Draft Basic Assessment Report

Reference No: EMB/39(i)/26/20

THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DJ POTGIETER CATTLE FEEDLOT, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Prepared By:
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Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs
Attention: Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Assessment
Private Bag X01
Glen
Bloemfontein
9360

31 July 2026
Reference no: EMB/39(i)/26/20

Subject: Draft Basic Assessment Report- The proposed expansion of DJ Potgieter cattle feedlot.

Dear Ms Mkhosana

Please find attached our Draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the 2014 EIA Regulations.

The Environmental Authorisation application is for the Proposed DJ Potgieter Cattle Feedlot located on Farms Brak Dam No. 700/1, Brak Dam No. 700/Re and Vaaldam Settlement No. 1777/26, submitted on behalf of David Jacobus Potgieter.

Should you have any project-related queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Mhloti Ashley Makhubele
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Environmental Management Group
Email: mhloti@envmgp.com
Mobile: 051 412 6350

agriculture, rural development and environmental affairs
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

DARDEA Reference: EMB/39(i)/26/20
Enquiries: Mr. Tlotliso Hanong
113 St. Andrews Building, Bloemfontein
Tel: (051) - 400 4827
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To: Mhloti Ashley Makhubele

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd
10 New Market Street
Groenvlei
Bloemfontein
9300

Cell: 079 274 5298
Email: mhloti@envmgp.com

Dear Mhloti Ashley Makhubele,

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DJ POTGIETER CATTLE FEEDLOT ON FARM BRAK DAM NO. 700/1, BRAK DAM NO.700/RE AND VAALDAM SETTLEMENT NO. 1777/26, NEAR ORANJEVILLE, FREE STATE PROVINCE, METSIMAHOLO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs (DARDEA) - 'the Department' acknowledges receipt of your Application Form received on 14 July 2026, for the above-mentioned project.

Kindly note that your application is assigned to **Mr. Tlotliso Hanong,** as the case officer and all correspondence regarding this application should be forwarded to the case officer at the above provided contact details. The application has been allocated the Departmental reference number **Ref No: EMB/39(i)/26/20**. The indicated reference number should be quoted at all times throughout the EIA process and the project life cycle e.g. documents, emails, letters, etc. In the below indicated manner:

DARDEA Ref. No: EMB/39(i)/26/20

At present the official is awaiting the Draft Basic Assessment Report, which is subjected to 30 days of public participation process to give comments as per sub-regulation 19 (1) (a) and Chapter 6 in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations as amended.

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DJ POTGIETER CATTLE FEEDLOT ON FARM BRAK DAM NO. 700/1, BRAK DAM NO.700/RE AND VAALDAM SETTLEMENT NO. 1777/26, NEAR ORANJEVILLE, FREE STATE PROVINCE, METSIMAHOLO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) Regulation 45 cautions the EAP that, this application will deemed as having lapsed by the Competent Authority (CA) in this case DARDEA, if the application fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these regulations, unless extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7). Furthermore, potential cumulative impacts of each activity applied for should be reflected within the EIA process.

Please note that the activity applied for may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by this Department.

Regards,

Mr. T.A. Hanong
Environmental Officer Production Grade A: EIM
Date: 23/07/2026

SUB - DIRECTORATE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT
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Bloemfontein
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destea
department of
economic, small business development,
tourism and environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

(For official use only)

File Reference Number:	
Application Number:	
Date Received:	

Basic assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

Kindly note that:

1. This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the particular competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
2. This report format is current as of **09 August 2023**. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority
3. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
4. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
5. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
6. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
7. This report must be handed in at offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
8. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
9. The signature of the EAP on the report must be an original signature.
10. The report must be compiled by an independent and **EAPASA registered** environmental assessment practitioner.
11. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.
12. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.
13. Should a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report must also be submitted.

14. Two (2) colour hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the report must be submitted to the competent authority.
15. Shape files (.shp) for maps must be included in the electronic copy of the report submitted to the competent authority.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? **YES x** ~~NO~~
If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for the specialist appointed and attach in Appendix I.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a) Describe the project associated with the listed activities applied for

Executive summary

The proposed development involves expanding an existing cattle feedlot that currently operates on a 99,000 m² active agricultural footprint. The facility currently accommodates approximately 1,550 Large Stock Units (LSUs) across two camps with 16 blocks. The current facility is supported by infrastructure including holding and sorting camps, silage storage, a manure composting area, and an evaporation pond.

