

APPENDIX E: COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE TO I&APS

PRE-APPLICATION PHASE: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT AND REGISTRATION

Letter 1: Notice of the Scoping and EIA Process

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



Public Process Consultants
Environmental Impact Assessment and
Public Participation Management

30 August 2017

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

Dear «Title» «Surname»

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

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

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

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

A full list of the listed activities which may be triggered by the proposed development and require Environmental Authorisation are contained in the accompanying Background Information Document (BID). Public Process Consultants has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA process for this project.

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

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

Yours sincerely

SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Letter 1: Email sent to I&APs



Wed 2017/08/30 9:06 AM

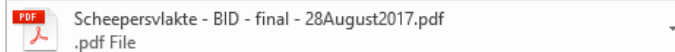
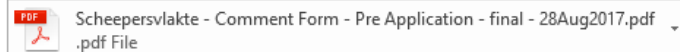
Marisa Jacoby

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

To

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

Bcc



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30 August 2017

Dear Interested and Affected Party/ Organ of State

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

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

Regards

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







Wed 2017/09/06 11:08 AM

Marisa Jacoby

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

To 'screechmbride@gmail.com'

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

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

Good Afternoon Mr Screech

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

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

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

We trust you will find the above in order.

Thank you.

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

From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 30 August 2017 9:06 AM
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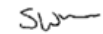
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Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

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Letter 1: Comment Form

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Pre-Application Comment and Registration Form

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

Return Completed Reply Form to:

Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27688, Greenacres 0057
Phone: 041 – 374 8426 or Fax 041-373 2002 or Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za

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

Please provide your full contact details:

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

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

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

YES
NO

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

Registration and comment form for Issues and Concerns

Letter 1: Background Information Document

FULL SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, AUGUST 2017



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PROJECT LOCALITY

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

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

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

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

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

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

ALTERNATIVES AND SITE SELECTION

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

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

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

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GN R324 – Listing Notice 3 requiring Basic Assessment	
Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>2. The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas, in: (dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (ff) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p>	<p>The proposed agricultural development will require the construction of new dam/ s, which is anticipated to exceed 250 cubic meters. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan. The location of the dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process.</p>
<p>4. The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas;</p>	<p>It is anticipated that internal vehicle tracks in excess of 4 meters will be required to service various sections of the proposed cultivated areas. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan. The width of the internal roads will be determined through the assessment process.</p>
<p>10. The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve; (ii) Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined;</p>	<p>The proposed development will require the temporary storage of chemicals on site, as well as the above ground storage of ~14 000 litres of fuel. It is therefore anticipated that combined capacity to store dangerous goods on site may exceed 30 cubic metres. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>
<p>12. The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p>	<p>A portion of the vegetation on site has been identified as Albany Alluvial Vegetation by the NBA and VegMap mapping resources. This vegetation type is listed as endangered in terms of Section 52 of NEMBA. The vegetation types which occur on site will be confirmed by a vegetation specialist through the assessment process.</p>

<p>14. The development of— <i>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p>where such development occurs— <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i> <i>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i></p>	<p>The proposed agricultural development will require the construction of new dam/ s on the site. The size and location of the new dam/ s will be determined through the assessment process. In addition, vehicle tracks, as well as irrigation pipelines may require construction/ installation through watercourses on the site. The layout for the proposed development will be informed by specialists through the assessment process. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>
<p>18. The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>a. Eastern Cape</p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i> <i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i> <i>(kk) A watercourse; or</i></p>	<p>Access to the site is proposed off an existing access road on the southern boundary of the site. The Traffic Impact Assessment, which will form part of the Scoping and EIA process, will make recommendations with regards to access to the site. The existing access road may need to be widened and / or lengthened in order to provide the necessary access for the vehicles that will be utilised on site. The site is located within the Eastern Cape, outside an urban area and within ~7km of Addo Elephant National Park. The area under assessment falls within a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2) in terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan.</p>

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

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

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

- Vegetation and Aquatic Assessment
- Soil Suitability Assessment

- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

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

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

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

- **Draft Consultation Scoping Report Review**

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

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

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

Phase 2: Application and Scoping Phase

- **Application Form Submission**

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

- **Consultation Scoping Report Review**

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

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

- **Final Scoping Report Submission**

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

Phase 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Phase

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

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

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

Address issues that have been raised through the Scoping process

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

Assess potential impacts

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

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

- **Final EIA Report and EMPr Submission**

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

Phase 4: Decision Making and Appeal Period

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

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP?

