SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

UMZI WABANTU MIXED-USE AGRICULTURE: ***Proposed Agricultural Development on a Portion of Portion 3 of Farm 191 and Remainder of the Farm Coega Kammas Kloof 191, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, and Water Storage Infrastructure and Pipeline in the Sundays River Valley Municipality***

Public Process Consultants
Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation Management

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT, JULY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The project proponent, Die JN Venter Beleggings Trust, proposes to develop a portion of Portion 3 of Farm 191 and Remainder of the Farm Coega Kammas Kloof 191, hereafter referred to as Coega Kammas Kloof (Rem/191), for the establishment of a mixed-use agricultural development, referred to as **Umzi Wabantu**. The properties for the agricultural component of the project measure approximately 1778 ha in combined extent and are zoned Agriculture 1.

The Scoping Process for Umzi Wabantu was initiated during October 2021, and at that time consisted of two additional properties, namely Portion 4 and 2 of Farm 191. Subsequently, activities have taken place on these properties, without receipt of an environmental authorisation and these activities are now subject to a Section 24G (S24G) application. During the processing of a S24G no other activities can be considered by the decision-making authority on the properties which are subject to a S24G. The specialist studies for Umzi Wabanti have however assessed all four properties, a worst-case scenario, and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) will, through the Scoping and EIA process, specify what properties and activities form part of the current application.

The proponent proposes a mixed-use agricultural development comprising a variety of crop cultivation, namely, citrus, vegetables and lucerne under various forms of irrigation such as pivot, cannon, drip and micro; as well as a dairy herd of 3000 cows, including associated infrastructure.

To convey irrigation water to the proposed development, a new off-stream water storage dam / reservoir, with a storage capacity of ~250 000m³ and ~7ha in extent, is proposed on the Remainder of Farm 653 (Ikamva Lethu). To convey water to the dam/ reservoir and from there to Umzi Wabantu, the proponent proposes to install 3 × ⌀500mm underground irrigation pipes from a new off-take point on the Lower Sundays River Water Users Associations (LSRWUA) canal on Farm 714 over a distance of ~ 24 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, and Portion 3 of Farm 189.

A 1km portion of the irrigation pipe which was proposed to be located immediately within the north-western fence line of Portion 4 and 2 has been relocated to the immediate adjacent side of the same fence line, due to the S24G, and is now proposed to be installed on the neighbour's property, namely, Portion 3 of Farm 189. Subsequently this property has been included as part of the scope of this assessment.

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 Sandra Wren of Public Process Consultants as the registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment (EIA), including public participation for this project.

PROJECT LOCALITY

The area under assessment is located along the R335 road (Gqeberha/ Addo Road), south of the northern boundary of the NMBM and ~15km north of Motherwell. The southern portion of Coega Kammas Kloof (Rem 191) is bordered by PPC Cement and the R335 road bisects the farm from north to south into a western and eastern portion. Portion 3 of Farm 191 is located immediately northwest of Coega Kammas Kloof (Rem 191). The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park is 9.3km north of the proposed installation location of the irrigation pipeline through the Sundays River, in proximity to the canal on Farm 714. The locality map attached provides an overview of the location of the proposed development, dam/ reservoir and associated pipeline route.

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

- Background information on the proposed development.
- An overview of the Scoping and EIA process as well as Public Participation.
- How to register your interest on the database for this Assessment and access information on the project (www.publicprocess.co.za).
- Where to submit comments of concern to be addressed during the assessment process.

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 Scoping and EIA from the outset. Public Participation is an important component of the Scoping and EIA Process and together with scientific input received through specialist assessments, 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.

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.** Information on the project will be made available on the website www.publicprocess.co.za. To register as an I&AP, complete the comment and registration form included with this correspondence or submit your contact details to the registered EAP indicated at the end of this documentation, providing your full name, address and contact details (email and contact number).

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 as well as 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 interests 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. Should you not wish to receive information on the project this must be indicated in writing, in which case you will no longer receive correspondence regarding this assessment process.

Compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013
As required by Regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and the National Appeals Regulations, 2014, as a registered I&AP your contact information (e.g., name, phone number, email and postal address) will be placed on a register for the duration of the assessment process, which must be submitted to the competent authority, DEDEAT (Sarah Baartman Region**.** Should you submit a comment during this assessment process your full name, organisation and comment raised will be included in the reports released into the public domain. If you have an objection to any of your contact information being released into the public domain, ***such objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comment submitted***. Should you not remove your name from the register this will be viewed as consent to provide your contact information.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?
Subject to the outcome of the various specialist studies forming part of this assessment the project proponent proposes to transform **~916.5 ha** for the mixed-use agriculture development, this entails ~890 hectares on two of the farm portions known as Umzi Wabantu for a mixed-use agricultural development. The associated water storage and transfer infrastructure measures ~26.5 ha.

