

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

AQUA FARMING DROOGFONTEIN PIVOT IRRIGATION AGRICULTURE



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.
- The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.
- The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.

INTRODUCTION:

Aqua Farming (Pty) Ltd has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the necessary authorisation processes, including compiling the necessary reports and undertaking the statutory consultation processes, in support of the proposed project as described herein.

It is anticipated that several listed or regulated activities contained in the following legislation will be potentially be triggered by the proposed project:

- National Environmental Management Act- NEMA (Act 107 of 1998- as amended);
- National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998); and

The exact enviro-legal requirements and activities will be confirmed during the Authority pre-application meetings and scoping phase of this project.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the NEMA (as amended). A full EIA process will be followed which involves a scoping phase which is the 'feasibility' and largely desk-top assessment stage of the project, followed by more detailed assessments in the EIA phase.

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:



- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation/Licensing Applications as well as the public participation processes which will be undertaken for the proposed project;
- Allow Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&APs can register their interest in and submit comments on the project. It is important to note that only registered I&APs will receive further communication regarding the project for the duration of the EIA process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the Scoping and EIA Reports).

LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

LOCATION

The proposed project and activity are proposed to be undertaken at the following location:

- Property Description:
 - **Farm Droogfontein 62 portion 16, C03700000000006200016;**
 - **Farm Eerste Aanleg 50 portion 2, C03700000000005000002;**
 - **Farm Bulpan 51 the remainder portion, C03700000000005100000; and**
 - **Farm Witpan 52 the remainder portion, C03700000000005200000.**
 - **All farms are located in the Frances Baard District Municipality in Northern Cape.**
- Central Co-ordinates: **28°32'57.91"S; 24°45'25.46"E**
- Physical Address: **Riverton/Langleg, Kimberley 8300**
- Regional Description:
 - Local Municipality: **Sol Plaatje Local Municipality**
 - Province: **Northern Cape**
- Closest town or point of interest: **Riverton**

Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Aqua Farming wishes to develop pivot irrigation systems for the cultivation of seed potatoes, potatoes, onions, and various grass-feed crops. The development of these pivots will occur in phases/seasons over the course of 7 years. With each phase/season, approximately 175 Ha will be cleared for the pivots. Therefore, after approximately 7 years a total of 1050 Ha will have been cleared. The total area that will need to be assessed in support of the Environmental Authorisation application for the project is 1800 ha. Additionally, Aqua Farming wishes to build a buffer dam as a reservoir for irrigation water with a capacity of approximately 50 000 m³ of water. This water will be sourced from the Vaal River. The current existing water use licence will need to be amended accordingly.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed project requires certain authorisations, approvals, permits, and/or licences. The following requirements have specifically been identified:



Relevant Legislation	Listed activities or triggers	Authorisation, Approval, Licence, or Permit requirement:
Chapter 5 of the NEMA	GNR 984 (2014, as amended): Activity 15 GNR 985 (2014, as amended): Activities 12 and 14	Environmental Authorisation (EA)
Chapter 4 of the NWA	NWA, Section 21 Water Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21(a) Taking of water from a water course• 21(b) Storage of water	Water Use Licence (WUL).