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

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Sandy Wren, Public Process Consultants

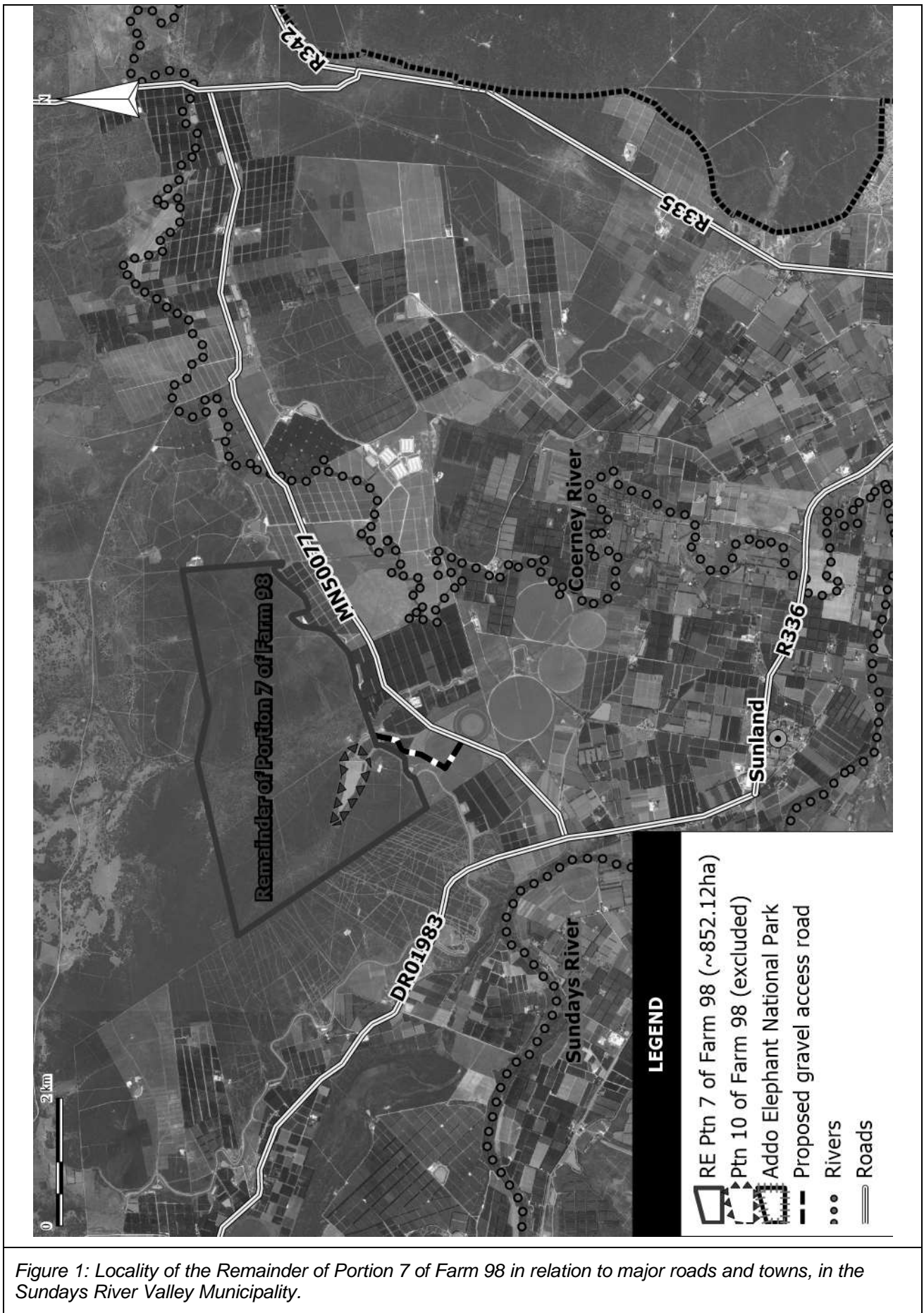
PO Box 27688, Greenacres, 6057.

Phone 041-374 8426

Fax 041-373 2002

Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za

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



Letter 2: Notice of Draft CSR Review

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



Public Process Consultants
Environmental Impact Assessment, and
Public Participation Management

25 October 2017

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

Dear «Title» «Surname»

RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY

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 Consultation Scoping Report (Draft CSR) for a non-legislated **31-day comment period**, extending from the **25 October 2017 to 24 November 2017**.