An assessment of the current stocking density, calculated at 63.87 m² per LSU, confirms that the operation does not trigger Listing Notice 1, Activity 4, as it remains significantly below the regulatory density threshold of one unit per 20 m². This status is officially supported by a confirmation letter from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDEA), refer to **Appendix J.**

The proponent intends to increase the site's total capacity to 4,054 LSUs by adding 2,504 units through the reconfiguration and optimisation of the existing facilities holding area (refer to **Appendix A – Maps**). Notably, this expansion will occur entirely within the existing agricultural footprint, resulting in no increase in the overall surface area and no clearance of indigenous vegetation as defined by the EIA Regulations.

Consequently, Activity 27 of Listing Notice 1 is not applicable, a finding validated by the ecological specialist's report (refer to **Appendix D**), which notes that the land has been historically transformed. To support increased livestock numbers, the project includes constructing feeding troughs of 20 cm of space per LSU, as well as new stormwater management channels and berms to control runoff effectively.

Background

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as independent environmental practitioners by **Mr David Potgieter** to undertake the Environmental Authorisation application for the proposed cattle feedlot expansion. The activity is located on Brak Dam No. 700/1, Brak Dam No. 700/RE and Vaaldam Settlement No. 1777/26, within the jurisdiction of Metsimaholo Local Municipality, under Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province. The proposed site is located near the town of Oranjeville and traverses three farm portions, as indicated in Figure 1 below.

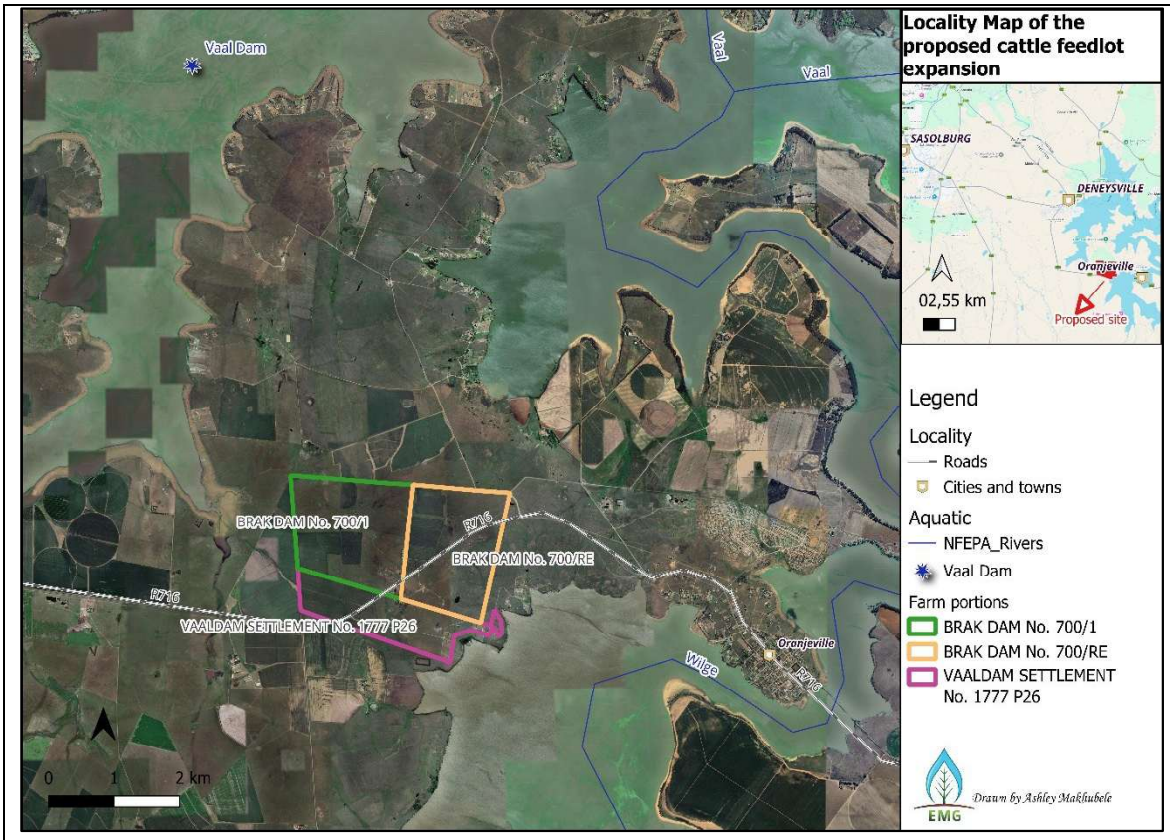

Figure 1: *The locality map illustrates the locality of the proposed expansion alongside current infrastructure. The properties are distinctly marked in green, yellow, and pink, while the adjacent town of Oranjeville is also depicted. In the right-hand corner, a larger-scale map highlights the location of the proposed development relative to the surrounding towns.*

