

SCOPING REPORT

FOR THE PROPOSED RENSBURG EXT 2 DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 68 OF THE FARM HOUTPOORT 392 I.R.

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Project Reference:

GL2909

GDARD Reference:

Gaut002/09-10/N0779

Report Reference:

GL2909_SR2.0

Report date:

February 2011

DOCUMENT PROGRESS

Rensburg Ext 2 (Portion 68 of the Farm Houtpoort 392 I.R.)

Distribution List

Date	Report Reference number	Document Distribution	Number of Copies
2011/02/16	GL2909_SR2.0	GDARD	5 x hard colour copies
2011/02/16	GL2909_SR2.0	Lesedi Local Municipality	4 x hard colour copies

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Purpose of the environmental authorisation application*

Lesedi Local Municipality appointed Greenline Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd to obtain authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as per Regulation 21(3) of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006; relating to the proposed development of Rensburg Extension 2; within the Lesedi Local Municipality.

This document represents the Scoping Report and Plan of Study as stipulated in the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998. The EIA procedure will include conducting a scoping exercise to determine the issues or concerns from the relevant authorities as well as interested and affected parties (I&AP's). The scoping process will include an assessment to determine the likely impacts that the proposed development may have on the environment. It should however be noted that this project is still only in its planning phase and certain aspects may change as the project proceeds.

The need and desirability of the project is for Residential development: There is currently a vast backlog in the low cost and affordable housing segment with a housing waiting list of 8 000 for low cost housing within the Lesedi Local Municipal Area. The development will be supplemented with the required infrastructure. This will also provide new employment opportunities that will follow creating an economically sustainable development.

1.2 *Objective of Scoping*

The purpose of a Scoping Report is to identify the key issues and concerns of the development that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. This can also be seen as a tool that can be used to identify the interested and affected parties (IA&P's). It allows IA&P's the opportunity to raise any concerns or suggestion with regards to the proposed development. This should be considered in the impact assessment phase.

1.3 *Description of the proposed activity and feasible and reasonable alternatives*

Authorisation is required for certain activities, called listed activities, which could potentially have harmful impacts on the environment. Listed activities are determined in the regulations made in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA). A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required as the activity is listed in Government Notice No R. 387 of 2006 (Activity List 2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2006). Listed activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

2 *Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more*

The residential township namely Rensburg Ext 2 has been proclaimed on the Site in 1976, and no development has since been taken place. The Site is located in the southern portion of the Heidelberg Urban area in the Lesedi Local Municipal area (Figure 1).

It may be mentioned that the R103 (old Durban Road) allows for access to Heidelberg CBD, Heidelberg Industrial Area and the N3. It is approximately 73, 2 hectares in size.

To the west are the townships of Heidelberg Ext 23 and 26. To the north the Correctional Services. To the east the township of Rensburg is mainly zoned "Residential 1" and is approximately 80% built up. Currently, the site is zoned "Residential". The proposed zoning is "Residential and mixed land use".

The proposed township will consist of 367 erven to be zoned "Residential 1", 10 erven to be zoned "Residential 2" 1 erven to be zoned "Business2"; 4 and 5 erven to be zoned "Municipal" and "Private Open Space". The Lesedi Local Municipality supports the proposed development for the development of Rensburg Extension 2, but it is subject to the authorisation of the project by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD).

The consideration of alternatives for the use of a site or the undertaking of an activity is a pre-requisite in terms of the NEMA. Alternatives, in relation to a proposed activity, refer to different means of meeting the general purposes and requirements of the activity.

There are no alternatives, since the township has already been proclaimed. The Scoping process will however be conducted to identify any possible concerns that will be related to the project. The following methodology will be followed:

- a) A site visit will be conducted in order to identify any potential issues that may arise during the scoping process for this project. During the initial site investigation, the EAP will collect general data about the site. This would include:
 - i. Confirmation of the site location (GPS coordinates, site photo's etc)
 - ii. The identification of potential sensitive issues and areas that may influence the proposed development.
 - iii. The identification of stakeholders that are to be included in the Public participation process.

- b) Client liaison: The project description and motivation will be obtained from the client. Any new developments that may arise during the Scoping phase of the proposed development will be taken into account and discussed.

