



**Department of Environmental Affairs and Development
Planning**

Directorate: Development Management Region 1
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Cape Town
8001

DEA&DP Ref: None allocated yet

28 April 2021

Submitted by e-mail: zaahir.toefy@westerncape.gov.za

Attention: Mr Zaahir Toefy

Dear Mr Toefy

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGINOUS VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION ON PARTS OF PORTION 38 OF THE FARM UITNOOD NO. 129, ROBERTSON REGISTRATION DIVISION, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

This letter serves to provide the Public Participation (PP) Plan as is required in terms of Annexure 3 of the *Directions Regarding Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19 Relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licenses* (GN No. 650 of 5 June 2020). This PP Plan sets out the public participation steps, including the additional measures, for the above-mentioned EIA process, that are proposed to be taken during the declared lockdown period. This PP Plan is submitted on behalf of the Applicant, Eilandia Plase (Pty) Ltd.

This PP Plan contains the following, in line with Annexure 3 of GN No. 650 of 5 June 2020:

- proposals on how the identification of and consultation with all potential I&APs will be ensured in accordance with Regulation 41(2)(a) to (d) of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended, and
- proposed alternative reasonable methods as provided for in Regulation 41(2)(e) of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended, for purposes of this application.

1. Background and Brief Project Description

Eilandia Plase (Pty) Ltd., which is also the landowner of the application property, proposes to expand the existing agricultural activities on the property. The proposed project includes the establishment of additional irrigation areas on previously uncultivated areas, i.e. clearance of indigenous vegetation.

2. Project Location and Brief Description of the Surrounding Communities and Potential I&APs

The application area is located in a rural, agricultural area, and is located about 4.5 km south of Robertson and 9 km north of McGregor. The area falls within the jurisdiction of the Langeberg Local Municipality, which forms part of the Cape Winelands District Municipality.

Please refer to the Locality Map (**Figure 1**) and the Google Earth image (**Figure 2**) below.



Figure 1. Locality map (the application area is situated inside the yellow polygon).

