proposed new site namely:

- Scheepersvlakte Farm (full visibility).
- R342 Road users (section past the Addo Elephant National Park entrance; partial visibility).

In assessing the direct impacts to visual resources, it has been recognized that, although the lifespan of the project is likely to extend into perpetuity, most of the structures can be removed on decommissioning. This means that although the proposed facility will undoubtedly have an impact on the visual resources of the area, it does not represent a completely irreversible loss of scenic resources.

#### **The following impacts were identified:**

- A change in character and loss of cultural scenic resources of the local area is not anticipated, as the proposed development will not significantly alter the scenic value of the local area. Agricultural developments, especially to the west of the site are extensive, therefore, the visual impact is local in nature.
- Road users, especially those using the R342 to access the Addo Elephant National Park, will not be impacted by the proposed development.
- The impact of existing agricultural developments in the local area on visitors within the Addo Elephant National Park, is already significant and adding the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the existing scenic value from viewpoints within the Park as it is likely to blend in with the already largely agricultural nature of the area. In addition, due to topography it has been established that the development will not be visible at the two viewpoints visited within the Park and should therefore not detract from the "wilderness experience" of visitors to the Park.
- The construction phase (when natural vegetation is cleared for agriculture) is recognized as significant and will result in visual scarring. The impact is temporary and of medium term, if mitigated (planted with citrus orchards).

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- Lighting:
  - LSA and other permanent structures should, where practical, be situated off ridgelines so as to minimise the view catchment of the lighting, especially during nighttime;
  - All lighting should be fitted with deflectors to avoid light spillage and minimise visual impact of lights at night. The developer should specifically plan the type, placement and direction of lighting to ensure that light pollution is minimized, especially toward the east.
  - Timer switches or motion detectors should be used to control lighting in areas that are not occupied continuously.
- Visual Intrusion in the Landscape:
  - Possible vegetation screening along sections of the DR01983 road, as well as the DR02006 (Enon road), which is frequented by impacted individuals.

The proposed development will undoubtedly be imposing on the visual landscape for those in close proximity, especially during the site clearing/ construction phase, however, it is concluded that potential losses of scenic resources are not sufficiently significant to present a fatal flaw to the proposed project.

#### **LOGISTICAL SERVICES AREA DESIGN AND RENOVATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

A new logistical services area is proposed to be constructed near the southern boundary of the farm in order to provide administrative and logistical support for the development. The proposed logistical services area will measure ~6ha in extent and is proposed to consist of the following support infrastructure/ structures:

- Pre-sort packhouse (~6500 m<sup>2</sup>).
- Tractor/ trailer off-loading and receiving slab.
- Dispatch truck loading slab.
- Access road (~8m wide) including turning circles (~36m diameter).

- Workshop and storage area (300m<sup>2</sup>).
- Office/ administration area (150m<sup>2</sup>).
- Other staff facilities including ablution blocks (150m<sup>2</sup>).
- Staff housing (5 x 60m<sup>2</sup>).
- Onsite domestic effluent treatment system (e.g. Clearedge system) (641m<sup>2</sup>).
- Domestic water storage and treatment facilities (1 575m<sup>2</sup>).
- Stormwater detention facilities (2 260m<sup>2</sup>).

A Roads and Wet Services Report has been prepared in order to ensure that the proposed logistical services area and proposed staff housing are adequately serviced. The report is included as Chapter Twelve of this report and provides detailed information on the above services infrastructure, including domestic water supply, domestic effluent, road alignment and structure, as well as stormwater management.

The proposed workshop and storage area will include a fully enclosed bunded, roofed facility with a capacity to store ~30m<sup>3</sup> of chemicals required for the proposed agricultural development. Storage and handling of chemicals on site must comply with standard Material Safety Data Sheet control measures. It is recommended that any waste packaging must be disposed of at a suitably permitted landfill site and not buried or burnt on site. In addition, it is proposed that an outdoor aboveground diesel tank, with the capacity to store ~14000L/ 14m<sup>3</sup> of fuel, be constructed adjacent to the workshop area. In order to mitigate any potential risks associated with the fuel tank, due consideration must be given to appropriate design and construction. The tanks are required to be built to industry standard in order to be Global G.A.P. compliant.

