

## FULL SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**UMZI WABANTU AGRICULTURE: Proposed Agricultural Development on a Portion of Portions 2, 3, 4 and the Remainder of Farm 191, Coega Kammas Kloof, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, as well as a new Off-stream Dam and a Water Pipeline in the Sundays River Valley Municipality**



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, October 2021

#### INTRODUCTION

The project proponent, The JN Venter Beleggings Trust, proposes to develop a portion of Portions 2, 3, 4 and the Remainder of Farm 191, Coega Kammas Kloof, for the establishment of citrus orchards and various annual crops, including associated infrastructure (roads, lay down areas and irrigation Infrastructure). It is proposed that ~1054ha will be transformed across the four properties for the establishment of the agricultural development and form a single agricultural unit, hereafter referred to as Umzi Wabantu. The area under assessment measures approximately 2170ha in combined extent and is currently zoned as Agriculture 1. In order to convey irrigation water to the proposed development the proponent proposes to install irrigation pipelines (3 x ø500mm) from a new off-take point on the LSRWUA canal on Farm 714. The pipelines are proposed to be installed across the Sundays River and along service roads and fence lines on several farms for a distance of approximately 16.4 km. The following properties will be affected by the proposed pipeline route:

- Farm 714
- Portion 3 of Farm Buck Kraal No.558
- Remainder of Farm 633
- Farm 682 (Kuduskloof)
- Portion 6 of Farm Buck Kraal No. 558
- Portion 1 of Farm 653
- Remainder of 653, Known as Ikamva Lethu
- Portion 2 of Farm 653
- Remainder of Farm 189

A corridor with a working width of 8 metres is proposed to be cleared for the installation of the pipeline, resulting in the clearance of ~13.2ha. It is further proposed that a new off-stream water storage dam, with a storage capacity of ~213 000m<sup>3</sup> (~6.6ha), will be constructed on the Remainder of Farm 653, known as Ikamva Lethu, in order to provide sufficient water supply required for the agricultural development. The total area proposed to be cleared for the installation of the pipeline as well as the storage dam is thus estimated to be ~20ha. The exact dimensions of and location of both the pipeline route and dam will be confirmed through this assessment process.

The total area that is proposed for clearing on Umzi Wabantu and along the pipeline route is therefore 1074 ha.

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 proponent has appointed Public Process Consultants as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the assessment, including public participation for this project.

#### PROJECT LOCALITY

The farm known as Umzi Wabantu is located along the R335 road (Port Elizabeth/ Addo Road), immediately south of the northern boundary of the NMBM ~15km north of Motherwell. The R335 road bisects the farm known as Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191) from north to south into a western and eastern portion. Portions 2, 3 and 4 of Farm 191 are located adjacent to the north-western boundary of the western portion of Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191). The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is located ~8.5km north-east of the farm portions making up Umzi Wabantu. The start of the pipeline route is proposed to be installed approximately 9.5km north-west of the nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park. The locality map attached provides an overview of the location of the proposed development and associated pipeline.

#### 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 I&APs. To register on the database, complete the comment and registration form included with this correspondence or submit your contact details (via 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.

#### Compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013

The Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA) was enacted to give effect to the constitutional right to privacy by safeguarding personal information processed by a responsible party. You have been identified as a potential Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for this assessment process. As required by Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), your name and interest in this assessment process, as well as your contact information (e.g., telephone number, email address and postal address) will be placed on a register of I&APs for the duration of the assessment process, which

must be submitted to the competent authority, DEDEAT (Sarah Baartman Region). **The I&AP register will not be included in the reports which will be released for public review, nor will it be provided to any other third parties without your explicit consent.** Should you not want your name to be included in the I&AP register, which is submitted to DEDEAT, please specifically request to be de-registered. In which case you will no longer receive correspondence regarding this assessment process. In compliance with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, any information contained in comments made during the assessment process must be included in the reports that are made available for public review. However, this will not include your personal contact information. Therefore, please note that should you make comments during the assessment process it will be accepted that you have given consent for your name and interest in the assessment to be included in reports and for your contact information to be provided to DEDEAT. In addition, should an appeal be lodged against the DEDEAT's decision, the appellant will have to be provided with a copy of the I&AP register, containing your contact information, in order to comply with Regulation 4 (1) of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

#### **WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?**

This document provides you, as an I&AP, with background information on the proposed agricultural development, as well as the Scoping and EIA and Public Participation Process. It indicates how you can become involved in the assessment process, 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), Sarah Baartman Region, with their decision-making.