1.4 Description of the property on which the activity is to be undertaken

In terms of the Lesedi Spatial Development Framework the site has been identified for Residential and Mixed land use hence the existing zoning. The proposed activity is located on Portion 68, of the farm Houtpoort 392 IR, Heidelberg. It is approximately 73, 2 hectares in size. The Site is located in the southern portion of the Heidelberg Urban area in the Lesedi Local Municipal area (Figure 1).

Lesedi Local municipality is proposing to develop Portion 68 of the farm Houtpoort 392 I.R. An application for "Residential 1", "Residential Business", Municipal and public Open spaces has been lodged with Gauteng Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (GDARD).

The Site is being bordered by:

- Heidelberg Extensions 23 and 26 (low cost housing townships) to the west.
- Route 103 (the old Durban Road) to the east and Rensburg Township further to the east.
- The Correctional Services site to the north.

A possible wetland section has been identified in the bottom south-eastern corner of the site. Specialist studies will have to be conducted to verify this and the functionality thereof.

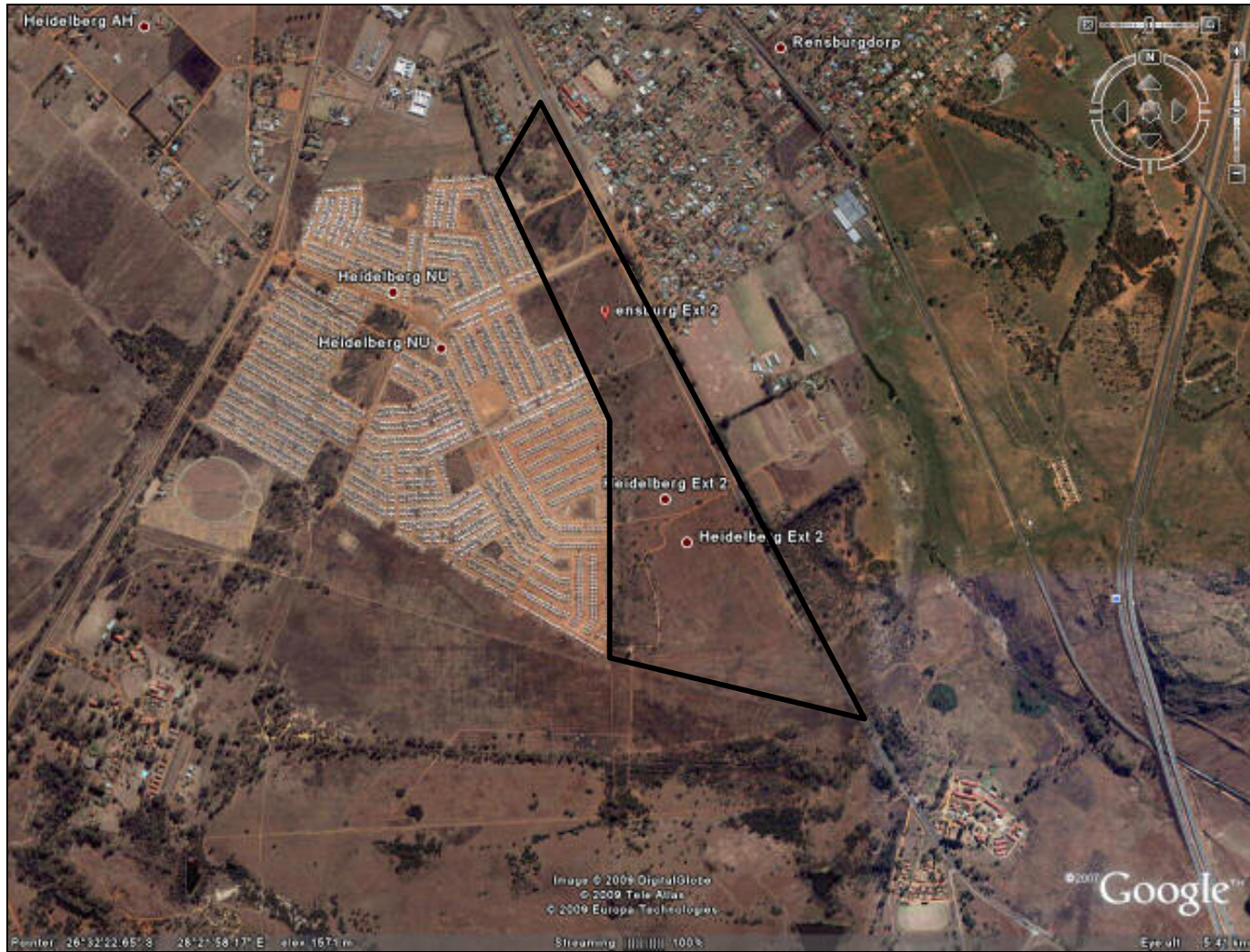


Figure 1: Locality of the property – black thick set [1:50 000 SA-topographical map, QDS – Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping (2002)].