The crop cultivation component of the project is proposed to consist of ~315 ha for a variety of citrus orchards, ~414ha under pivot irrigation for a variety of annual crops and lucerne as well as ~82 ha under cannon irrigation for growing vegetables or lucerne, **a total of 811ha.** Infrastructure associated with the crop component is anticipated to be laydown area, a logistical services area, internal roads, internal irrigation pipes of varying diameters (~150mm to 250mm) and lengths as well as varying types (drip, micro, cannon and pivot irrigation).

The project proponent also proposes the management and maintenance of a dairy herd of 3000 cattle for milking. Depending on the availability of livestock it is anticipated the stocking of the site could take place over a period of up to 10 years. Portions of Umzi Wabantu proposed for pivot irrigation will be used for the growing of lucerne for grazing by ~1500 head of cattle. The remaining 1500, are proposed to be reared in one of three cow houses. Infrastructure associated with raising, managing and maintaining the dairy herd, include, but is not limited to: 1 x dairy with a double rotary, 1 x feed pad, 2 x calf houses, 2 x cow houses, 1 x silage feed bunker, 2 x lined earthen reservoirs and staff housing, which is located on **a ~15 ha portion** of the site. A new access road is proposed to be constructed off the gravel DR01958 for vehicular traffic to the dairy (feed drop off, manure collection, milk collection).

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. To ensure a sufficient water supply it is proposed a new off-stream water storage dam/ reservoir, with a storage capacity of ~250 000m³ and a ~7ha footprint, is constructed on the Remainder of Farm 653, (Ikamva Lethu). To convey water to the dam/ reservoir and from there to Umzi Wabantu, the proponent proposes to install 3 × ⌀500mm underground irrigation pipes from a new off-take point on the LSRWUA canal on Farm 714 over a distance of ~ 24 km. The pipelines are proposed to be installed across the Sundays River, along service roads, fence lines and on private properties, with a working corridor width of 8 metres, measuring **~26.5 ha in total**. Two of the pipelines are proposed to provide water to Umzi Wabantu and one to the proposed project Hard Rock, which is subject to a separate application and assessment by the same project applicant. The water pipeline from Umzi Wabantu to Hard Rock will be assessed as part of a separate application.

The proposed development will entail the following activities:
- Vegetation clearing, and placement of vegetation in rows for drying
- Ripping of the soil
- Construction of laydown areas, internal roads and access roads
- Construction of the new farm dam in parallel to the installation of the main irrigation pipelines
- Installation of internal irrigation pipes and irrigation infrastructure (drip, micro, pivot or cannon)
- Planting of crops (citrus, vegetables and/ or lucerne)
- Establishment of the logistical service area
- Construction of the livestock component, dairy, feed pads, cow housing, calf housing, earthen reservoirs, feed silos, staff housing, access and internal roads.

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.

In parallel to this assessment, and subject to receipt of a positive environmental Authorisation, should such be granted, a separate Assessment is being undertaken, by the same project application, for the proposed construction and operation of a broiler house facility and 5 MW photovoltaic facility, as well as associated infrastructure, on a ~ 95ha portion of Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191). As part of this assessment and on Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191), it is proposed that an off-stream water storage dam / reservoir is constructed to provide water for the poultry broiler house facilities as well as to provide backup water supply to Umzi Wabantu. The cumulative impact of both projects is being assessed by specialists as part of these assessments.

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 ASSSESSMENT 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. ***Coega Kammas Koof* (Rem *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
GN R327 (Listing Notice 1)	
4. The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed - *(i) 20 square metres per large stock unit and more than 500 units per facility;* *(ii) 8 square meters per small stock unit and;*	The dairy and feed pad are proposed to be constructed to accommodate 800 cows, the cow houses 500 cows per cow house and calf houses 800. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
8. The development and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.	The footprint for the various components associated with the dairy herd, are outside of an industrial complex and will exceed 2000 square metres in extent. In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), the cow houses, calf houses and dairy could be considered agri-industrial facilities. **The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.**
"9. The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water— *(i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or* *(ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;"*	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 road reserves and over private land, for a distance of approximately 24km. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
11. The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – *(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or*	The development of the proposed mixed use agricultural development is located outside of an urban area and an industrial complex. The cultivation component of the project together with the requirements of the diary will be determined through the assessment process. **The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.**
12. The development of - *(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;*	A number of watercourses and drainage lines have been identified on the site and along the pipeline route, including the Sundays River. Associated infrastructure, e.g. roads or pipelines will have to be installed across some of these drainage