Existing infrastructure

The existing cattle feedlot on site has a capacity of approximately 1,550 Large Stock Units (LSUs) across 16 feedlot blocks. These blocks are arranged into two separate camps, with the first camp comprising 10 blocks and the second camp consisting of 6 blocks. The existing feedlot, together with the holding areas, occupies a total surface area of approximately 99,000 m². Refer to Figures 2 and 3 below. The existing supporting infrastructure includes:

- 2 holding camps and 1 informal holding area
- 2 sorting camps
- Silage storage area
- Manure drying and composting area
- Evaporation pond

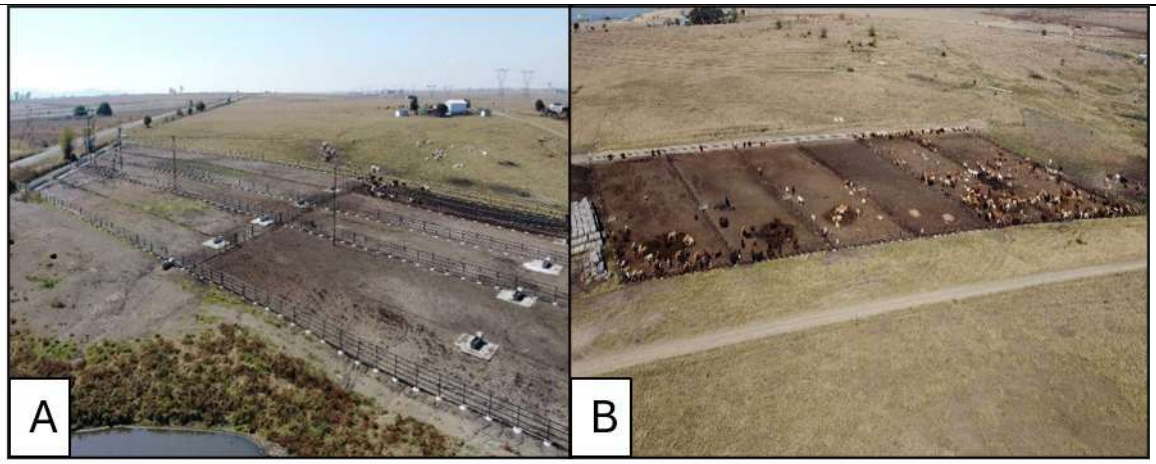

Figure 2: *Aerial photographs of the current feedlot facilities. Image (A) illustrates Camp A, as depicted in Figure 3 in the brown-filled area, while Image (B) represents Camp B, indicated by the blue-filled area in Figure 3.*