The Draft CSR has been prepared in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). A comprehensive list of the listed activities which may require Environmental Authorisation is included in Chapter Four of the report and are summarised in the attached Executive Summary.

Availability of Information

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the report, we have enclosed with this correspondence, an Executive Summary of the Draft CSR, as well as a comment form. Full copies of the report can be downloaded from the website www.publicprocess.co.za. The issues that have been raised to date by I&APs and Organs of State, as well as the responses provided, are included in the Comments and Responses Trail in Chapter Four of the report.

Input received from I&APs and Organs of State forms an important part of the Scoping Process and assists in determining the scope and Terms of Reference for specialist studies, as well as the assessment of alternatives to be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the assessment. Chapter Six of the Draft CSR provides an outline of the specialist studies proposed to form part of the EIA phase of the assessment, as well as the aspects that need to be assessed. The comments made by I&APs during the current comment period, will be included in the Consultation Scoping Report (CSR), prior to it being released for a legislated 30-day comment period. You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft CSR by the **24 November 2017**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, contact details above.

Next Step in the Process

The next step in the Scoping Process entails the inclusion of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the CSR, the submission of the Application Form to the competent authority and the release of the CSR for the legislated 30-day comment period. Comments received during the review of the CSR will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report (FSR), prior to it being submitted to the competent authority for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the FSR to the competent authority.

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 during this Scoping and EIA process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SW'.

SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Letter 2: Email sent to I&APs



Wed 2017/10/25 12:48 PM

Marisa Jacoby

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM

To

Bcc 'john.adendorff@sanparks.org'; 'bloemm@dwa.gov.za'; 'willem@sunrivercitrus.co.za'; 'cecil@suncitrus.co.za'; 'chiltonp@dws.gov.za'; 'andreccrouse@iafrica.com'; 'Div.DeVilliers@dedia.gov.za'; 'pdupless@mandelametro.gov.za'; 'GcinileD@daff.gov.za'; 'Fouriel@dwaf.gov.za'; 'Jayshree.Govender@nmmu.ac.za'; 'morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za'; 'adriaan.grobler85@gmail.com'; 'hume@kirkwood.co.za'; 'ngkausele55555@gmail.com'; 'KuneneB@dws.gov.za'; 'Peter.Lotter@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'Ruffus.Maloma@drdar.gov.za'; 'randall.moore@dpw.ecape.gov.za'; 'marliza@intekom.co.za'; 'nellyn@srvm.gov.za'; 'NokoyoD@daff.gov.za'; 'hank.prinsloo@drdlr.gov.za'; 'screechmcbride@gmail.com'; 'rsmart@nmmu.ac.za'; 'Alan.Southwood@deaet.ecape.gov.za'; 'andries.struwig@deaet.ecape.gov.za'; 'boeram@srvalley.co.za'; 'dcvromans@gmail.com'; 'edwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'adwalton@srvalley.co.za'; 'mbali.zuma@drdlr.gov.za'; Sandy Wren;

You forwarded this message on 2017/10/25 12:55 PM.



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

25 October 2017

Dear Interested and Affected Party / Organ of State

RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY

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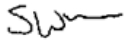
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We look forward to your participation during this Scoping and EIA process.

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Regards

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







Wed 2017/10/25 12:55 PM


Marisa Jacoby

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM

To 'henk.prinsloo@drdlr.gov.za'

 Scheepersvlakte - Comment Form - DCSR - final - 25Oct2017.pdf
.pdf File

 Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - Executive Summary - final - Oct2017.pdf
.pdf File

 Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - Locality Map - final - Oct2017.pdf
.pdf File

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25 October 2017

Dear Interested and Affected Party / Organ of State

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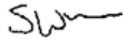
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Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Regards

Marisa Jacoby (BSc Hons)
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Letter 2: Email sent to Harms du Plessis – Lower Sundays River Water Users Association

From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2017 1:13 PM
To: 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za'
Subject: Email 2 of 2: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM
Attachments: Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App G - Water Use Licence - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App H - Locality Map - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App A - Project EAP CV - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App B - Correspondence with DEDEAT - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App C - Advert & Site Notice - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App D - Project Databases - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakte - DCSR - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - Oct2017.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

From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2017 1:10 PM
To: 'info@sundaysriverwater.co.za' <info@sundaysriverwater.co.za>
Subject: Email 1 of 2: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM

Email 1 of 2...