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; -*	lines (watercourses), and the total footprint is anticipated to exceed 100 m^2 and within 32 meters of a watercourse. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
"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."	It is proposed that a dam/reservoir, with a storage capacity of ~250 000 m^3, will be constructed on Ikamva Lethu (RE/ 653) to supply the required irrigation water for the proposed development. **The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.**
"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;"	A number of watercourses and drainage lines have been identified on the site and along the proposed pipeline route, including the Sundays River. Associated infrastructure, for example, roads or pipelines will have to be installed across some of these drainage lines (watercourses), thus requiring the deposition, excavation or removal of material of more than 10 cubic metres. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
"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;* *but excluding a road—* *(c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter."*	A number of unpaved, internal access roads and vehicle tracks as well as a gravel cambered road will be required to provide access to the various project components. 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 will exceed 1 kilometre. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
GN R325 (Listing Notice 2)	
"15. The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation,..."	The project proposes the clearance of ~890ha for the establishment of a mixed-use agricultural development, including associated infrastructure on Umzi Wabantu as well as an additional ~26.5ha to accommodate the proposed water supply infrastructure. The combined area proposed for clearing is ~915 ha. It is anticipated the majority of vegetation proposed for clearing will be indigenous vegetation. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
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.	It is proposed that a new off-stream water storage dam, with a storage capacity of ~250 000 m^3, will be constructed on Ikamva Lethu (RE/ 653) to supply the required irrigation water for the proposed development. The dam wall height is anticipated to be 10.5 meters. **The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.**
GN R324 (Listing Notice 3)	
"4. The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. ***a. Eastern Cape*** *i. Outside urban areas:* *(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in Systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;*	A number of unpaved, internal access roads and vehicle tracks will be required to provide access to the various project components. The width of these roads will vary, but some are anticipated to exceed 4 metres. The area under assessment is located in the Eastern Cape and outside of an urban area. The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) is 9.7km east of a portion of the Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191), which is proposed for cannon irrigation and will require internal gravel roads. This property 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. Portion 3 of Farm 191 has been identified as a CBA in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. The aforementioned roads will be required to be installed on Portion 3 of Farm 191.

	This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.
"*12. The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation…* ***a. Eastern Cape*** *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;* *ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;*	Water to the proposed development will be supplied via a pipeline with an estimated length of ~24km, from the LSRWUA canal. The pipes are proposed 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. 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, Portion 3 of Farm 191 has been identified as a CBA in the terms of NMBM Bioregional Pla. More than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation is proposed to be cleared on Portion 3 of Farm 191. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
"14. The development of— *(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;* *where such development occurs—* *(a) within a watercourse;* *(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;* ***a. Eastern Cape*** *i. Outside urban areas:* *(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;* *(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;*	Associated infrastructure, for example, roads or internal irrigation pipes as well as the main irrigation pipe will have to be installed. A number of drainage lines, and watercourses (the Sundays River) have been identified along the main pipeline route and on the properties forming part of the mixed-use agricultural development. The disturbance footprint is likely to exceed 10 square metres within a watercourse or within 32 metres thereof. The area under assessment is located in the Eastern Cape, outside of an urban area. 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. Portion 3 of Farm 191 has been identified as a CBA in terms of NMBM Bioregional Plan. The main irrigation pipe will cross the Sundays River in the north and is within 10km of AENP. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**
"18. The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. ***a. Eastern Cape*** *i. Outside urban areas:* *(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in Systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;* *(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;* *(kk) A watercourse; or"*	There are existing access roads and internal vehicle tracks on the properties under assessment which have been utilised as access roads and for hunting of game. The proposed agricultural development will require new internal vehicle tracks in line with the requirements of the different project components. Existing access roads could be widened by more than 4 meters, within a critical biodiversity area and existing vehicle tracks located within drainage lines may be required to be widened. The area under assessment is located in the Eastern Cape, outside of an urban area. The nearest boundary of the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) is 9.7km east of a portion of the Coega Kammas Kloof (RE/191). 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. Portion 3 of Farm 191 has been identified as a CBA in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. A number of watercourses and drainage lines have been identified on the site and along the proposed pipeline route, including the Sundays River. Existing roads that require widening or lengthening may have to be installed across some of these drainage features (watercourses) or within 100 metres thereof.

