

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

In Accordance with Requirements of Regulation 41 of GNR 326

1 March 2022

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON VARIOUS FARM PORTIONS NEAR ELLIOT IN THE EASTERN CAPE

APPLICANT:

Number Two Piggeries (Pty) Ltd.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:

BioBlue Environmental Sustainability (Pty) Ltd.

Mr. Zander Liebenberg / Mr. Marinus Du Preez

829 Cronstedt Street

Moreleta Park

Pretoria, 0181

Tel: 082 562 1404 / 083 662 2606

Email: info@bioblueenviro.com / www.bioblueenviro.com

Purpose of this Notice:

To notify potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the intention of Number Two Piggeries (Pty) Ltd. to undertake a **Basic Environmental Impact Assessment process** in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended **and Water-Use License** application in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) for the establishment of a new agricultural development on the following farm portions:

- Portion 0/RE, 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the Farm Groente Fontein 101 Elliot RD
- Portion 0/RE, 1, 2, and 3 of the Farm Cloeta 101 Elliot RD

Within the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality within the Chris Hani District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province.

- To notify the identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice R. 327 and R. 324 of 4 December 2014 (as amended in 2017) published in terms of chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act as amended (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended.
- Present stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the perceived biophysical and social impacts that have been identified up to date.
- To obtain issues and concerns from I&AP's regarding the environmental assessment process and proposed activity, which will be addressed for the planning, establishment and operational phase of the proposed operations.
- To give all potential interested and affected parties the opportunity to register and be placed on the register of I&APs in order for them to voice their opinions and concerns.

Potential interested and affected parties include:

- Occupants of the site, and where the occupants are not the owners, also to the owners of the site, or the owner of any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken.
- Owners, persons in control of land or occupants of adjacent properties
- Municipal councillor and municipality
- Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of the activity
- Any other party as required by the competent authority

Introduction

Notice is given in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations-Government Notice R. 327, GN R. 324 and the National Environmental Management Act as amended (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the following listed activities.

- Listing Notice 1 Activity 4: The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed— (ii) 8 square meters per small stock unit and; (a) more than 1 000 units per facility excluding pigs where (b) applies; or (b) more than 250 pigs per facility excluding piglets that are not yet weaned;
- Listing Notice 1 Activity 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;
- Listing Notice 1 Activity 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.
- Listing Notice 1 Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.
- Listing Notice 3 Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 meters with a reserve less than 13.5 meters. (a) Eastern Cape
- Listing Notice 3 Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. (a) Eastern Cape.

The Listed Activities above would be triggered due to the following:

- The piggery operation is a proposed 4 800-sow unit piggery
- New proposed pipelines for the transportation of water
- Some of the site areas are to be located on natural veld and this will require clearance of vegetation of more than 1 hectare.

Locality

The proposed project site is located on the Farms Groente Fontein and Cloeta situated approximately 5km south-west of the town of Elliot. Access can be gained via the R410 road driving from Elliot to Indwe. The proposed site is located within the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality and the Chris Hani District Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province.

Refer to Figure 1 for the regional locality of the site.

Basic Project Description

Number Two Piggeries (Pty) Ltd. proposes to expand their farming operations by establishing a new agricultural development that will consist of a piggery operation, a cheese factory, feed mill and related infrastructure.

The proposed piggery operation will consist of a 4 800-sow unit piggery and three separate sites:

- Breeder site
- Weaner site
- Finisher site

Related infrastructure will include, but not limited to:

- Silos
- Internal Fencing and roads
- Slurry piping infrastructure and three slurry dams
- Screw press systems and sumps
- Manure composting area
- Reservoirs

The cheese factory will consist of, but not limited to:

- A boiler for heating requirements and coal storage area
- Cold storage areas
- Fat separation sumps
- Jojo tanks for storage of whey
- Parking areas

Feed Mill:

- Steel structure and roof
- Conveyors and Silos
- Pellet Mill
- Dryer

Water for the Cheese Factory and feed mill will be sourced from new boreholes and process water for the piggery will be sourced from the new proposed Tsomo dam.

