

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

In Accordance with Requirements of Regulation 41 of GNR 326

5 September 2022

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CULTIVATED FIELDS ON
REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 3 (ONVERWAG) OF THE
FARM ELANDS DRIFT 159, WINDSORTON DISTRICT

APPLICANT:

Riverton Resources (Pty) Ltd.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:

BioBlue Environmental Sustainability (Pty) Ltd.

Mr. Zander Liebenberg / Mr. Marinus Du Preez

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Purpose of this Notice:

To notify potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the intention of Riverton Resources (Pty) Ltd. to undertake a Scoping & EIA Process for the establishment of new cultivated fields on Remaining Extent of Portion 3 (Onverwag) of the Farm Elands Drift 159, near Windsorton in the Northern Cape Province.

Within the Dikgatlong Local Municipality that forms part of the Frances Baard District Municipality.

- To notify the identified Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice R. 325 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 related to the impacted area of the amendment.
- To obtain issues and concerns from I&AP's regarding the environmental authorization amendment processes, which will be addressed for 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.
- To provide stakeholders and I&APs with the opportunity to give comments on the Draft Scoping Report that is available on the BioBlue Environmental Website.

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. 324 and 325 and the National Environmental Management Act as amended (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the following listed activities.

- GN. R 325 - Listing Notice 2 Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.
- GN. R 324 - Listing Notice 3 Activity 12 (g) Northern Cape: The Clearance of an area of 300 square meters 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.

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.

Locality

The proposed project is situated approximately 8,5km south of the town of Windsorton in the Northern Cape Province, Dikgatlong Local Municipality. Access can be gained by driving on the R374 road from Windsorton to Barkly West and turning left on an unnamed road, driving past Holpan cemetery.

Please refer to the Figures below.



Basic Project Description

Riverton Resources (Pty) Ltd. propose to expand their agricultural operations on Remaining Extent of Portion 3 of the Farm Elands Drift 159, near the town of Windsorton in the Northern Cape. The proposal is for the clearance of approximately 180ha of vegetation to establish new cultivated fields for crop production under irrigation.

Scoping and EIA 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;
- Compilation of a Scoping Report
- Assessment of Impacts
- Compilation of an ElAr 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 and on-site);
 - Dissemination 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.

The public consultation process is conducted in parallel with the Scoping and EIA phases. 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 basic assessment report that will be produced as part of the EIA process.

Consideration of Alternatives

Alternative site layouts of the proposed cultivated fields will be investigated during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. No other alternatives, such as technology, will be investigated at this stage as the project only entails the establishment of new cultivated fields.

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 10 October 2022. BioBlue Environmental will engage with various stakeholders and communities such as Municipalities, Farmers and environmental departments.

Hard Copies of the Reports will be available at Windsorton SAPS

Soft Copies will be available on the BioBlue Environmental website (www.bioblueenviro.com) and a direct link will be emailed to all I&APs.

Other Legal Requirements

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

- Requirements in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

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
- Wetland Screening
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Palaeontological Desktop Assessment
- Aquatic Assessment

Registration and Comment Sheet

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CULTIVATED FIELDS ON REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 3 OF THE FARM ELANDS DRIFT, WINDSORTON DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Please complete and return as soon as possible, but no later than 10 October 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 Scoping and EIA Application?

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.