#### **WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?**

The proponent intends to transform approximately 1054 hectares (49%) on the farm known as Umzi Wabantu which measures approximately 2170ha in combined extent, in order to establish 810ha Citrus Orchards and Annual Crops as well as associated infrastructure. In addition, an area of approximately ~20ha will be disturbed to accommodate the proposed irrigation pipeline route, consisting of three (3)  $\varnothing$ 500mm pipes, and the new storage dam.

The farm portions under assessment are currently zoned for agriculture. A logistical services area will be located on a portion of Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/ 191), which will be utilised to provide logistical and administrative support to the proposed development as well as the proposed Poultry Broiler Facilities, which are currently subject to a separate Scoping and EIA process.

Irrigation water for the development will be provided from the LSRWUA canal system and will be reticulated from a new canal offtake point located on Farm 714, across the Sundays River and then south onto the farm Umzi Wabantu via three (3) uPVC pipelines with an internal diameter of 500mm and a throughput capacity of 340 litres / second each. The pipelines will be installed within the road reserve and over private land for a distance of approximately 16.4 kilometres. Water will be pumped up to and temporarily stored in, the new proposed storage dam (213 000m<sup>3</sup>) on farm Ikamva Lethu (RE/653), whereafter it will be conveyed, under gravity, onto Umzi Wabantu from where it will be reticulated via internal irrigation pipelines of various diameters within the orchards.

The proposed pipeline route is also required to be installed in the road reserve of a proclaimed public road (MR00470) for a distance of ~2.9km and will cross a District Road (R336) via a new wayleave servitude. An application must be made to the Provincial Department of Roads and Transport for a wayleave to place the pipelines in the road reserve. A portion of the water pipeline route is proposed across the Sundays River. It is proposed that three (3)  $\varnothing$ 600mm pipes be installed underneath the Sundays River. The technical details and designs for the river crossing will be confirmed with the relevant specialist during the course of this assessment.

The footprint area that will be disturbed by the installation of the pipeline is conservatively estimated at approximately 13.2ha (8m width x 16 00m length), and the total area for the proposed dam is estimated to be ~6.6ha. Thus, the total combined area required to be cleared for the proposed water pipelines and farm dam is estimated to be ~20ha. The exact dimensions, wall height, and capacity of the dam, as well as the proposed pipeline route will be determined through technical and specialist input during the course of this assessment. The proponent has obtained a water use licence for the taking of water from a water resource in terms of section 40 of the National Water Act which entitles them to utilise 600ha of water from the LSRWUA canal system.

The proposed development will entail the following activities:

- Vegetation clearing
- Levelling and landscaping of the site to provide runoff control and stormwater management
- Establishment of unpaved internal roads to provide access to the orchards and fields
- Establishment of logistical service area
- Installation of irrigation pipelines (~16.4km) from the canal on farm 714 to Umzi Wabantu
- Construction of new pumping infrastructure (i.e. pumphouse, pipe connections, new electrical point)
- Installation of internal irrigation infrastructure
- Planting of orchards and annual crops
- Windbreaks (If required)
- Clearing and construction of the river crossing
- Construction of new storage dam

- Clearing of vegetation
- Excavation for construction of the dam wall and preparation of dam basin
- Installation of outlet pipeline to link with pipeline

The final design and layout of the development and associated water supply infrastructure will be determined through specialist and technical input, authority consultation, as well as consultation with I&APs.

The proponent also proposes to construct two poultry broiler facilities, each with a footprint of ~40 hectares on Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191). This forms part of a separate Scoping and EIA process which has already commenced. As part of that assessment, it is proposed that a dam be constructed on Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191) which will provide temporary storage for the water required in the poultry broiler facilities. This dam will also act as an emergency storage reservoir for the irrigation water required for the proposed Umzi Wabantu agricultural development.

## 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
- Water supply 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.