Recommendations regarding the specifications for the fuel tank as well as the design and management of the chemical storeroom have been included in Chapter Two and Appendix G, respectively, of this report.

## ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives were identified for consideration in this assessment:

- No-Go alternative
- Property/ Location alternatives
- Land-Use alternatives
  - Grazing/ game
  - Crop cultivation and citrus orchard establishment
- Layout alternatives (development footprints)
- Alternatives as Raised by I&APs and Authorities
  - Tourism
  - Access Alternative
  - Buffers

The no-go option would result in the loss of potentially productive agricultural land in an area known for citrus production and at a site that is largely surrounded by agricultural development. The no-go option would result in the loss of a capital investment estimated to be approximately R185 million. The operational phase of the project will result in the creation of 200 permanent employment opportunities with an annual income of approximately R13.5 million and 1000 seasonal employment opportunities with an additional annual income of R31.4 million. In addition, given that this proposed agricultural development is an empowerment project the benefits to the potential beneficiaries will not be realized. The no-go option would result in a loss of these economic opportunities, as well as the increased production of food for local and international markets, which is considered to be a negative impact. While the no-go option will have no significant negative biophysical environmental impacts, it will result in the loss of positive social and economic benefits which are associated with the go option. Finally, the no-go option will result in the Farm not being optimally utilized for agriculture, for which it is zoned and well-positioned.

The preferred land-use, layout and alternatives as raised by I&APs and Authorities are described in full in Chapter Five of the EIA Report. Positive impacts associated with the **go option** are maximizing the use of available agricultural land whilst generating income from foreign currency (through export of citrus), thereby contributing to local economic growth, as well as assist in stimulating local markets. In addition, given that this agricultural development is an empowerment project there will be additional benefits to be realized for beneficiaries associated with the project. The proposed development footprint has been informed by the relevant specialist assessments and mitigation measures have been recommended in order to reduce the impact of the proposed development on the biophysical environment.

## OVERALL EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd is a citrus farming business initiated by Sun Citrus (represented by Cecil Brummer), B Muller Family Trust (represented by Boetie Muller) and Hansie Klein Kinders Trust (represented by Hansie van der Westhuizen). The philosophy at Sun Citrus has always been that the Human Resources are the most important asset for the business. Since 2000 Sun Citrus has invested in their staff through training and education. However, Sun Citrus is now close to reaching its maximum size as an organization. As such, it is beginning to impose a “ceiling” both on the further development of individuals who have already risen through the ranks, and on those who are still to rise through the ranks of the company. Sun Citrus have, therefore, identified the need to create empowerment opportunities beyond the fruit packing, and farming business.

The Ukukhanya Business Trust was founded as a means/ business opportunity to further empower the employees of Sun Citrus, not only for the benefit of financial growth but also for personal growth and exposure to bigger business opportunities. For this reason, the proposed agricultural development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlakte 98 has been identified as an opportunity for staff from these entities to continue their growth and economic empowerment, while building on their already extensive knowledge of the citrus industry.

Seven Beneficiaries of the Ukukhanya Business Trust have already been identified. These seven beneficiaries will be the key players in the development of the project. Should the proposed development receive Environmental Authorisation, a further 600 employees will benefit from the development. It is also envisaged that in future the Trust will have the option to increase its shareholding in Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd. This will be made possible by utilizing a portion of their dividends to purchase such shareholding at a price to be determined by the auditors from time to time. Such dividends will be forthcoming from the 10th year of operation of the project. Should the proposed agricultural development receive Environmental Authorisation it will allow greater opportunities for existing staff to move to better positions.

Based on the outcome of the detailed specialist assessments, technical input and consultation process, it is proposed that ~516ha (~61% of the extent of the property) be cleared in order to facilitate the establishment of ~468ha of citrus, as well as associated infrastructure. This will include the construction of a new irrigation dam (~7ha), and a new logistical services area (~6ha) including a pre-sort packhouse. The additional clearance of ~516ha will result in ~29% of the near-natural and degraded vegetation on the farm being retained. By adopting the proposed no-go areas and all mitigation measures recommended by the Ecological Specialists, the biodiversity pattern target area for the various vegetation types, and the hydrological/ ecological process areas associated with aquatic features, will be safeguarded. In addition, these final no-go areas exceed the targets delimited on the SRV CBA Map (of 17%). In addition, the Sundays Doringveld on the Farm has been excluded from the development footprint.

