

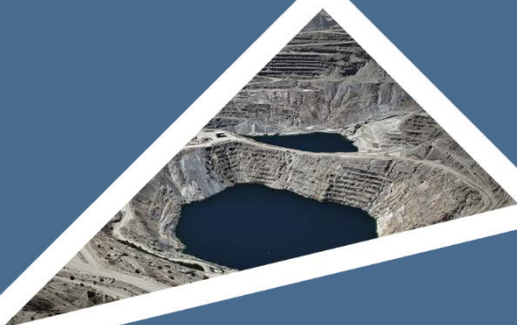


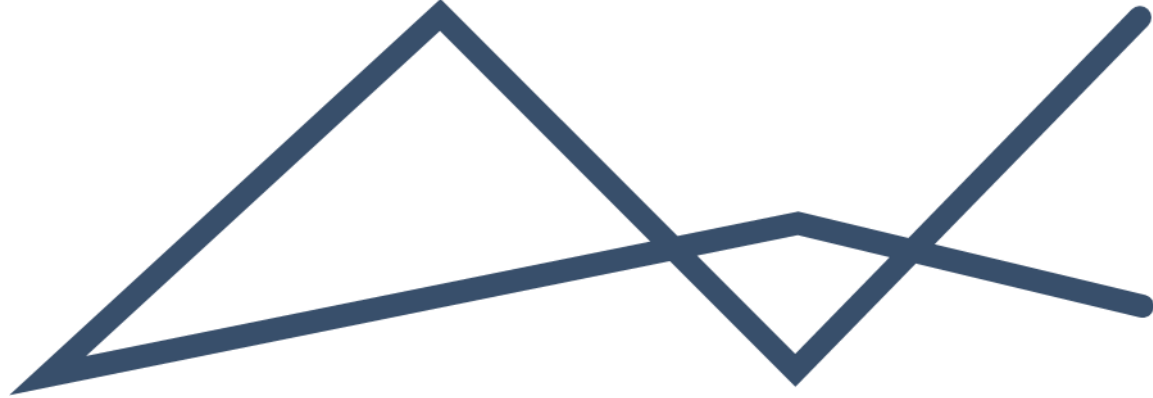
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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

GENADE BOERDERY MIDDELPLAATS PIVOT EIA





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## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
2	Objectives of the Public Participation .....	1
3	Legal Compliance .....	2
4	Identification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) .....	2
4.1	List of Organs of State Identified and Notified .....	3
4.2	List of other Key I&APs Identified and Notified .....	5
5	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties .....	5
5.1	Initial Notification of Key I&APs .....	5
5.1.1	Emails, Registered Mail and Faxes .....	5
5.1.2	Newspaper and Gazette Advertisements .....	5
5.1.3	Site Notice Placement .....	5
5.2	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties of Scoping Report Availability .....	5
5.3	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties of Environmental Impact assessment Report Availability .....	6
6	Summary of Public Participation Opportunities .....	6
7	Record of Issues Raised .....	7
8	Conclusion and Recommendations .....	8
9	Appendices .....	9

## List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities .....	6
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## Appendices

Appendix C1: Interested & Affected Parties Database

Appendix C2: Initial Notification Proof

Appendix C3: Newspaper and Gazette Notice Proof

Appendix C4: Site Notice Proof

Appendix C5: Scoping Report Notification Proof

Appendix C6: Table of Correspondence

Appendix C7: Correspondence Document



## Abbreviation List:

CSA:	Conservation South Africa
DFFE:	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMRE:	Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS:	Environmental Impact Management Services
I&APs:	Interested and Affected Parties
NC COGHSTA:	Northern Cape Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs
NC DR&PW:	Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works
NCEDA:	Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency
NCHRA:	Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
PPP:	Public Participation Process
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANDF:	South African Defence Force
SANRAL:	South African National Roads Agency Limited
WESSA:	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa



# 1 INTRODUCTION

Genade Boerdery (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- An Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended for the following listed activity:
  - GNR 984 (2014, as amended): Activity 15 (clearance of more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation).

Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.

The applicant wishes to create 8 new cultivation (pivot) areas for the cultivation of potatoes. The development of these pivots will occur in phases over the course of 5 years, and the crops will be rotated to prevent blight and allow for conservation of the soil. Once the planting cycle for a pivot area is completed, the area will be reseeded with grazing grasses for cattle. Seven of the new cultivation areas will each cover 60 hectares, and one will cover 50 hectares, resulting in a total area of ~470 hectares of indigenous vegetation clearance by the end of the five-year period.

Irrigation requirements will be met using the applicant's existing Lawful Water Use, which authorises the taking of water from the Vaal River system for irrigation of up to 60 hectares. No additional water resources will be required as only one crop area will be planted at a time.

The proposed project is located on the farm Middel Plaats South No. 104, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The site is ~8km south of Schmidtsdrif. The centre point of the site is -28.785582°S, 24.074790°E.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*<sup>1</sup>. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Impact Assessment Process:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;

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<sup>1</sup> Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

### 3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

### 4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;



- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to Appendix C1 for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

## 4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Agricultural Research Council  | • Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism                      |
| • Council of Geoscience  | • Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works (NC DR&PW)                       |
| • Eskom SOC Ltd  | • Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works                                |
| • Frances Baard District Municipality  | • Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation                                  |
| • National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development                                       | • Northern Cape Department of Social Development                                    |
| • National Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs                                     | • Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (NCEDA) |
| • National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)                                      | • Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority (NCHRA)                                |
| • National Department of Human Settlements   | • Northern Cape Tourism Authority   |
| • National Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE)   | • Presidential Climate Commission   |
| • National Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs  | • Sol Plaatje Local Municipality  |
| • National Department of Tourism   | • South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)                                    |
| • National Department of Transport   | • South African Defence Force (SANDF)   |
| • National Department of Water and Sanitation  | • South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)                                   |
| • National Transmission Company of South Africa SOC (Ltd)  | • South African National Parks  |
| • Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform          | • South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL)                              |
| • Northern Cape Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (NC COGHSTA) | • South African Radio Astronomy Observatory   |
| • Northern Cape Department of Health   | • Transnet SOC Limited  |



- Ward Councillors

## 4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners
- AgriCulture South Africa (AgriSA)
- Agri Northern Cape
- BirdLife South Africa
- Botanical Society
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Council for Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment
- Greenpeace Africa
- GroundWork SA.
- National Khoisan Council
- Natural Justice
- Northern Cape Wetland Forum
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) - Northern Cape
- World Wildlife Fund

## 5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

### 5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

#### 5.1.1 EMAILS, REGISTERED MAIL AND FAXES

Notification letters (in English and Afrikaans) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to Appendix C2 for initial notification and proofs.





### 5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English and Afrikaans) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment process were placed in the Diamond Fields Advertiser Newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the Northern Cape Provincial Gazette on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix C3 for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.

### 5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Four (4) A1 correx board site notices and two (2) posters (in English and Afrikaans) were placed at six (6) locations around the proposed project study area on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix C4 for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

## 5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notifications (in English and Afrikaans) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment were provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs on 03 June 2025. The notifications were distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details were available.

Contact details were provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the Scoping Report was placed at the Kimberley Public Library for a period of 30 days, the public review period was from 04 June 2025 until 07 July 2025.

Please refer to Appendix C4 for proof of Scoping Report notification and proof.



### 5.3 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English and Afrikaans) regarding the availability of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be placed at the Kimberley Public Library for a period of 30 days.