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE ACTIVITY

Physical Environment

The environment, within which the development is proposed, is indicated within the urban edge. The residential township namely Rensburg Ext 2 has been proclaimed on the Site in 1976. Proximately 1.2km from the site towards the south east and southern section of the site is ridges, classified as Class 2 Ridge according to the GDARD conservation layers. A river system is also found 0.5 km on the southern section of the site flowing towards the bottom southern corner of the site.

Social Environment

The majority of land within the Lesedi Local Municipality area is being characterized by a rural component. The effective utilization thereof linked to different agricultural practices can contribute to economic growth and job creation. This is further supported by the identified Agricultural Hub and the implementation of "Area Based Plans".

Based on the 2001 Census information, the total number of unemployed persons was 10949, which contributed 15.3% of the total population (71501) and 35% of the total economically active persons. Since 2001, the unemployment percentage has marginally risen by 0.3% in the Lesedi Local Municipality.

Economic Environment

Detailed economic figures are not available for Lesedi. Figures relating to the Heidelberg Magisterial District can however be regarded as indicative of the local economy. The Heidelberg Magisterial District's contribution to the GGP of Gauteng is miniscule [$\pm 2\%$]. The strongest local economic sectors are Manufacturing [contributing 32.1% to the local GGP], Government [contributing 18.5% to the local GGP] and Agriculture [contributing 15.6% to the local GGP]. Together these 3 sectors contribute 66.2% to the local economy, while Finance [9.6%], Trade [8.7%], Transportation [7.2%], Construction [3.4%] and Utilities [1.6%] make up the bulk of the rest (*Lesedi 2006 IDP*).

Based on the information as obtained from the Gauteng Spatial Development Perspective, 2006, the contribution of Lesedi Local Municipality to the Gauteng GVA and the Sedibeng District Municipality, is indicated in Table 2 below:

Table 1: Contribution to Gauteng GVA

Municipality	% Provincial Total GVA
City of Johannesburg MM	46.08%
Ekurhuleni MM	20.29%
Emfuleni Local Municipality	1.91%
Midvaal Local Municipality	2.11%
Lesedi Local Municipality	1.24%

(CSIR 2006)

Manufacturing activity in the study area is dominated by a few large concerns [e.g. British American Tobacco and Escort] while the rest of the manufacturing concerns are mostly small operations geared at servicing the local [East Rand] market. The sector has experienced negative growth during the last decade in comparison to the other sectors.

Agricultural activity is dominated by large-scale commercial farming [crop production including maize, grain sorghum, wheat, soya and dry beans, groundnuts, sunflower seeds and vegetables, and animal production including milk, beef, mutton and lamb, eggs and poultry]. The performance of this sector is very dependent on climatic conditions and may fluctuate from year to year. The agricultural sector does however present opportunities for downstream economic activities in terms of further processing of agricultural produce [e.g. Karan Beef, Escort].

Based on the 2001 Census information, the agricultural sector employs +/-22% of the total labour force, followed by the Government sector [+/-20%] and the manufacturing sector [+/-17%]. Overall, low educational and skills levels characterize the labour force. A large percentage of jobs are of an unskilled or semiskilled nature (Lesedi LM SDF, 2008).

Cultural Environment

From the study undertaken in 2004, which included literature study, topographical maps and onsite investigations, certain areas were highlighted to be of high archaeological value. Sites that were identified are archaeological sites dated to the late (stone walled) phase of the Iron Age (c.AD 1640 – AD 1830's). Due to the nature of the topography of the area, the archaeological sites are mostly situated in high-lying areas surrounded by hilltops. Sites include residential units containing huts as well as areas which functioned as cattle outposts on the periphery of the Suikerbosrand mountain range.

Further assessment of the cultural environment is deemed necessary and a heritage specialist will be appointed to advise on this aspect.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF ALL LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES THAT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

There are several regulatory requirements, at local, provincial and national level, to which the proposed activity will have to conform. These include the following:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996);
- The National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998);
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations promulgated in terms of the New Environment Management Act (No. 107 of 1989), Section 24(5) read with Section 44 of NEMA, Government Notice No R.385, 21 April 2006;
- Lesedi Spatial Development Framework;

A brief summary of the relevant Acts and Regulations are provided below.