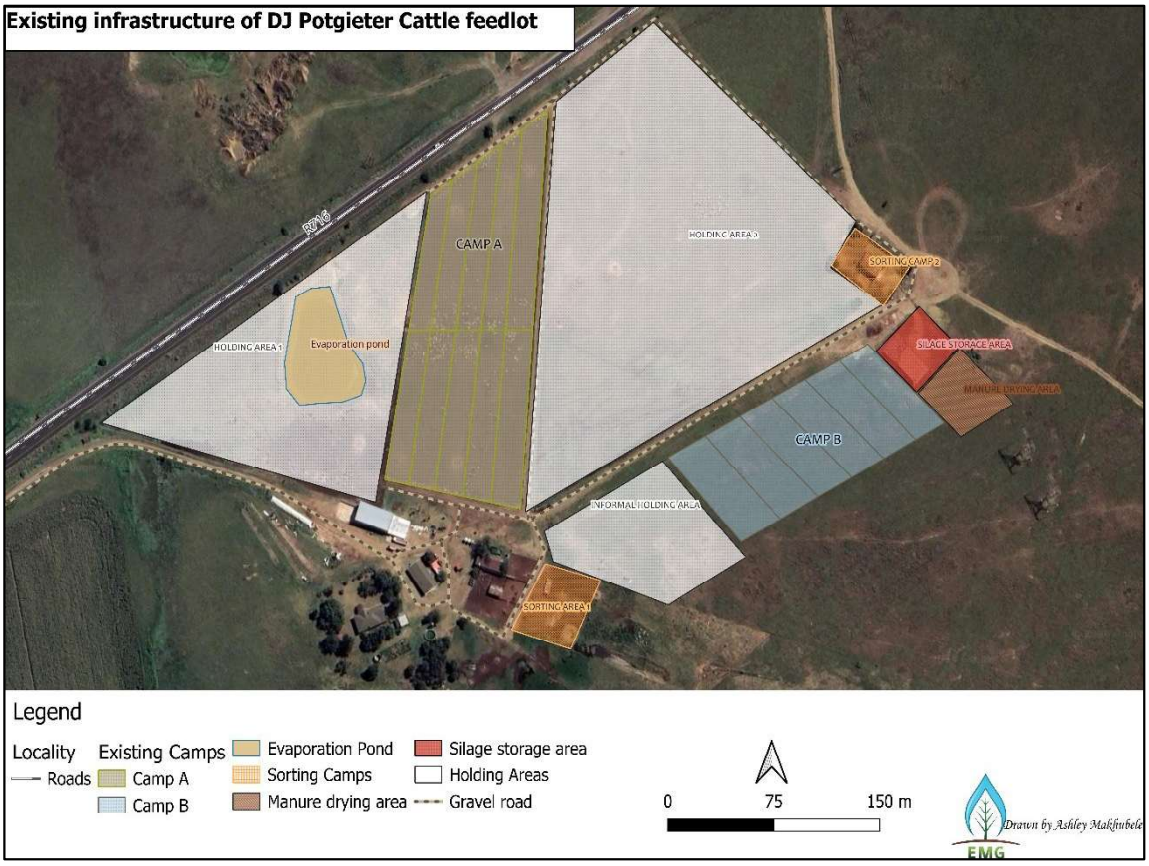

Figure 3: *This map illustrates the existing infrastructure and operational zones of the Potgieter feedlot. The current feedlot areas are depicted in brown and blue, designated as Camp A and Camp B. The holding areas are represented in white, while the silage storage area is indicated in red. The composting area is shown in dark brown, and the evaporation pond is marked in cream. Additionally, sorting areas are illustrated in orange.*

An assessment was undertaken to determine whether the existing operation triggers any listed activities under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the EIA Regulations, as amended.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 4 applies to facilities for the concentration of animals at densities exceeding 20 m² per Large Stock Unit (LSU) and that accommodate more than 500 units. The stocking density of the existing feedlot was calculated as depicted in Equation 1.

$$\frac{Surface\ area\ (m^2)}{LSU} = m^2\ per\ LSU$$

Equation 1 *Calculation of the available surface area per livestock unit (LSU) to assess the facility's current stocking density.*

The calculated stocking density is 63.87 m² per LSU. This figure does not exceed the 20 m² per LSU threshold stipulated in Listing Notice 1, Activity 4. Consequently, the existing feedlot does not trigger this listed activity. A confirmation letter from DARDEA that supports this conclusion is included in **Appendix J**.

Furthermore, Listing Notice 1, Activity 27, has not been recognised as a triggered activity. This activity relates to the clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation. The feedlot is situated on land that has been historically utilised for agriculture and is already extensively transformed and disturbed. Since the development does not involve the clearance of indigenous vegetation in a natural or undisturbed state, Activity 27 is not applicable. The ecological specialist report supporting this finding is provided in **Appendix D.**

Proposed Feedlot Expansion

The proponent proposes to repurpose the existing Holding Area 2 (refer to Figure 3) to facilitate the expansion of the existing feedlot. This involves the expansion by an additional 2 504 LSUs, increasing the total holding capacity to approximately 4054 LSUs. The existing feedlot capacity will be increased by 161 LSUs, while the newly constructed feedlot will accommodate 2343 LSUs across 2 camps and 18 blocks. The expansion will be accommodated within the existing 99,000 m² active agricultural footprint through the reconfiguration and optimisation of the area, with no increase in the overall feedlot surface area proposed.

To support the increased livestock capacity, additional infrastructure will be constructed, including a feeding trough (feeding pan). The feeding infrastructure will be designed to provide 20 cm of feeding space per LSU, resulting in a total feeding length of 50 080 cm (500.8 m) for Camps C and D (refer to Figure 4), ensuring adequate access to feed for all animals within the expanded facility. Moreover, newly constructed stormwater management channels and berms are proposed to manage the stormwater runoff.