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Phone 041 374 8426 Fax 041 373 2002
Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za
Ck 97/32984/23 VAT 44601 68273

25 October 2017

Mr Harms du Plessis
Lower Sundays River Water Users Association
PO Box 10

Sunland
6115

Dear Mr du Plessis

RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY

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 Consultation Scoping Report (Draft CSR) for a non-legislated **31-day comment period**, extending from the **25 October 2017 to 24 November 2017**. The Draft CSR has been prepared in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). A comprehensive list of the listed activities which may require Environmental Authorisation is included in Chapter Four of the report and are summarised in the enclosed Executive Summary.

Availability of Information

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the report, we have included with this correspondence, an electronic copy of the Draft CSR including an Executive Summary and a comment form. Full copies of the report can also be downloaded from the website www.publicprocess.co.za. The issues that have been raised to date by I&APs and Organs of State, as well as the responses provided, are included in the Comments and Responses Trail in Chapter Four of the report.

Input received from I&APs and Organs of State forms an important part of the Scoping Process and assists in determining the scope and Terms of Reference for specialist studies, as well as the assessment of alternatives to be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the assessment. Chapter Six of the Draft CSR provides an outline of the specialist studies proposed to form part of the EIA phase of the assessment, as well as the aspects that need to be assessed. The comments made by I&APs during the current comment period, will be included in the Consultation Scoping Report (CSR), prior to it being released for a legislated 30-day comment period. You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft CSR by the **24 November 2017**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, contact details above.

Next Step in the Process

The next step in the Scoping Process entails the inclusion of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the CSR, the submission of the Application Form to the competent authority and the release of the CSR for the legislated 30-day comment period. Comments received during the review of the CSR will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report (FSR), prior to it being submitted to the competent authority for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the FSR to the competent authority.

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 during this Scoping and EIA process.

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

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



Letter 2: Email sent to Sello Mokhanya – Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2017 1:07 PM
To: 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za'
Subject: Email 2 of 2: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM
Attachments: Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App C - Advert & Site Notice - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App D - Project Databases - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App E - Correspondence to I&APs - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App F - Correspondence from I&APs - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App G - Water Use Licence - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App H - Locality Map - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App A - Project EAP CV - final - Oct2017.pdf; Scheepersvlakke - DCSR - App B - Correspondence with DEDEAT - final - Oct2017.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
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From: Marisa Jacoby
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2017 1:02 PM
To: 'smokhanya@ecphra.org.za' <smokhanya@ecphra.org.za>
Subject: Email 1 of 2: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, SRVM

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
Ck 97/32984/23 VAT 44601 68273

25 October 2017

Mr Sello Mokhanya
Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

Cnr Amalinda Drive and Scholl Street
East London
5252

Dear Mr Mokhanya

RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD: DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 7 OF THE FARM SCHEEPERS VLAKTE NO. 98, IN THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY

As a registered Organ of State on the database for the above project you are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Consultation Scoping Report (Draft CSR) for a non-legislated **31-day comment period**, extending from the **25 October 2017 to 24 November 2017**. The Draft CSR has been prepared in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). A comprehensive list of the listed activities which may require Environmental Authorisation is included in Chapter Four of the report and are summarised in the enclosed Executive Summary.

Availability of Information

In order to assist you with the submission of any comments you may have on the report, we have included with this correspondence, an electronic copy of the Draft CSR including an Executive Summary and a comment form. Full copies of the report can also be downloaded from the website www.publicprocess.co.za. The issues that have been raised to date by I&APs and Organs of State, as well as the responses provided, are included in the Comments and Responses Trail in Chapter Four of the report.

Input received from I&APs and Organs of State forms an important part of the Scoping Process and assists in determining the scope and Terms of Reference for specialist studies, as well as the assessment of alternatives to be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the assessment. Chapter Six of the Draft CSR provides an outline of the specialist studies proposed to form part of the EIA phase of the assessment, as well as the aspects that need to be assessed. The comments made by I&APs during the current comment period, will be included in the Consultation Scoping Report (CSR), prior to it being released for a legislated 30-day comment period. You are required to submit any comments that you may have on the Draft CSR by the **24 November 2017**, to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, contact details above.

Next Step in the Process

The next step in the Scoping Process entails the inclusion of the comments received from I&APs during this comment period, into the CSR, the submission of the Application Form to the competent authority and the release of the CSR for the legislated 30-day comment period. Comments received during the review of the CSR will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report (FSR), prior to it being submitted to the competent authority for their decision making. As a registered I&AP on the project database you will be notified in writing of the submission of the FSR to the competent authority.