3.1 *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)*

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 200 of 1993), the interim Constitution, and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996), the new Constitution, both have major impacts on environmental management. The main impacts are the protection of environmental and property rights, the drastic change brought about by the sections dealing with administrative law such as access to information, just administrative action and broadening of the *locus standi* of litigants. These aspects provide general and overarching support and are of major assistance in the effective implementation of the environmental management principles and structures of the 1989 Act and 1998 Act.

3.2 *National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)*

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act no. 107 of 1998) makes provisions for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-coordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of the State and to provide for matters connected therewith. Section 2 of the Act establishes a set of principles, which apply to the activities of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment. These include the following:

- Development must be sustainable;
- Pollution must be avoided or minimised and remedied;
- Waste must be avoided or minimised, reused or recycled;
- Negative impacts must be minimised and positively enhanced; and
- Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, project, product or service exists throughout its complete life cycle.

These principles are taken into consideration when a government department exercises its powers, for example, during the granting of permits and the enforcement of existing legislation or conditions of approval.

Section 24 provides that all activities that may significantly affect the environment and require authorisation by law must be assessed prior to approval. In addition, it provides for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism or the relevant MEC's to identify:

- New activities that require approval;
- Areas within which activities require approval; and
- Existing activities that should be assessed and reported on.

3.3 *EIA Regulations promulgated in terms of the New Environment Management Act (No. 107 / 1998)*

The EIA Regulations stipulate the procedures and obligations required of the proponent (applicant) and the authorities regarding the assessment of the proposed activity. The procedures required in terms of the EIA Regulations include the appointment of an independent consultant to undertake the assessment, application prescriptions, procedures and requirements as well as contents for reports. The findings of the assessment are used to inform the decision regarding authorisation of the proposed activity.

3.4 *Lesedi Spatial Development Framework*

In terms of the Lesedi Spatial Development Framework the site has been identified for Residential and Mixed land use hence the existing zoning .The Lesedi Local Municipality supports the proposed development for the development of Rensburg Extension 2, but it is subject to the authorisation of the project by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment.

3.5 *Legal Requirements*

An EIA is required as the activity is listed in Government Notice No. R. 387 of 2006 (Activity List 2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2006). Listed activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 2 *Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more.*

4 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

4.1 *Issues listed from scoping:*

- Loss of habitat – possible ecological sensitivity of the site and occurrence of ecological elements in the area.
- Traffic situation –additional traffic movement.
- Disturbances – noise, dust and construction traffic during construction.
- Disturbances – operational phase activities, e.g. lighting and increased noise levels.
- Social – loading on community facilities.
- Economic – impact on current development and contribution to the local economy.

4.2 *Issues raised by I&AP's in response to the public notice*

The following is a summary of issues raised by I&AP's:

- Town Planning: Care should be taken to ensure that it falls within the Town Planning scheme of Lesedi Local Municipality as well as all legislative requirements especially NEMA.
- Services: Developer should also ensure that our infrastructure such as sewer, water-electricity and waste removal will be able to handle the additional load.

5 METHODOLOGY ADOPTED IN SCOPING OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The assessment of the potential impacts of an activity is based on the outcome of the scoping report. The scoping phase provides the opportunity for the I&AP's to raise concerns and ways to avoid, mitigate or reduce negative impacts on the environment and suggest possible enhancement of positive impacts. It

also provides the opportunity for the applicant to incorporate viewpoints, opinions and the needs and values of I&AP's to the proposed activity.

Information that would provide the reader with an objective view of the proposed development was and will be gathered in the following manner:

- A site inspection to be conducted by Greenline Environmental Consulting.
- Evaluation and Inclusion of Specialist reports;
- Evaluation of all potential impacts identified;
- Determining the significance of potential impacts identified;
- Providing possible mitigation measures that could be applied to minimize potential impacts;
- The Scoping Report & Plan of Study for Scoping will be prepared in terms of the principles as set out in the EIA Regulations Guideline Document and the New Environment Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).
- The written comments of all I&AP's will be addressed and incorporated in the report.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCES

6.1 Process

This section of the Scoping Report summarises the consultation process, the comment received and the responses to the comment, in keeping with Regulations 29 and 56 of the regulations made in terms of Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA).