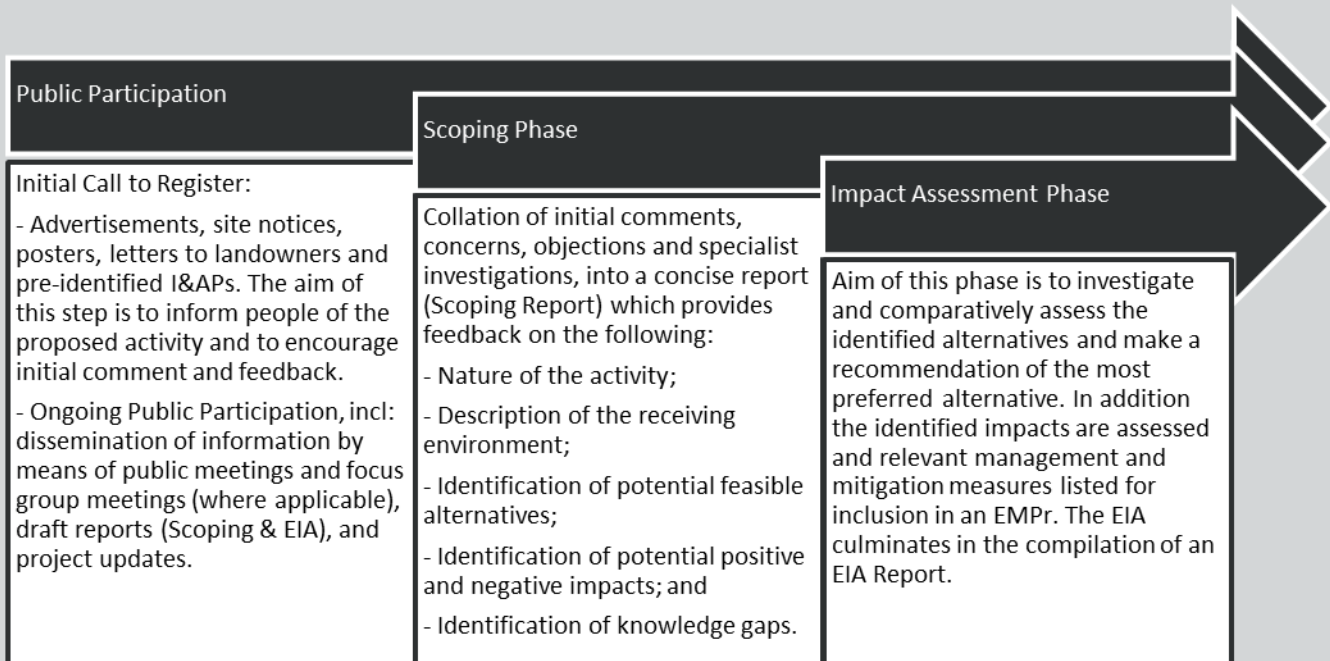
As a consequence of triggering the provisions above, there is a requirement to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIA). The EIA is to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR982, 2014 as amended).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An EIA process is a planning and decision making tool, to describe and assess the physical, biological, social, and economic impacts which a given development or project may have. To be able to inform the decision-making process, it is important for public issues and concerns to be identified timeously, to enable the EIA team to evaluate them.

The EIA process allows for the environmental consequences of a proposed project to be identified up-front, investigated throughout the impact assessment process, and taken into consideration by the decision-making authorities. The EAP and various specialists also identify potential negative and positive impacts that could arise as a result of the proposed project and identify applicable mitigation measures required, to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.

A board overview of EIA process is provided:



Once the relevant processes have been completed and the final documentation submitted to the competent authority, the competent authority reviews the application and makes an informed decision. The I&APs will be informed of the decision and their right to appeal in the event that they disagree with the decision.



PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

One of the key drivers to a successful EIA is to ensure that potential impacts (both positive and negative) are identified and investigated. Additional impacts may be identified during the Scoping phase and relevant specialists will be included into the EIA team in order to accurately and objectively assess these potential impacts. A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been identified. Preliminary identified potential impacts to be assessed in this EIA process include amongst others:

- **Habitat fragmentation, loss of natural vegetation, and alien invasion in a CBA 2;**
- **Loss of species of conservation concern;**
- **Anthropogenic disturbance, intentional and/or accidental killing and removal of fauna;**
- **Impact on heritage resources;**
- **Noise nuisance;**
- **Fire damage;**
- **Dust nuisance;**
- **Oil/fuel spillages causing soil and groundwater contamination;**
- **Littering;**
- **Erosion; and**
- **Loss of palaeontological resources.**

The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the EIA. Based on public consultation, specialist input and further detailed assessments, additional impacts will likely be identified and assessed.

All potential impacts will be identified and assessed following an impact assessment methodology guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).

Furthermore, based on the identified impacts and their ratings, mitigation and management measures are recommended for the applicant and these are included in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed, and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies may be utilised to guide and inform the assessment of the potential impacts. The specialist studies identified to be included in this assessment include:

- **Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and ecology;**
- **Archaeology and Heritage; and**
- **Palaeontology.**

The need for further specialist studies may be identified through the scoping process.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Should you feel that you may be interested in, or affected by, this project, it is essential that you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in



the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates. You may register and/or comment as an I&AP in any of the following ways:

- Complete the I&AP registration form and questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or post;
- Submit written comments, registrations, or requests to EIMS via email, fax or post; and/or
- Via telephone call.

It is important to note that the EIA process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are submitted to EIMS (contact details provided below) by **TBA**.

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of further participation opportunities, as well as the availability of the Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Report upon which comments will be solicited.

Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS)

Contact Person: Alex Msipa

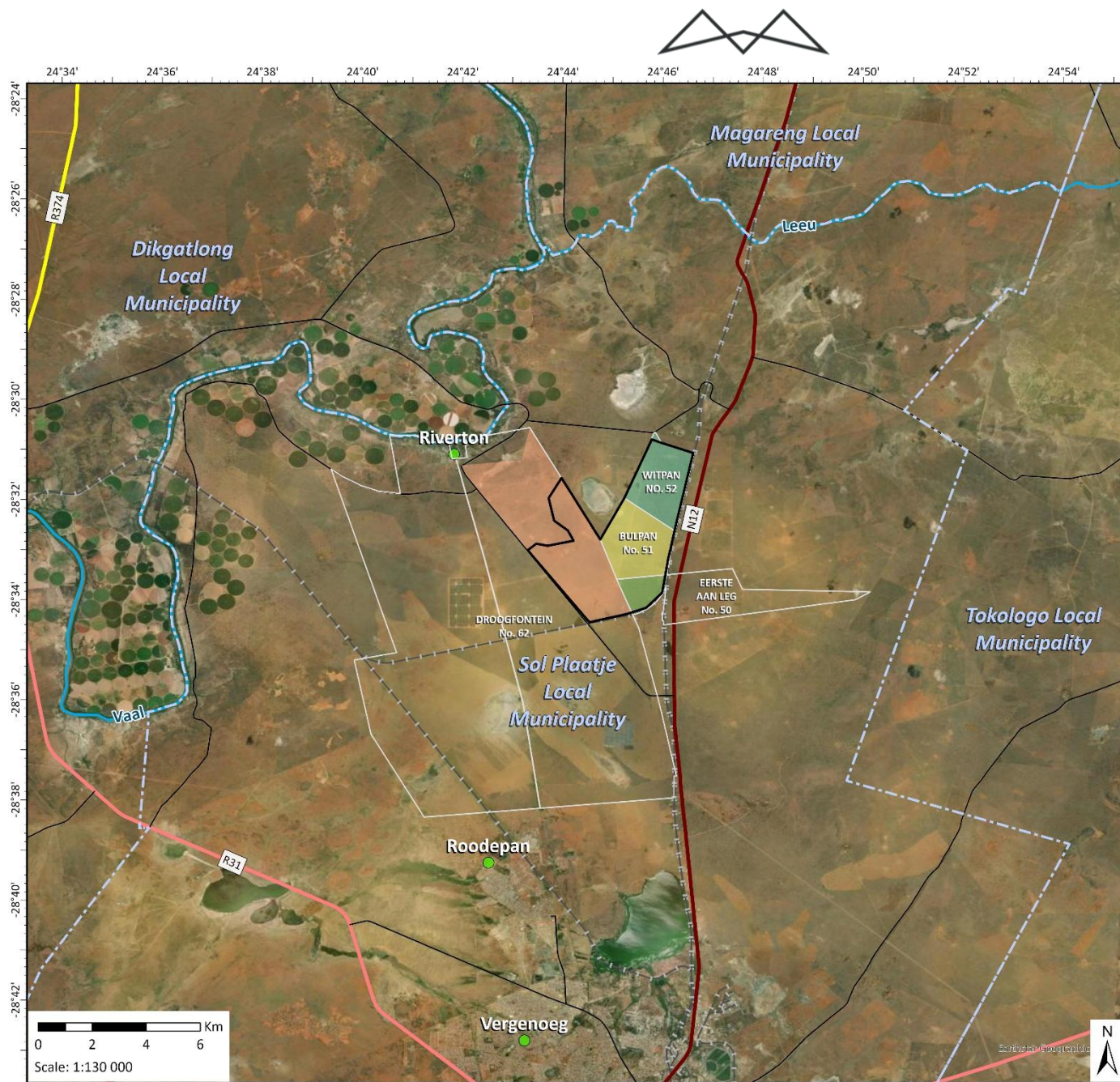
EIMS Reference Number: 1680

Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

Telephone: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047

E-mail: aquafarming@eims.co.za

Further information will be available at www.eims.co.za/public-participation/. Please note that in the event that you are unable to access the website due to data constraints please contact EIMS for alternative arrangements.



Locality Map

1680 Aqua Farming Droogfontein Pivot Agriculture

Legend

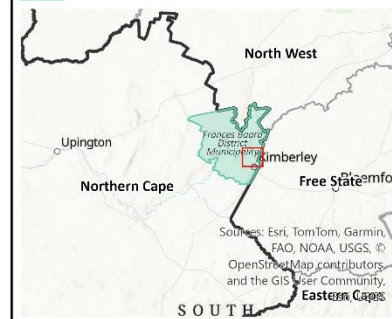
- Project Area
- Places
- NFEPA Rivers
- Local Municipalities
- Railway

Roads

- National Road
- Arterial Road
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Parent Farms

Affected Farm Portions

- BULPAN No. 51 (0)
- DROOGFONTEIN No. 62 (16)
- EERSTE AAN LEG No. 50 (2)
- WITPAN No. 52 (0)



Data Sources:

CSG; ESRI; MDB; SANBI; CD:NGI
 Coord System: GCS WGS 1984
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Units: Degree
 Ref: 1680_Locality1

Date: 2025/02/04

EIMS Ref: 1680

Compiled: JW

Reviewed: JJ

Approved: LW