## OVERVIEW OF THE SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 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 EIA. The table below lists potential listed activities in GN R327, 325 and 324, which trigger a full Scoping and EIA Process and 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. **Farm 191 has been incorrectly mapped as a Protected Area in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. It has been confirmed that the site is neither a formal Protected Area nor an informal Conservation Area.**

EIA Regulations (2014), as amended	Project Component
<b>GN R327 (Listing Notice 1)</b>	
<p><i>"9. The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water—</i></p> <p><i>(i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;"</i></p>	<p>The irrigation water supply required for the development is proposed to be sourced from the LSRWUA canal and conveyed via three new uPVC water pipelines, with an estimated internal diameter of ø500mm and an estimated throughput capacity of 340 liters /second. The pipeline will be installed within a road reserve and over private land, for a distance of approximately 16.4km. The length, internal diameter and throughput capacity of all pipelines will be determined by the project's engineer during the assessment process.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p><i>"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."</i></p>	<p>It is proposed that a new off-stream water storage dam, with a storage capacity of ~213 000 m<sup>3</sup>, will be constructed on Ikamva Lethu (RE/ 653) to supply the required irrigation water for the proposed development. The exact location and dimensions of the dam will be determined through the assessment process.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p><i>"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;"</i></p>	<p>A number of watercourses have been identified on the site and along the proposed pipeline route, including the Sundays River. It is possible that some of the associated infrastructure, for example, roads or pipelines may have to be installed across some of these drainage features (watercourses), thus requiring the deposition, excavation or removal of material of more than 10 cubic metres.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p><i>"24. The development of a road—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding a road—</i></p>	<p>A number of unpaved, internal access roads and vehicle tracks will be required to provide access to orchards and fields. The width of these roads will vary, but some are anticipated to exceed 8 metres. The combined length of the roads proposed to be constructed across Umzi Wabantu will exceed 1 kilometre.</p>

<p>(c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.”</p>	<p>The exact dimensions of the roads will be determined through the assessment process.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p><b>GN R325 (Listing Notice 2)</b></p>	
<p>“15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation,…”</p>	<p>The project proposes the clearing of 1054ha of vegetation for the establishment of citrus orchards and annual crops, including associated infrastructure on Umzi Wabantu as well as an additional ~20ha to accommodate the proposed water supply infrastructure. The total area that is proposed for clearing on Umzi Wabantu and along the pipeline route is therefore 1074 ha.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the majority of vegetation proposed for clearing will be indigenous vegetation.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p><b>GN R324 (Listing Notice 3)</b></p>	
<p>“4. The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p><b>a. Eastern Cape</b></p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in Systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(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>A number of unpaved, internal access roads and vehicle tracks will be required to provide access to orchards and fields. The width of these roads will vary, but some are anticipated to exceed 8 metres. The combined length of the roads proposed to be constructed across Umzi Wabantu will exceed 1 kilometre. The dimensions of the roads will be determined through the assessment process.</p> <p>Umzi Wabantu is in the Eastern Cape, falls outside of an urban area and within 8.5 kilometers of the nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park. The farm Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191) has been incorrectly mapped as a Protected Area in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. It has been confirmed that the site is not a formal Protected Area or an informal Conservation Area. However, Portions 2, 3 and 4 of Farm 191 have been identified as CBAs in the NMBM Bioregional Plan. The aforementioned roads will be required to be installed on these portions.</p> <p><b>The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.</b></p>
<p>“12. The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation…”</p> <p><b>a. Eastern Cape</b></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>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>Water to the proposed development will be supplied via a pipeline with an estimated length of 16.4km, from the LSRWUA canal. The pipeline will have to be installed across the Sundays River and it is possible that the vegetation that will be removed to accommodate the installation of the pipeline in the vicinity may be Albany Alluvial Vegetation which is listed as an Endangered ecosystem in terms of section 52 of NEMBA. The extent of indigenous vegetation to be cleared will be determined by the aquatic and vegetation specialists.</p> <p>The farm Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191) has been incorrectly mapped as a Protected Area in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. It has been confirmed that the site is not a formal Protected Area or an informal Conservation Area. However, Portions 2, 3 and 4 of Farm 191 have been identified as CBAs in the NMBM Bioregional Plan. More than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation is proposed to be cleared on these portions.</p> <p><b>This listed activity requires Environmental Authorisation.</b></p>
<p>“14. The development of—</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p>	<p>A number of drainage lines have been identified on the site. It is possible that some of the associated infrastructure, for example, roads or pipelines may have to be installed across some of these drainage features (watercourses) or within 32 metres thereof.</p> <p>Water to the proposed development will be supplied via a pipeline with an estimated length of 16.4km, from the LSRWUA on Farm 714. The pipeline will cross the Sundays River and may possibly cross other watercourses along the route.</p>