	The applicability of this listed activity will be determined through the assessment process.
23. The expansion of— *(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;* *where such expansion occurs—* *(a) within a watercourse;* ***a. Eastern Cape*** *i. Outside urban areas:* *(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;*	There are existing access roads and internal vehicle tracks on the properties under assessment. The proposed agricultural development may require the expansion of existing internal vehicle tracks. Existing roads that require widening or lengthening may have to be installed through some of the drainage features (watercourses) and are anticipated to exceed 10 square meters. The area under assessment is in the Eastern Cape, outside of an urban area. 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. Portions 3 of Farm 191 has been identified as a CBA in terms of the NMBM Bioregional Plan. **This listed activity will require environmental authorisation.**

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. These may include water uses such as Section 21 b, c, i and g, amongst others as deemed by the relevant office during the application process.

Communities / stakeholders who have an interest in the impact of the development on heritage resources are hereby specifically invited to provide comments on the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which forms part of this NEMA process.

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 for this application can be divided into the following phases namely:

- **Pre-Application Scoping Phase**
  - Pre-Application consultation with DEDEAT
  - Project Announcement – adverts, notice boards and letters to I&APs
  - Registration and Comment Period (30-days) (**WE ARE HERE**)
- **Application Form, Draft and Final Scoping Report Phase**
  - Submission of Application Form to DEDEAT
  - Draft Scoping Report Review and Comment Period (30 days)
  - Submission of Final Scoping Report to the DEDEAT
- **Draft and Final Environmental Impact Assessment Phase (EIA Phase)**
  - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Review and Comment Period (30 days)
  - Submission of Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the DEDEAT
- **Decision Making and Appeal Period**

The competent authority must, within 107 days of receipt of the Final EIA and EMPr, reach a decision with regards to the application (Environmental Authorisation Granted or Refused). The applicant must, within 14 days of the date of the decision, notify all registered I&APs of the decision. 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:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment
- Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Soil Suitability Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Roads and Wet Services Report
- Socio-economic Impact Assessment

The Draft Scoping Report will include details of the public participation processes that has been undertaken as part of the pre-application phase for this project.

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

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

This 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. I&APs proactively identified prior to the commencement of the assessment process are provided with a Background Information Document (BID) on the project, a locality map and a comment form. Project information for the various stages of the Assessment will be made available on the website **www.publicprocess.co.za**. An advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and a site notice boards will be placed at appropriate locations in relation to the properties under assessment. To receive further information on the project I&APs are required to register their interest and raise issues of concern within the 30-day comment and registration period, which **extends from 22 July 2025 to 22 August 2025.**

PHASE 2: APPLICATION AND SCOPING PHASE

- **Submission of Application Form**

An Application Form for Environmental Authorisation will be compiled based on the project information provided by the project proponent, specialist input and technical team for submission to the DEDEAT for their review and registration and prior to the commencement of the comment period for the Draft Scoping Report.

- **Draft Scoping Report Review**

Upon registration of the Application Form by DEDEAT, the Draft SR will be released for a minimum, **legislated 30-day comment period**. This report will include a Comments and Responses Trail indicating the issues and concerns raised by I&APs during the Pre-application Scoping Phase of the assessment. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing via email, or in the manner best indicated for communication, of the opportunity to comment. In order to assist I&APs with their understanding of the project and to facilitate the receipt of comments for inclusion in the Final Scoping Report (FSR), I&APs will be provided with an executive summary of the Draft SR, 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, will be included in the **FSR** for submission to DEDEAT for their consideration. All I&APs on the project database will be notified via email 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

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, amongst others, 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 and in line with the applicable legislation. 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 and comment period**. All registered I&APs will be notified via email of the **30-day comment period**. All comments received from I&APs and authorities will be compiled into a Comments and Responses Trail for inclusion in the Final EIA Report, and will be appropriately responded to by the relevant member of the project team. Should the comment fall beyond the scope of this assessment, clear reasoning for this will be provided.

- **Final EIA Report and EMPr Submission**

The Final EIA Report, including the Comments and Responses Trail, will be compiled for submission to the competent authority (DEDEAT) 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 via email 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 via email 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?