By applying the mitigatory measures proposed *Construction Phase* direct and indirect impacts of medium to high significance can mostly be reduced to impacts of *medium to low negative or neutral impacts*. The key direct and indirect impacts associated with the *Operational Phase* of the development can, by applying the mitigatory measures proposed is reduced from negative impacts of high to medium significance to *impacts of medium to low significance*.

The Environmental Assessment process has not identified any negative impacts that should be considered “fatal flaws” from an environmental perspective, and thereby necessitate substantial re-design or termination of the project. Taking into consideration the findings of the EIA process, it is the opinion of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner that the project benefits outweigh the negative residual environmental impacts, provided that the specified mitigation measures are applied effectively, it is proposed that the project receive environmental authorization in terms of the EIA process.

3. **Letter 5: Comment Form sent during Draft EIA Review Period**

**DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR COMMENT FORM**

**Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment**

**Applicant:** Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd  
**Project:** Agricultural Development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepers Vlakke No. 98, in the Sundays River Valley Municipality  
**Primary Listed Activity:** GN R 325 (Listing Notice 2) Activity No. 15

**Return Completed Reply Form to:**

*Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27688, Greenacres 6057  
Phone: 041 – 374 8426 or Fax 041-373 2002 or Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za*

**Complete all Relevant Sections Below and Return By: 5 April 2019**

Please provide your full contact details:

<b>FIRST NAME:</b>	<b>SURNAME:</b>
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	<b>TITLE:</b>
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>CODE:</b>	
<b>PHONE:</b>	<b>FAX:</b>
<b>CELL:</b>	<b>EMAIL:</b>

**Please clearly outline any issues or comments you may have in response to the Draft EIA Report and EMPr (use additional pages if required)**

*Comment form for Issues and Concerns*



## 4. Letter 5: Email sent to I&APs: Notice of Draft EIA Comment Period

Tue 2019/03/05 12:41 PM

MJ

Marisa Jacoby

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE:

To

Cc Sandra Wren

Bcc 'maretha.alant@sanparks.org'; 'willem@sunrivercitrus.co.za'; 'cecil@suncitrus.co.za'; 'mcalitz@humkoop.co.za'; 'chiltonp@dws.gov.za'; 'andrecrouse@iafrica.com'; 'werner@djlw.co.za'; 'Div.DeVilliers@dedia.gov.za'; 'pdupless@mandelametro.gov.za'; 'GcinileD@daff.gov.za'; 'Jayshree.Govender@nmmu.ac.za'; 'morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za'; 'adriaan.grobler85@gmail.com'; 'hume@kirkwood.co.za'; 'sherif@suncitrus.co.za'; 'ngkausele55555@gmail.com'; 'KuneneB@dws.gov.za'; 'Peter.Lotter@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'Margaret.Lowies@arecongroup.com'; 'Ruffus.Maloma@drdar.gov.za'; 'MooreT@dws.gov.za'; 'randall.moore@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'MpumelaN@dws.gov.za'; 'mugumom@dws.gov.za'; 'marliza@intekom.co.za'; 'nellyn@srvm.gov.za'; 'NokoyoD@daff.gov.za'; 'Anban.Padayachee@sanparks.org'; 'screechmbride@gmail.com'; 'rsmart@nmmu.ac.za'; 'Erik.VanDerBerg@arecongroup.com'; 'boeram@srvalley.co.za'; 'dcromans@gmail.com'; 'edwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'adwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'mbali.zuma@drdlr.gov.za'; 'Bloem Marisa'; 'Rory Niven'; 'henk.prinsloo@drdlr.gov.za'; Andries Struwig



Scheepersvlakte - Locality Map - cmprssd.bmp  
.bmp File



Scheepersvlakte - Draft EIA - Executive Summary - final - March2019.pdf  
.pdf File



Scheepersvlakte - Comment Form - Draft EIA - final - 5March2019.pdf  
.pdf File

PO Box 27688 Greenacres 6057  
120 Diaz Road Adcockvale, PE 6001  
Phone 041 374 8426 Fax 041 373 2002  
Email [sandy@publicprocess.co.za](mailto:sandy@publicprocess.co.za)  
Ck 9732984/23 VAT 44601 68273

5 March 2019

Dear Interested and Affected Party / Organ of State

**RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47 2018)**

The applicant, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to clear ~516ha on 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, as well as associated infrastructure. The farm is currently zoned Agriculture 1.