<p><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><b>a. Eastern Cape</b></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><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 disturbance footprint is likely to exceed 10 square metres within a watercourse or within 32 metres thereof.</p> <p>The area under assessment is in the Eastern Cape, falls outside of an urban area and within 8.5 kilometers of the nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park. Coega Kammass Kloof (RE/191) has been incorrectly mapped as a Protected Area in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. It has been confirmed that the site is not a formal Protected Area or an informal Conservation Area. However, Portions 2, 3 and 4 of Farm 191 have been identified as CBAs in the NMBM Bioregional Plan.</p> <p><b>The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.</b></p>
<p><i>"18. The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p><b>a. Eastern Cape</b></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in Systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>(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;</i></p> <p><i>(kk) A watercourse; or"</i></p>	<p>Some of the existing roads on the farm may be required to be widened or lengthened.</p> <p>The area under assessment is in the Eastern Cape, falls outside of an urban area and within 8.5 kilometers of the nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park. Coega Kammass Kloof (RE/191) has been incorrectly mapped as a Protected Area in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. It has been confirmed that the site is not a formal Protected Area or an informal Conservation Area. However, Portions 2, 3 and 4 of Farm 191 have been identified as CBAs in the NMBM Bioregional Plan.</p> <p>A number of drainage lines have been identified on the site. It is possible that some of the existing roads that require widening or lengthening may have to be installed across some of these drainage features (watercourses) or within 100 metres thereof.</p> <p><b>The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.</b></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.

In addition, application may have to be made for a Water Use Licence in terms of Section 21 water uses as stipulated in the Water Use Licence Application and Appeals Regulations, 2017 published in GN R267.

The Scoping and EIA Process 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 Scoping and EIA Process being implemented can be divided into four phases namely:

- **Pre-Application Scoping Phase**
  - Project Announcement and Registration of I&APs (30 days) (**WE ARE HERE**)
  - Draft Consultation Scoping Report Review (30 days)
- **Application and Scoping Phase**
  - Submission of Application Form for Environmental Authorisation to the DEDEAT
  - Consultation Scoping Report Review (30 days)
  - Submission of Final Scoping Report to the DEDEAT
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Phase (EIA Phase)**
  - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Review (30 days)
  - Submission of 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:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment

- Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Soil Suitability Assessment
- Roads and Wet Services Report

## **PHASE 1: PRE-APPLICATION SCOPING PHASE (CURRENT STAGE)**

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- **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 in which 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, including a Comments and Responses Trail, indicating the issues and concerns raised by I&APs during the **30-day** project announcement period, will be compiled. This report will include the Plan of Study for EIA, outlining the specialist studies proposed to be undertaken for this assessment, as well as the methodology for the identification and rating of impacts. As per Appendix 2 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the objectives of the Scoping Process are to:

- *“identify relevant policies and legislation relevant to the activity;*
- *motivate the need and desirability of the proposed activity in the context of the preferred 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;*
- *confirm 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](http://www.publicprocess.co.za).

## **PHASE 2: APPLICATION AND SCOPING PHASE**

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- **Submission of Application Form**

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. This report 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](http://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 affected/ Juristic Organs of State and State Departments, during the review processes, will be 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. No I&AP review period is proposed for the FSR.

## **PHASE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE**

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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 Phase 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; and
- Recommend management actions to enhance positive benefits or avoid/ minimise negative impacts.

All registered I&APs will be notified in writing of the **30-day** comment period. All comments received from I&APs and authorities via meetings held or written correspondence during this period will be 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. 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**

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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?**

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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 Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner (EAP) indicated below.
  - By registering your interest in the project, you will be kept informed throughout the Scoping and EIA 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 or mailing a comment form to the EAP indicated below.
  - By telephonically contacting the EAP if you have a query, comment, or require further project information.
  - By reviewing the Draft Reports and submitting any comments/ issues within the specified comment periods.