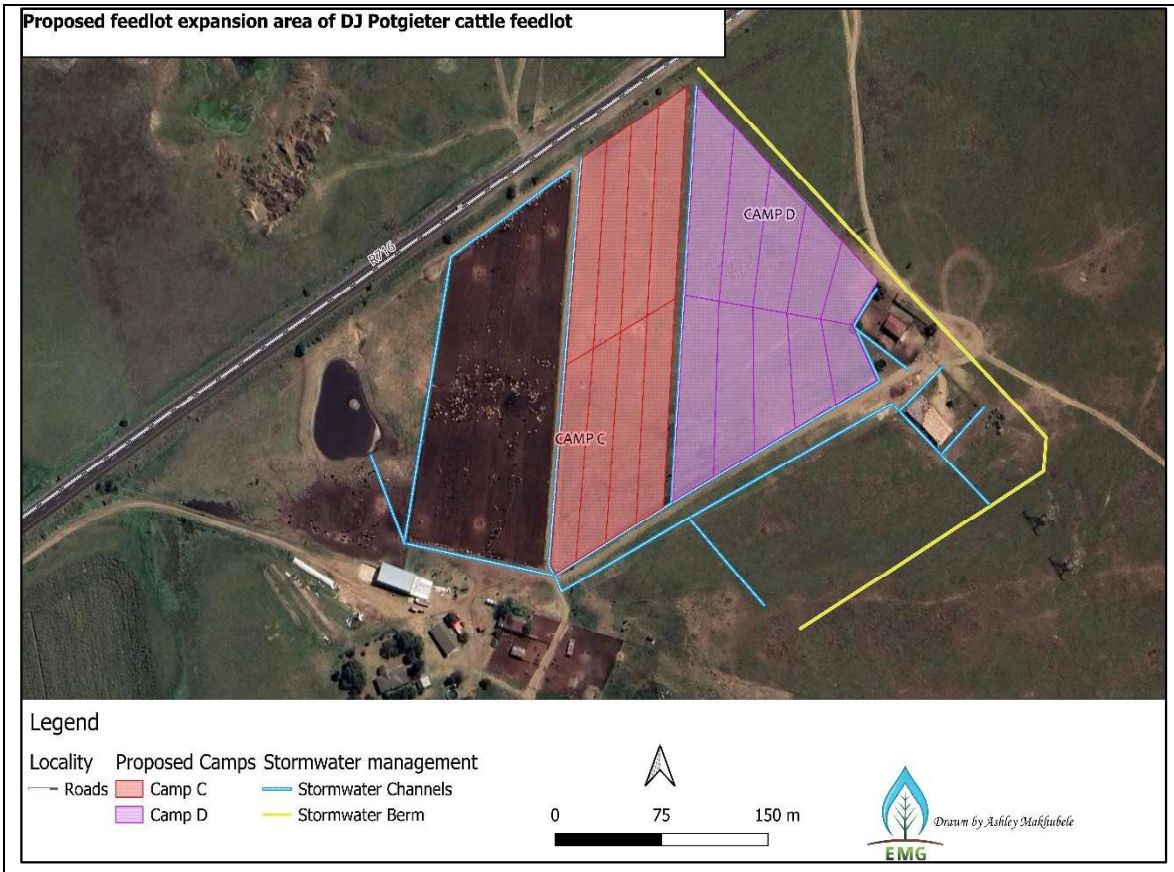

Figure 4: *The map illustrates the proposed new feedlot areas, indicated in red (Camp C) and purple (Camp D), along with the stormwater channels depicted in blue and the stormwater berm represented in yellow.*

The proposed expansion will make use of the existing infrastructure currently available on site. Existing sorting camps, the silage storage area, the manure drying and composting area, Holding Area 1 and the evaporation pond will continue to support the operation. The total surface area of the existing and proposed expansion accumulates to approximately 12.5 ha. In addition, the existing informal holding area will be repurposed to a formal Holding Area 2. Figure 5 below illustrates the proposed site layout.