The following was completed by the consultant during the public participation process (Appendix A):

- a) Identify the key stakeholders and obtain their contact details to develop a comprehensive stakeholder database.
- b) I&AP's was identified and registered
- c) An advertisement was placed in the "STAR" newspaper and on site on the 29th April 2010
- d) Distribution of notices and Background Information Documents (BID) to the identified and Interested and affected Parties (I&AP's).
- e) Keep a record of all correspondence and discussions with (I&APs).

- f) Capture all issues and concerns raised throughout the scoping process by (I&APs) and develop Comments and Response register.
- g) No meetings were held with I&AP's or interest groups as the need for same was not identified.

In addition to the above, Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) will be informed and allowed a 30 day comment period on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to be prepared according to the Plan of Study for EIA.

6.2 *Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)*

Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) were identified through the process of consultation with the officials in the local authority. NEMA regulations stipulate that all residents within 100m of the site must be notified of the proposed development or activity. The list of all identified and registered interested and affected parties is included in Appendix A.

Issues raised by all Interested and Affected Parties were listed in Appendix C. No solutions or assessments of the impacts were given in the Scoping Report, since it is not the purpose of the Scoping Report to respond to issues, but to incorporate it into the further assessment of the proposal as defined in R385 in terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA.

I&AP's will be informed and allowed a 30 day comment period on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to be prepared according to the Plan of Study for EIA.

7 PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

7.1 *Description of the task that will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process*

Issues that require further investigation / assessment in the EIA:

- Biodiversity significance of the areas and the site
- Traffic impacts
- The provision of services (water, sewer, electricity) for the development
- All Heritage and Cultural aspects of the site and the area
- An assessment and delineation of possible wetland on site is required

Recommendations will be made in order to mitigate the issues identified in the Scoping Report by the I&AP's. The interested and affected parties will be notified that the Impact Assessment Report is available for comments.

Notwithstanding the perceived high or low sensitivity of the overall development, certain sensitive landscapes will be impacted on. The possible environmental impact the project's activities will have on the physical, biological, cultural and social characteristics of the site and its surroundings will be assessed in terms of the under-mentioned criteria.

7.2 *Schedule of Tasks*

Timetable for the tasks:

Activity	Timing
Preliminary Environmental analysis	24 November 2010
Preliminary Consultation with authorities	13 November 2010 – 24 November 2010
Submission of application	12 March 2010
Public Participation Process	28 April 2010- 28 May 2010
Preparation of Background information documents (BID)	24 April 2010
8-Placement of advertisements and notices	28 April 2010
Submission of scoping report	16 February 2011
Specialist studies	February to March 2011
Draft Full Impact Assessment Report available for comments	30 days
Feedback on comments	10 days
Finalise and submit Environmental Impact Assessment Report and EMP	14 days
Approval by authority	30-90 period
Appeal period - Notification	10 days

Times for the different activities are an estimated guide and are influenced by the following:

- Availability of information
- Nature and adequacy of the data collected
- The approval process timeframes

7.3 *Proposed Methods of Identifying Environmental Issues and Alternatives*

As a means of determining the significance of the various impacts that can or may be associated with the proposed project, a series of assessment criteria were used for each impact. These criteria include an examination of the Nature, extent, duration, intensity and probability of the impact occurring, and assessing whether the impact will be positive or negative for the natural as well as biophysical

environments at, and surrounding, the site. The following criteria have been adapted from those proposed in the EIA Guideline Document (April 2006).

7.3.1 Significance

The significance of the impact (i.e. whether it will lead to a marked change in the environment or not) is determined through a synthesis of the aspects produced in terms of their Nature, duration, intensity, extent and probability. Four classes of significance exist including:

- None (i.e. the impact will not have an influence on the decision and requires no mitigation);
- Low (i.e. the impact will have a limited influence on the decision and requires mitigation to manage the environment);
- Medium (i.e. it is likely to have an influence on the decision and requires mitigation)
- High (i.e. Mitigation is required and this may not be sufficient to ensure that the environment is not detrimentally affected by the proposed development).

7.3.2 Nature

This is an appraisal of the type of effect the activity would have on the affected environment. This description includes what is being affected and how.