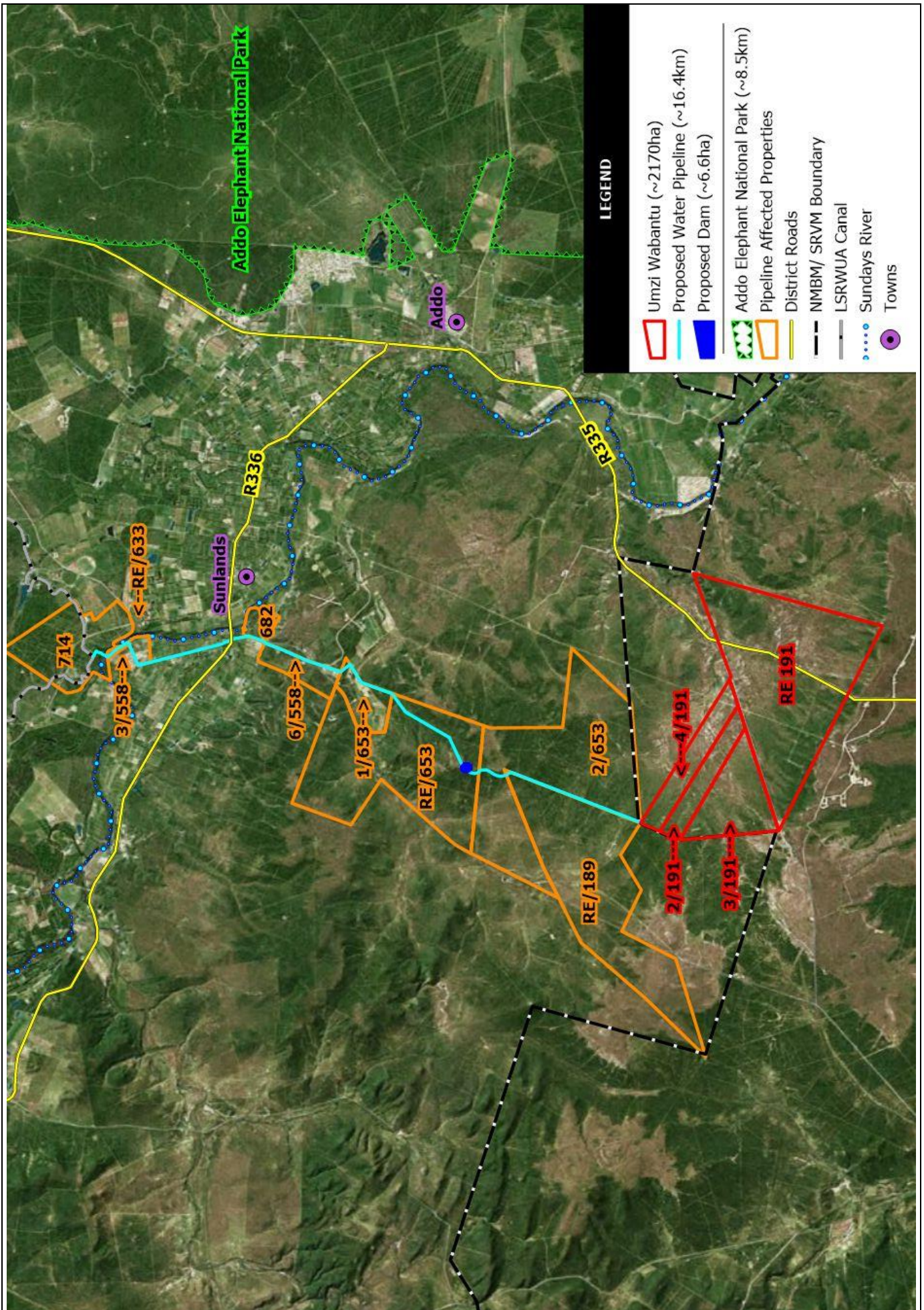
#### **WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?**

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**Information on the project can be downloaded from the following website: [www.publicprocess.co.za](http://www.publicprocess.co.za)**





Locality map of Umzi Wabantu Agriculture and proposed water supply infrastructure, in relation to major roads, municipal boundaries and towns, in the Sundays River Valley Municipality and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.