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 during this Scoping and EIA process.

Yours sincerely



SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER

Regards
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Letter 2: Executive Summary of Draft CSR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The project proponent, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, proposes to develop 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. Located within the boundary of the same property, is Portion 10 of Farm 98, within which a dam, owned by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for water supply to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), measuring ~31ha, is situated. Portion 10 of Farm 98 **does not** form part of this assessment process. Access to the farm is gained via an existing gravel road, which connects to the gravel MN50077 road, and which crosses a portion of the LSRWUA canal (via an existing bridge) on the southern boundary of the farm. Scheepers Vlakke Farm is located ~6km north of Sunland, in the SRVM. The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is located ~7km east of the farm.

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): 9. (i) and (ii); 12. (i) and (ii) (a) and (c); 13.; 19.; 24. (ii); 56. (i) and (ii).
- Listing Notice 2 (GN R325): 16.
- Listing Notice 3 (GN R324): 2. a. ii. (dd) and (ff); 4. a. i. (ee) and (gg); 10. a. i. (ee), (gg) and (ii); 12. a. i.; 14. (i) and (ii) (a) and (c) a. i. (ff) and (hh); 18. a. i. (ee), (gg) and (kk).

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

Subject to the outcome of the assessment process, specialist studies, technical input and consultation process, the project proponent, Scheepersvlakte Farms (Pty) Ltd, intends to utilise the agricultural potential of the land for the cultivation of annual crops (e.g. maize) and the establishment of a variety of citrus. The area which will form part of this assessment process measures ~852ha and is zoned for agriculture. The farm portion is currently undeveloped and the area to be cultivated, including associated infrastructure, will be determined by the outcome of the various specialist assessments forming part of this Scoping and EIA process.

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

There are currently three existing structures on the Farm, which are proposed to be renovated in order to provide additional storage and logistical support for the proposed agricultural development. In addition to renovating the existing structures, it is proposed that a new pre-sort packhouse (~7 000m²) and a turning circle for the delivery/ collection of equipment, as well as crops and fruit be constructed. The development will further require a new logistical services area, comprised of a workshop and storage area, administration area, as well as various staff facilities under roof. Finally, staff housing, including 2 x 3-bedroom managers houses and 3 x 2-bedroom staff houses with associated ablution facilities, stormwater and domestic water, will be required. 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 proponent through the assessment process. The additional buildings proposed on site, as well as the pumping infrastructure associated with the proposed new dam/s, 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, which are outlined in more detail in the sections below:

- 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. 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 approximately a year or two. This process will continue for ~2 - 5 years, until ultimately the entire farm is planted with citrus.

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 approximately a year or two. 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 new irrigation dam/ s;
- Installation of internal water reticulation and irrigation infrastructure (pivot and drip/ micro);
- Planting of crops, as well as a variety of citrus and windbreaks (if required);
- Establishment of internal unpaved service roads and upgrading of an existing access road;
- Construction of a new pre-sort packhouse;
- Construction of a 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 existing and proposed new storage facilities associated with the logistical services area. The following operational phase activities are associated with the project:

- Initial establishment of ~150ha of citrus and ~100ha of maize.
- Thereafter, cultivation of maize for a period of between 2 and 5 years, followed by the establishment of citrus orchards.
- Construction of the additional services and administration facilities as well as accommodation.
- Water for the development will be supplied from the LSRWUA canals which will be reticulated from the proposed new balancing dam/ s; and
- It is anticipated that a number of additional seasonal and permanent employment opportunities will be created by the project.