7.3.3 Extent

This indicates the spatial area that may be affected by the impact and further describes the possibility that adjoining areas may be impacted upon. This includes four classes that are listed as follows:

- Local (extending only as far as the site);
- Limited (limited to the site and its immediate surrounds);
- Regional (extending beyond immediate surrounds to affect a larger area); and
- National or international.

7.3.4 Duration

This refers to the period of time that the impact may be operative for (i.e. the lifetime of the impact). This includes the following four classes that are listed as follows:

- Short (i.e. 0 - 5 years);
- Medium (i.e. 5 - 15 years);
- Long (i.e. > 15 years and/or where natural processes will return following the cessation of the activity or following human intervention);

- Permanent (i.e. where mitigation either by natural process or by human intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient).

7.3.5 Intensity

This indicates whether the impact is likely to be destructive or have a lesser effect. Three such classes of intensity are defined and these are listed as:

- Low (i.e. where natural, cultural and social functions and processes are not affected by the development);
- Medium (i.e. where the natural, cultural and/or social functions and processes are affected by the development but can continue in a modified way);
- High (i.e. where natural, cultural and/or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will temporarily or permanently cease).

7.3.6 Probability

This refers to the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. The following four classes are used to describe the probability of the impact:

- Improbable (i.e. low possibility of the impact);
- Probable (i.e. a distinct possibility exists that the impact will occur);
- Highly probable (i.e. more than likely that the impact will occur);
- Definite (i.e. the impact will occur regardless of any preventative mitigation/measures).

7.3.7 Cumulative effect

It is important to assess the natural environment using a systems approach that will consider the cumulative impact of various actions. Cumulative impact refers to the impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the actions when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agencies or persons undertake such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions or activities taking place over a period of time. Cumulative effects can take place so frequently in time that the effects cannot be assimilated by the environment.

7.4 *Public participation Process*

The draft Environmental Impact Report will be circulated to all I&AP's and be made available for a period of 30 days from the date of giving notice thereof. After comment has been received on the draft

Environmental Impact Report, amendments will be made to the report. Responses on these issues or concerns will be included as part of the assessment for the final Environmental Impact Report.

7.5 *Environmental Management Plan (EMP)*

The EMP will contain all the necessary measures to ensure minimum damage to the immediate and surrounding environment. It will form part of all contracts and sub-contracts for construction activities and will stipulate specific procedures to be followed for the activities that will take place on the property.

7.6 *Specific information required by the competent authorities*

None to date.

7.7 *Specialist Studies to be conducted*

The following specialist studies are envisaged to assist in determining the impacts of the proposed development on the environment:

7.7.1 Wetland Assessment and Delineation

Wetland delineation procedures according to the method presented in the “*Practical Field Procedure for Identification and Delineation of Wetlands and Riparian areas*” published by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF, 2005), were followed to determine the presence of wetland soil.

7.7.1.1 *Small Mammal Assessment*

Small Mammal Assessments, specifically wetland small mammals will be assessed according to GDARD Biodiversity guidelines (2009). The Habitat suitability and Sensitivity of the site in general is to be assessed. The probability of occurrences of mammal species was based on their respective geographical distributional ranges and the suitability of on-site habitat.

7.7.2 Ecological Assessment

7.7.2.1 *Flora Assessment*

The Ecological Status of the site in general is to be assessed in term of the diversity and abundance of species that are typical to the veld type and species that are indigenous to the region as opposed to the diversity and abundance of the exotic species.

The sensitivity of the site is to be determined in terms of the conservation status of the veld type, presence of RDL species, ecological status of the site, the dominating habitat type and the potential of the site to serve as a migratory corridor.

7.7.3 Geotechnical Study

The geotechnical assessment of the site is required to provide a broad overview and classification of the suitability of the land for the proposed development and outline obvious constraints to the development of the area. The objectives of the investigation are to:

- Establish the site stratigraphy and the engineering properties thereof,
- Identify potential problem soils, and
- Provide general foundation recommendations for the proposed township development.

7.7.4 Heritage Impact Study

The Heritage Impact Study will entail recording and documentation of relevant archaeological and heritage resources, mapping and constructive recommendations. Comments from SAHRA will also be requested as part of the document process.

APPENDIX A– PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Appendix 1- Proof of site notice

Appendix 2-Background information document

Appendix 3- Proof of newspaper advertisements

Appendix 4 – Comments to and from Interested and Affected parties

Appendix 5- Minutes of meetings

Appendix 6-Comments and Response Report

Appendix 7- Copy of the register of Interested and Affected Parties