The applicant 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 000m<sup>3</sup> per annum) of water from the LSRVUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, the construction of a new irrigation water storage dam (140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity, 7ha footprint), as well as the installation of irrigation pipelines of varying diameters, is required. In addition, to provide support services to the proposed development, a new logistical services area (~1ha footprint) is proposed to be constructed.

As a registered interested and affected party (I&AP) / Organ of State on the database for the above project you are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for a **31-day comment period** extending from the **5 March 2019 to 5 April 2019**.

### Availability of Information

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the Draft EIA Report, we have attached with this correspondence, an Executive Summary of the Draft EIA Report, a Locality Map and a comment form. Full copies of the report, including the EMPr can be downloaded from the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft EIA Report or EMPr by the **5 April 2019**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), contact details above.

### Next Step in the Process

This Draft EIA Report has been compiled in line with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The next step in the process entails the incorporation of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the Final EIA Report, which will then be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region, for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final EIA Report to the competent authority.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby, Zandri Grobbelaar at the contact details above. We look forward to your participation in this stage of the process.

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  
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Pretoria  
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## 5. Letter 5: Email and Copy of Draft EIA sent to Mike Primmer – Lower Sundays River Water Users Association

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:33 PM  
**To:** 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za'  
**Subject:** Email 5 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)  
**Attachments:** Scheepersvlakke - Draft EIA - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final - March2019.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - Draft EIA - App G - Supporting Documentation - final - Mar2019.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - Draft EIA - App H - Layout Map - final - March2019.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - Draft EIA - Draft EMPr - final - March2019.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - Draft EIA - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - March2019.pdf

Email 5 of 5...

Thank you.

Regards  
Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)  
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**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:31 PM  
**To:** [info@sundaysriverwater.co.za](mailto:info@sundaysriverwater.co.za)  
**Subject:** Email 4 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 4 of 5...

Regards  
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**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:29 PM  
**To:** 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za' <[info@sundaysriverwater.co.za](mailto:info@sundaysriverwater.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Email 3 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 3 of 5...

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**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za' <[info@sundaysriverwater.co.za](mailto:info@sundaysriverwater.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Email 2 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 2 of 5...

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**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za' <[info@sundaysriverwater.co.za](mailto:info@sundaysriverwater.co.za)>

**Subject:** Email 1 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 1 of 5...

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5 March 2019

Mr Mike Primmer  
Lower Sundays River Water Users Association  
PO Box 10  
Sunland  
6115

Dear Mr Primmer

**RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)**

The applicant, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to clear ~516ha on 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, as well as associated infrastructure. The farm is currently zoned Agriculture I.

The applicant 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 000m<sup>3</sup> per annum) of water from the LSRWUA canal system. In order to irrigate the proposed agricultural development, the construction of a new irrigation water storage dam (140 000m<sup>3</sup> storage capacity; 7ha footprint), as well as the installation of irrigation pipelines of varying diameters, is required. In addition, to provide support services to the proposed development, a new logistical services area (~6ha footprint) is proposed to be constructed.

As an Organ of State registered on the database for the above project you are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for a **31-day comment period** extending from the **5 March 2019 to 5 April 2019**.

#### **Availability of Information**

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the Draft EIA Report, we have enclosed with this correspondence, an electronic copy of the Draft EIA Report, including an Executive Summary and a comment form. Full copies of the report, including the EMPr can also be downloaded from the website [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft EIA Report or EMPr by the **5 April 2019**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), contact details above.

#### **Next Step in the Process**

This Draft EIA Report has been compiled in line with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The next step in the process entails the incorporation of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the Final EIA Report, which will then be submitted to the competent authority, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs

and Tourism (DEDEAT), Sarah Baartman Region, for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the Final EIA Report to the competent authority.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren, Marisa Jacoby, Zandri Grobbelaar at the contact details above. We look forward to your participation in this stage of the process.