Should you wish to register your interest in the project database or raise issues of concern, you are required to respond to this notification:

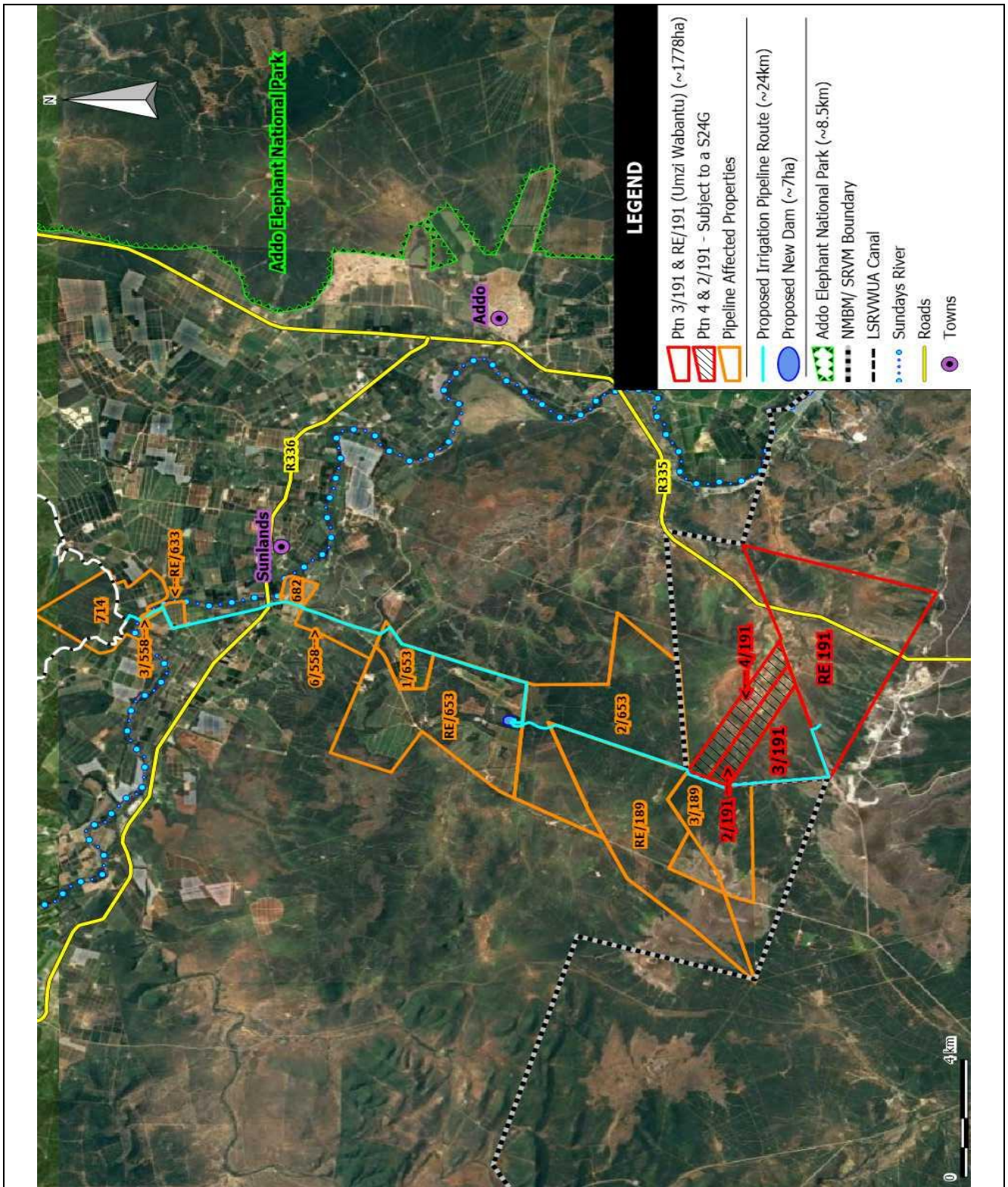
- By emailing a comment form to the consultant indicated below indicating your interest in the project and/ or concern.
- Raise issues of concern for consideration in the assessment process and within the timeframes provided for commenting.

- By registering your interest in the project, you will be kept informed of the process and will be notified of any opportunities to comment.
- By reviewing the Draft Scoping Report and Draft EIA Report and submitting any comments/ issues within the specified comment period.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR SUBMIT A COMMENT?

Sandy Wren
Public Process Consultants
Phone: 041-374 8426
Email: sandy@publicprocess.co.za

Information on the project can be downloaded from the following website: 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.