For more detail regarding the project description see Chapter Two of the Report.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Scheepers Vlake Farm is located in a predominantly agricultural area, as indicated by the surrounding land uses adjacent to the Farm. Although the vegetation is largely untransformed directly adjacent to the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the farm, the surrounding farms are currently engaged in commercial agricultural activities including citrus orchards, commercial chicken production and livestock/ game grazing. A portion of the farm adjacent to the eastern boundary of the area under assessment has been zoned to Open Space III. The southern boundary of the farm abuts existing agricultural lands including citrus orchards and cultivated fields (e.g. lucerne). The northern boundary of the Farm 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 Vlake 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 Vlake Farm is a combination of natural to moderately degraded Sundays Thicket. The STEP and NBA mapping resources have mapped a section of the Farm as Albany Alluvial Vegetation/ Sundays Doringveld. One of the drainage lines present on the farm 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 DWS dam on Portion 10 of Farm 98 (excluded from this assessment), as well as several internal vehicle tracks. Further, portions of the farm are heavily encroached by *Opuntia ficus indica*, which is an indication 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 single flat wetland, located outside the southern boundary of the farm, as well as an unchannelled valley-bottom wetland, located on Portion 10 of Farm 98 (excluded from this assessment) within the boundary of the Farm, were identified using the NFEPA mapping resources. In addition, a non-perennial drainage line/ watercourse appears to have historically run through the middle of the site. However, no water was observed in the drainage line during the site visit. A wetland area was observed adjacent to the southern boundary of the farm. However, the wetland appears to be artificial and potentially as a result of a leak from either the DWS dam on Portion 10 of Farm 98 (excluded from this assessment), or a leak from the underground water pipeline which passes adjacent to the southern boundary of the farm. These onsite observations were supplemented by the review of relevant aerial imagery and planning frameworks for Scheepers Vlake Farm.

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 (**we are here**)
- Application and Scoping Phase
- Environmental Impact Assessment Phase
- Decision Making and Appeal Period

Notice of Intention to commence with Scoping and EIA, dated 29 August 2017, was submitted to the competent authority, DEDEAT. The notice was also sent to all identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Organs of State on 30 August 2017.

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) is being prepared and will be submitted to the competent authority prior to the release of the Consultation Scoping Report (CSR) for the legislated 30-day consultation period. All registered I&APs will be notified in writing of the release of the CSR for the legislated 30-day comment period.

The Final Scoping Report (FSR), together with the Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA, will be prepared for submission to the Provincial DEDEAT for their decision-making, within 44 days of submission of the Application Form. The FSR will include all the comments received from I&APs during the Project Announcement Phase, as well as the review of the Draft Consultation Scoping Report (Draft CSR) and CSR. Should DEDEAT accept the Scoping Report and approve the PoS for EIA, the assessment process will enter into the EIA Phase.

Public Process Consultants has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the Scoping and EIA, including public participation for this application.

For further detail regarding the Scoping Phase of the assessment process including public participation see Chapter Four of the Report. For further detail regarding the Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA see Chapter Six 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.

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 (desk top), as well as the delineation of sensitive no-go areas, and determination of buffer zones. An aquatic assessment will be undertaken to assess the impacts on aquatic features identified on the site, including wetlands, watercourses and drainage areas. To determine the PES of the site and confirm the mapping of CBAs and ESAs, as included in various biodiversity planning frameworks, including the ECBCP and NFEPA mapping resources. To provide recommendations for management/ mitigation of residual impacts.	Deborah Vromans, Ecological Specialist
Desktop Paleontological Impact Assessment	To determine palaeontological features on site and the impact of the proposed development thereon (at a desktop level). To provide recommendations for management/ mitigation of residual impacts.	Jenna Lavin and Ms Kyla Bluff, Cedar Tower Services
Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment	To determine archaeological features on site and assess the potential impacts on these features. To provide 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.	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
TECHNICAL TEAM		
Irrigation Infrastructure	Estimate the quantity of water required to irrigate the proposed development, to be stored on site in proposed new dam/ s. To confirm associated irrigation infrastructure (including pivot and drip/micro irrigation) layout including pipe diameters and length, as well as dam/s location, dimensions, storage capacity and design.	Mr Louis Grobler, CFT
Civil Engineering Services	To determine the footprint and locality of additional structures on site (office / admin and storage area, logistical services area and staff housing, as well as bulk services requirements (domestic water, effluent management and stormwater management).	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 (DEIA Report).

Current Stage in the Process

The project is currently at the stage where a Draft CSR including the PoS for EIA (Chapter Six) is being released for a 31-day authority and I&AP review period which will extend from **25 October 2017 to 24 November 2017**. This step in the process will be followed by the submission of the Application Form to the competent authority, the inclusion of the comments received from I&APs during this period into the CSR and the legislated 30-day comment period on the CSR.

Letter 2: Comment Form

DRAFT CONSULTATION SCOPING REPORT COMMENT FORM

Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment

Proponent: Scheepersvakte Farms (Pty) Ltd
Project: Agricultural Development of the Remainder of Portion 7 of the Farm
Scheepers Vakte 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: 24 November 2017

Please provide your full contact details:

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

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

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

YES
NO

Please clearly state any interest you may have in the project and outline any issues or comments you may have in response to the Draft Consultation Scoping Report (use additional pages if required)