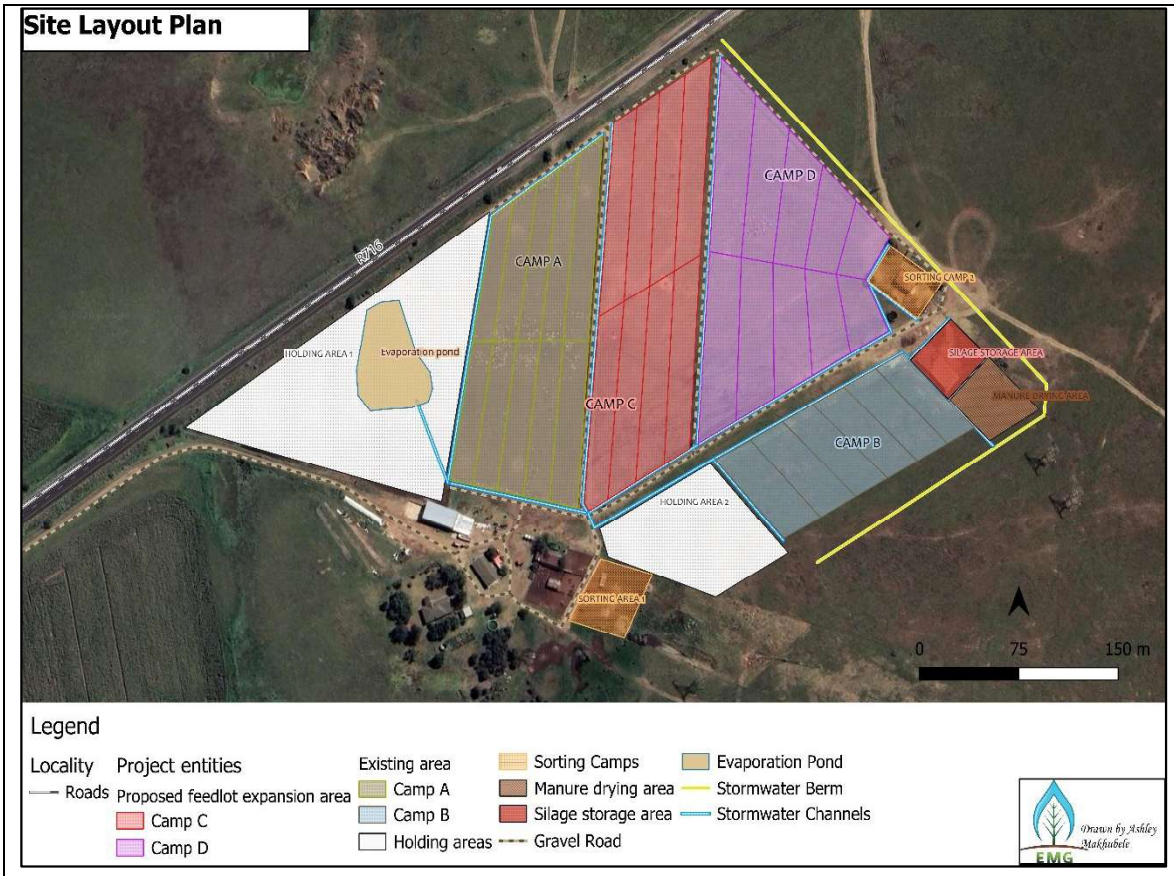

Figure 5 *The site layout plan for the proposed expansion, including the existing feedlot. All current and proposed camps are distinguished by various colours: the holding areas are represented in white, the silage storage area is indicated in red, sorting camps are depicted in orange, the manure storage area is depicted in dark brown, the evaporation ponds are illustrated in cream, and the stormwater infrastructure is shown in yellow and blue.*

Waste and Stormwater Management:

Cattle produce an estimated 5-6% of their body weight in waste daily. To account for differences in cattle size, it can be estimated that their weight at introduction is 250 kg, at the growing stage 375 kg, and at the exit stage 500 kg. After analysing the data, the total manure production across all three cattle weight categories is approximately 2685 tons per month. The manure will be deposited in a composting and drying area measuring 1 meter in height and 44.77 meters in length and width. The composting area (0.2004 ha) will have a capacity of 2 004 cubic meters, sufficient to accommodate all manure produced by the cattle. The farmer intends to utilise the dehydrated manure, which is essentially compost, to fertilise his crop production.