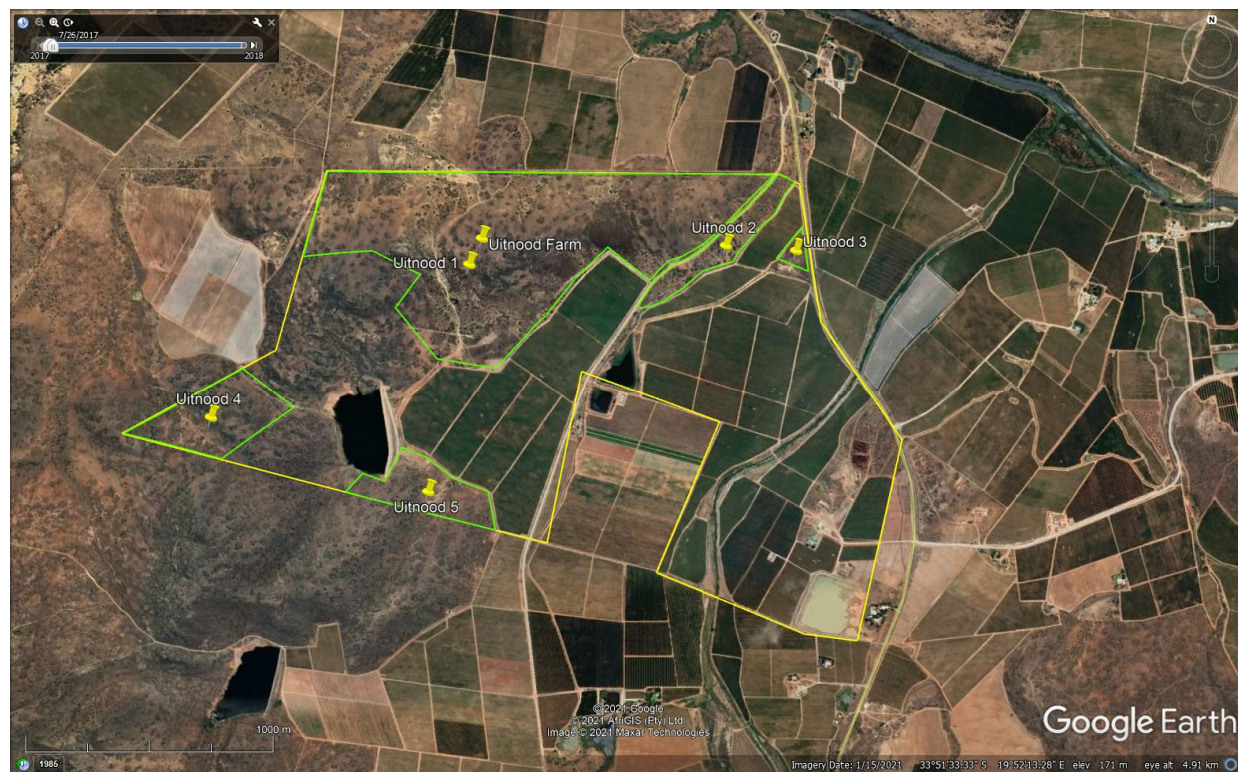


Figure 2. Google Earth image showing the proposed development areas on the site.

3. Proposed Public Participation Activities in terms of Regulation 41(2)(a) to (d) of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended

The table below provides a description of how the PP activities will comply with Regulation 41(2)(a) to (d).

Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended (GN 326):		Description of how each sub-section was/will be complied with:
(2)(a)	fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of - (i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and (ii) any alternative site;	Two Site Notices were fixed at two entrances to the site on 11 November 2021.
2(b)	giving written notice , in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to - (i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken; (ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken; (iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area; (iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area; (v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and (vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;	Written notice will be given to the persons mentioned below by e-mail, which is in compliance with section 47D(1)(bB) of the Act, since the relevant people do have e-mail addresses. The Applicant, Eilandia Plase (Pty) Ltd. is the owner of the property (nobody is occupying the application property). The landowners and/or people in control of the adjacent properties will be notified of the project during the Pre-application Scoping Phase. The municipal councillor for the ward and the Chairperson of the Central Breede River Water User Association will be notified of the project during the Pre-application Scoping Phase. No active organisation of ratepayers could be identified for the project area. Relevant officials from the Langeberg Municipality as well as the Cape Winelands District Municipality will be notified of the project during the Pre-application Scoping Phase. Relevant organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity will be notified of the project during the Pre-application Scoping Phase. The following State Departments/organs of state have been identified to be consulted: • National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, • Western Cape Department of Agriculture, • CapeNature, • Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency,

Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended (GN 326):		Description of how each sub-section was/will be complied with:
		Heritage Western Cape.
2(c)	Placing an advertisement in – (i) one local newspaper; or (ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	The proposed project will be advertised in the local newspaper, the <i>The Breederivier Gazette</i> .
2(d)	placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official referred to in paragraph (c)(ii); and	Not applicable.

4. Proposed Alternative Reasonable Methods in line with Regulation 41(2)(e) of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended

The proposed alternative reasonable methods as provided for in Regulation 41(2)(e) are provided below.

Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended (GN 326):		Description of how the proposed PP activities will comply with the relevant PP requirement
2(e)	(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to- (iii) any other disadvantage.	The following measures will be implemented to ensure fair access to information and opportunity to comment, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown period: Scoping Phase - The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) plans to issue the <u>Pre- and Post-application</u> Draft Scoping Reports for public review for a 30-day comment period, respectively, as there is no reason to believe that an extension of timeframe will be required. - The Pre- and Post-application Draft Scoping Reports (DSR) will be made available on the EAP's website (www.cornerstoneenviro.co.za) and will also be made available to organs of state and/or I&APs <i>via</i> WeTransfer, Dropbox and hard copies where requested. - A hard copy of the documents will be placed at the public library, who has the necessary sanitation measures in place. Note: the DSR and its executive summary, as well as the appendices will all be available as separate downloads, to minimise data-usage. EIA Phase - The public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report will be a 30-day comment period. - The EIA Report will be made available on the EAP's website (www.cornerstoneenviro.co.za) and will also be made available to organs of state and/or I&APs <i>via</i> WeTransfer, Dropbox and hard copies where requested.

		• Note: the EIA Report and its executive summary, as well as the appendices will all be available as separate downloads, to minimise data-usage. • A hard copy will be placed at the public library, who has the necessary sanitation measures in place.
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We are of opinion that by implementing the activities as described above, the PP process for this EIA process will comply with Regulation 41 of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended.

We trust that you will find the above in order.

You are welcome to contact the undersigned, should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Kind Regards,



Pieter de Villiers

CORNERSTONE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS (PTY) LTD.

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