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)



**6. Letter 5: Email and Copy of Draft EIA sent to Sello Mokhanya – Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority**

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** smokhanya@ecphra.org.za  
**Subject:** Email 5 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)  
**Attachments:** Scheepersvlaktes - Draft EIA - App G - Supporting Documentation - final - Mar2019.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - Draft EIA - App H - Layout Map - final - March2019.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - Draft EIA - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - March2019.pdf; Scheepersvlaktes - Draft EIA - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final - March2019.pdf

Email 5 of 5...

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za' <[smokhanya@ecphra.org.za](mailto:smokhanya@ecphra.org.za)>  
**Subject:** Email 4 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 4 of 5...

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 3:04 PM  
**To:** [smokhanya@ecphra.org.za](mailto:smokhanya@ecphra.org.za)  
**Subject:** Email 3 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 3 of 5...

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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za' <[smokhanya@ecphra.org.za](mailto:smokhanya@ecphra.org.za)>  
**Subject:** Email 2 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 2 of 5...

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

**From:** Marisa Jacoby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 March 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za' <[smokhanya@ecphra.org.za](mailto:smokhanya@ecphra.org.za)>  
**Subject:** Email 1 of 5: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD - DRAFT EIA REPORT AND EMPR: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM (DEDEAT REFERENCE: EC/06/C/LN2/M/47-2018)

Email 1 of 5...

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

5 March 2019

Mr Sello Mokhanya  
Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority  
Cnr Amalinda Drive and Scholl Street  
East London  
5252

Dear Mr Mokhanya

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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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)



**Letter 5: Proof of Delivery of Copies of the Draft EIA to Organs of State**



- CDs sent with Registered Letters

*\*Customer Copy*

<b>Project Name:</b>	Scheepersvlakte: Draft EIA
----------------------	----------------------------

<b>Name and Address of Sender:</b>	Marisa Jacoby, Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27688, Greenacres, 6057. Tel: 041 374 8426
------------------------------------	--

No.	Name of Addressee	Address of Addressee	Affix Track and Trace
1	Ms Maretha Alant	PO Box 3542, Knysna, 6570	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376125ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
2	Mr Cecil Brummer	PO Box 2120, Hermanus, 7200	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376117ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
3	Mr Gcinile Dumse	Private Bag X4, Tecoma, East London, 5214	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376103ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
4	Cllr Gloria Kausele	PO Box 47, Kirkwood, 6120	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376094ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
5	Mr Bhokokwakhe Kunene	PO Box 7019, East London, 5200	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376085ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
6	Mr Peter Lotter	PO Box 11100, Algoa Park 6005	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376077ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
7	Mr Randall Moore	PO Box 11100, Algoa Park 6005	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376063ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
8	Mr Lonwabo Ngoqo	PO Box 47, Kirkwood, 6120	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376050ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
9	Mr Anban Padayachee	PO Box 52, Addo, 6105	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376045ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R
10	Mr Russel Smart	PO Box 76693, NMMU, Port Elizabeth, 6031	<b>REGISTERED LETTER</b> <small>(with a domestic insurance option)</small> ShareCall 0860 111 502 www.sppo.co.za RC324376032ZA CUSTOMER COPY 301028R

<b>Number of Letters Posted:</b>	10
<b>Signature of Client:</b>	
<b>Signature of Accepting Officer:</b>	



○ Hand Delivered Copies (CD and Hard Copies)

DATE	REPORT	ORGANISATION	RECIPIENT	
			PRINT	SIGN
08/03/2019	Scheepersvlei - Draft EIA (hard copy + cd)	DEBEAT -> Anelies Struwig		
09/03/2019	Scheepersvlei - Draft EIA (hard copy)	DEBEAT -> Luzuko Dali		
05/05/2019	Scheepersvlei - Draft EIA (hard copy + CD)	DWS -> Marisa Bloem	M. Bloem	
05/03/2019	Scheepersvlei - Draft EIA (CD)	DEDAR -> Ruffus Maloma	M. MALOMA	
05/03/2019	Scheepersvlei - Draft EIA (CD)	DAFF -> Thabo Teko	N. Maxolo	