Effluent generated by the cattle feedlot consists primarily of runoff contaminated with animal manure, urine, feed residues, and stormwater from the feedlot pens. Pens will be cleaned on a cyclical basis, with manure removed and transferred to the designated manure handling area as required. In addition, it is proposed that a berm be constructed around the feedlot area to improve separation and containment. Stormwater channels will also be provided alongside the road as part of the overall site drainage arrangement. Proposed stormwater channels will run towards the effluent pond by utilising

the existing topography; refer to Figure 6 below:

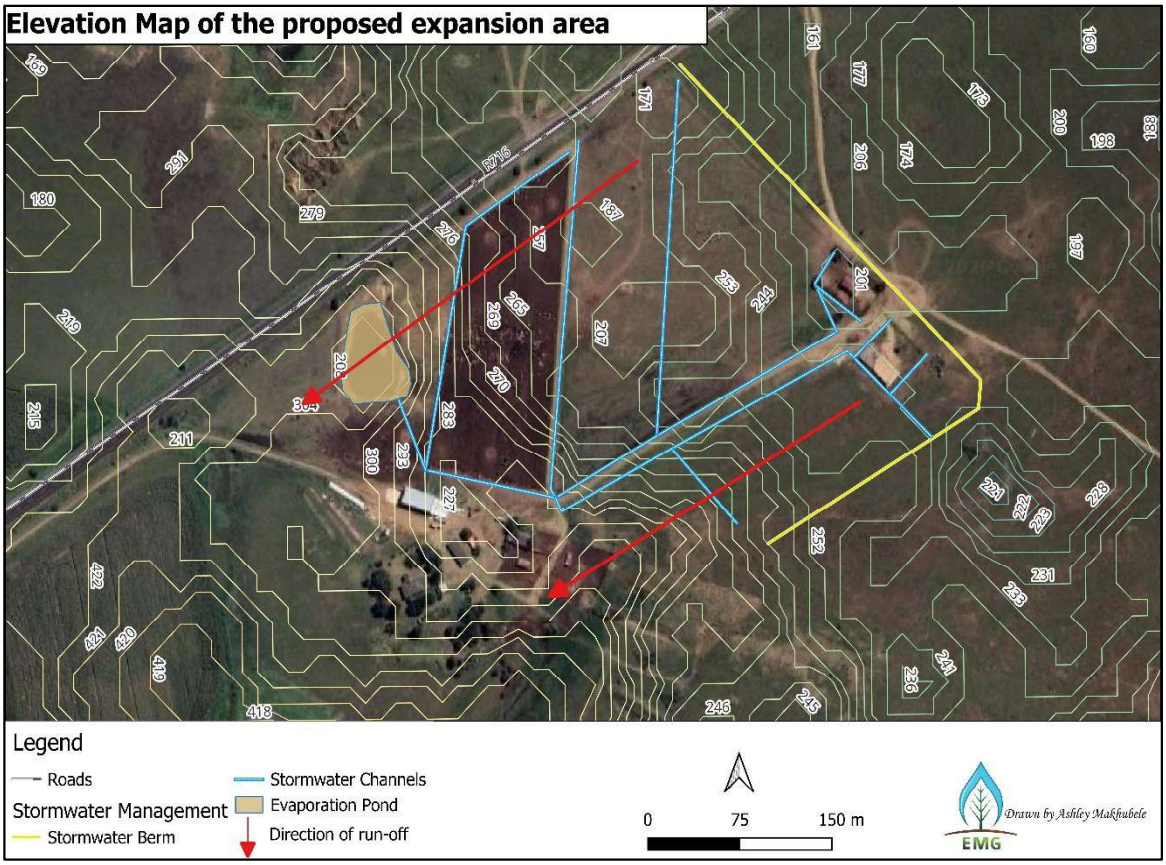

Figure 6 *The map illustrates the area's topographical features, highlighting the stormwater channels in blue, the stormwater berm in yellow, and the evaporation pond in cream. Additionally, the diagram depicts the direction of runoff flow, as determined by the topography, using red arrows.*

The pond serves as the primary effluent storage facility, where contaminated runoff is collected and contained. Within the pond, suspended solids settle naturally, allowing sediment and organic matter to accumulate while the liquid fraction is retained in the storage facility. The water accumulated in the dam will be utilised by the farmer for wetting manure during the composting process.

Feedlot Water Management

In the context of feedlot water management, it is imperative to accurately estimate and provide the requisite water volume to ensure livestock's well-being and productivity. According to recommended guidelines, the daily water requirement for cattle can be estimated based on their live weight, with a standard ratio of 5 litres per 50 kilograms of LSU. Table 1 presents a daily breakdown of estimated water requirements per LSU.