## 6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
<b>Initial Call to Register</b>	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	17 March 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Four (4) A1 correx board site notices and two (2) posters (in English, and Afrikaans) were placed at six (6) locations along the proposed project study area.	19 March 2025
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, and Afrikaans) describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Diamond Fields Advertiser Newspaper. The Gazette Notice was placed in the Northern Cape Provincial Gazette.	20 March 2025 (Newspaper)  24 March 2025 (Gazette Notice)
<b>Availability of Scoping Report for public review</b>	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.  One (1) hard copy of the report was submitted to the Kimberley Public Library where members of the public could access the report. An electronic copy of the report was placed on the EIMS website.	4 June 2025 until 7 July 2025



## 7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) request for an application to made.
- South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) request to redirect the initial notification to the relevant region/department.
- Northern Cape Department of Social Development (NCSDS) acknowledgement of receipt of the initial notification.
- Eskom request for KMZ file.
- Transnet wayleave application outcome - Transnet Pipelines not affected by the proposed project.
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) request to redirect the initial notification to the relevant department and request to delist other SACAA email addresses from the project's database.
- SAHRA acknowledged receipt of Heritage report and advised that further comment will be given once the EIA is submitted.
- The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL) case officer provided comments on the draft Scoping Report:
  - Requesting electronic and hard copy formats of the final scoping report to be submitted.
  - Requesting confirmation regarding the validity of Environmental Authorisations (EAs) for a solar PV development located in close proximity to the area. It was subsequently confirmed in correspondence with the DFFE that the EAs for renewable energy projects showing 0km from the proposed site are based on the distance between farm portions, and not between the proposed site and the solar development. The DAERL case officer specified that the response from the DFFE official is sufficient to address this query.
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation provided comments on the Scoping Report:
  - Noted that the site falls within the Kimberley Thornveld ecosystem and hosts Species of Conservation Concern that must be protected against habitat loss and degradation.
  - Advised that permits must be obtained from the relevant authorities before any removal or disturbance of protected trees.
  - Requested that the report include detailed mitigation, restoration, and rehabilitation measures to safeguard Species of Conservation Concern and sensitive areas.
  - Emphasized that the FSR must provide a detailed plan of study and comply with statutory assessment procedures and reporting criteria under NEMA.
  - Requested that all Biodiversity EIA Public Participation Process documents be submitted for review to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation via the specified email address.
  - For further information, refer to
  - and Appendix C7 for the comments and responses provided.
- DFFE Branch: Forestry Management:



- Provided comments on the Scoping Report:
  - Requested an assessment and quantification of the anticipated impacts on protected trees during the EIA phase.
  - Highlighted the importance of not disturbing protected trees and raised a concern about significant unavoidable impacts on protected trees, which provide habitat to critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable bird species.
  - Requested clarity in some contradictions about the Sensitivity Report.
  - For further information, refer to Appendix C6 and Appendix C7 for the comments and responses provided. A tree density survey was subsequently undertaken by the Biodiversity specialist.
- DFFE Branch: Forestry Management confirmed that impacts exceeding 2000 protected trees (all size classes) will “flag” the development.
- An online meeting with officials from the DFFE Forestry Management Branch and DAERL, the EAP and Biodiversity Specialist was held on 11 August 2025 to discuss the protected tree density survey results and alternative pivot layouts. Below are the outcomes:
  - The preferred alternative was agreed to be the removal of Pivot 3.
  - The officials asked whether herbicides will be used on the pivots. The EAP confirmed that no herbicides will be used.
  - Following the online meeting, the officials were provided with the revised Biodiversity report and a KMZ of the pivot centre points as per their request and were requested to provide revised comments on the Scoping Report by 22 August 2025. Revised comments have not been received to date.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in Appendix C6. Please refer to Appendix C7 for proof of correspondence.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The comments received during the initial call to register period to date were used to inform the compilation of this PPR. This report will be updated for submission to the competent authority, the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, following the 30-day public participation period.



## 9 APPENDICES



## **Appendix C1: Interested & Affected Parties Database**

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## **Appendix C2: Initial Notification Proof**

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## **Appendix C3: Newspaper and Gazette Notice Proof**





## **Appendix C4: Site Notice Proof**



## **Appendix C5: Scoping Report Notification Proof**

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## **Appendix C6: Table of Correspondence**



## **Appendix C7: Correspondence Document**

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