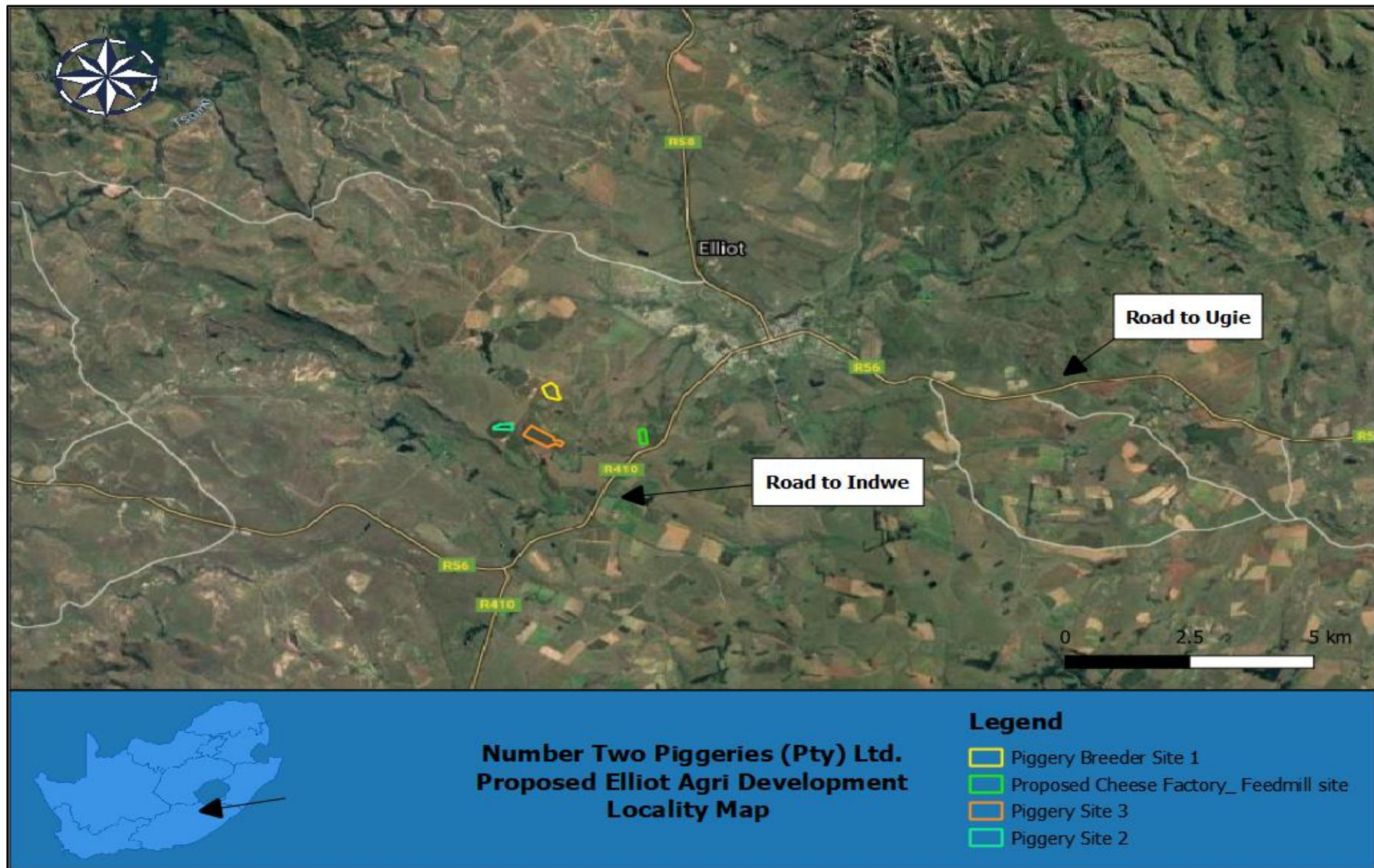


Figure 1: Locality Map

Consideration of Alternatives

Alternative site layouts of the proposed agricultural developments will be investigated during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. No other alternatives, such as technology, will be investigated at this stage as the available technology proposed in this project is modern technology utilised in all new pig farming operations. The proposed technology for the cheese factory will also be modern technology that will assist the factory operations to lower their water demand.

Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The EIA process consists of three main components, namely the Public Participation, Environmental Assessment and Mitigation and Management stages.

- The technical process to be followed in the EIA Assessment phases includes, but is not limited to, the following aspects:
 - Terrain investigations and Project description.
 - The identification and assessment of biophysical elements and Environmental elements in the area;
 - Assessment of Impacts
 - Compilation of a Draft and Final Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)
- The public consultation process includes:
 - Compilation of a database of stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties;
 - Legal notices of the environmental process (press advertisement, site notices);
 - Distribution of information to stakeholders and I&APs, and
 - Identification of environmental, as well as social issues and concerns, as raised by I&APs or other relevant stakeholders.
 - Addressing all concerns raised by I&AP's.

The public consultation process is conducted in parallel with the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The public consultation process does not aim to promote agreement amongst I&APs or quell possible opposition against a project. The process is made open and transparent to all those involved.

Additionally, it is considered important to involve I&APs as early in the process as possible, to ensure informed decision-making and effective participation throughout the study. Registered I&APs will have an opportunity to view and comment on the draft basic assessment report that will be produced as part of the EIA process.

Comments or Objections

Kindly submit the attached Registration and Comment Sheet, to register as an Interested and Affected Party, with possible issues and concerns relating to the proposed development, as well as any additional I&APs that you would like to be involved in the process, to the contact details listed below.

The Registration and Comment Sheet should reach us no later than 4 April 2022. BioBlue Environmental will engage with various stakeholders and communities such as Municipalities, Farmers and environmental departments.

Other Legal Requirements

Other legal requirements need to be adhered to when the EIA Process is being conducted. This application will include the following:

- Notice is also given of a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.
- The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) in terms of Section 21 which includes:
 - S21(a) – Taking of Water from a Water Resource
 - S21(b) – Storing of Water
 - S21(c) and (i) - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, and altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse
 - S21(e) – Engaging in a controlled activity (irrigation of biodegradable effluent)
 - S21(g) – Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource

All other legal requirements identified within the EIA process will be adhered to and included in the process moving forward.

Specialist Studies to be Conducted

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment
- Fauna and flora Assessment
- Wetland Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Geohydrological Assessment
- Stormwater Management Plan

Registration and Comment Sheet

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FARMS GROENTE FONTEIN AND CLOETA, WITHIN THE SAKHISIZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NEAR ELLIOT, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Please complete and return as soon as possible, but no later than 4 April 2022
to:

Mr. Zander Liebenberg / Mr. Marinus du Preez

Tel: 082 562 1404 / 083 662 2606 e-mail: info@bioblueviro.com

Title_____Initials_____Surname_____

Organisation/Firm/Position/Nature of Involvement in the project e.g. property
owner:

Street / Physical Address:

Postal address:

Postal Code: _____

Telephone Work: _____ Telephone Home: _____

Cell phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

COMMENTS:

1. What are the primary concerns faced by you/ your community/ your organization with regards to the proposed project?

2. Are you in favor of or against the proposed project? Please provide a reason for your answer.

3. Do you have or know of any information that might be relevant to the EIA process (e.g. environmental information and community, social or economic information)?

4. Do you know of any other individual or organization that you feel would want to register as a stakeholder and receive information. Please provide names and contact information below.