Table 1: *Quantity of water needed per LSU per day for each weight class.*

Water needs per day/L	
LSU 250kg	25
LSU 375kg	37.5
LSU 500kg	50

Average	37.5

The cumulative water demand for the entire cattle population can be calculated by extrapolating these daily requirements to an annual scale; Equation 2 was used to calculate the annual requirements:

$$H_2O\backslash LSU\backslash Day\ x\ LSU\ x\ 365 = H_2O\ \mathrm{m}^3/\ \mathrm{per\ year}$$

Equation 2 *Annual Water calculation for an operational cattle feedlot*

The amount of water needed to sustain the feedlot operation, including current and proposed expansion, works out to 5 412.09 m^3 per year. It is paramount that the water supplied to the cattle meets stringent quality standards and is clean, cool, and of high purity. Adequate water provision is indispensable for sustaining high-density cattle production and ensuring optimal health and performance outcomes. Four existing boreholes will be utilised to supply water for the cattle. At a later stage, surface water (from the Vaal Dam) will be utilised.

Practical measures, such as supplying drinking water via elevated troughs, are advocated to minimise contamination from livestock excretions, thereby maintaining water integrity and hygiene standards. The operational activities of the proposed feedlot facility will require authorisation under Section 21 of the National Water Act. The proponent is in the process of submitting a water use licence application to the catchment management agency (Vaal Orange Catchment Management Agency - VOCMA).

b) Provide a detailed description of the listed activities associated with the project as applied for

Listed activity as described in GN 327,325 and 324	Description of project activity
GN 327 Activity 39: *The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of animals in densities that will exceed* *(i) 20 square metres per large stock unit, where the expansion will constitute more than 500 additional units.*	The proponent proposes to expand the existing feedlot by an additional 2 504 LSUs. The total of the existing 1550 LSU and the proposed 2 504 LSU accumulates to a total of 4054 LSU. Moreover, the surface area of the feedlot is 75 000 square metres, as such the stocking density of the feedlot is 18.5 square metres per LSU.

2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

"alternatives", in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

(a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
(b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
(c) the design or layout of the activity;
(d) the technology to be used in the activity;
(e) the operational aspects of the activity; and

(f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application as required by Appendix 1 (3)(h) of GN 326, Regulation 2014 as amended. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity (NOT PROJECT) could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed.

The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes, etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the, competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

The identification of alternatives should be in line with the Integrated Environmental Assessment Guideline Series 11, published by the DEA in 2004. Should the alternatives include different locations and lay-outs, the co-ordinates of the different alternatives must be provided. The co-ordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

a) Site alternatives

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
The preferred site for the proposed cattle feedlot expansion is located within the existing feedlot operational area that has already been transformed and is currently used for feedlot-related activities. From a site layout perspective, this location is considered the preferred alternative as it makes optimal use of existing infrastructure and operational systems while minimising additional environmental impacts. The proposed expansion has been designed to integrate seamlessly with the current feedlot layout, allowing for efficient movement of livestock, vehicles, feed, and personnel. Existing access roads, water supply infrastructure, waste management systems, and operational facilities can be utilised or extended, thereby reducing the need for new infrastructure development and limiting the overall expansion footprint. Locating the expansion within an already transformed and degraded area avoids the disturbance of undisturbed or sensitive natural habitats, cultivated fields, and other environmentally significant areas. As the site has already been subjected to long-term feedlot activities, the expansion will not result in the fragmentation of intact vegetation or the loss of additional ecological resources beyond those already affected.	26° 59' 02.01" S	28° 09' 14.05" E

Therefore, the proposed expansion on Farm Brak Dam No. 700/RE and 700/1 is the most suitable option. Therefore, no alternative option will be further discussed.		
Alternative 2		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Alternative 3		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:	**Latitude (S):**	**Longitude (E):**
~~Alternative S1 (preferred)~~		
~~• Starting point of the activity~~		
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity~~		
~~• End point of the activity~~		
~~Alternative S2 (if any)~~		
~~• Starting point of the activity~~		
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity~~		
~~• End point of the activity~~		
~~Alternative S3 (if any)~~		
~~• Starting point of the activity~~		
~~• Middle/Additional point of the activity~~		
~~• End point of the activity~~		

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

In the case of an area being under application, please provide the co-ordinates of the corners of the site as indicated on the lay-out map provided in Appendix A of this form.

b) Lay-out alternatives

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
The proposed expansion has a layout design that is well suited for its location. The area's natural slope directs runoff to the designated evaporation pond. All facilities - including feedlot camps, sorting and handling camps, evaporation pond, and silage storage areas - have been thoughtfully designed with the area's slope in mind. This contributes to the efficient sorting and handling of the cattle. The feedlot expansion will be able to accommodate 4054 cattle in 4 camps. These camps are strategically located throughout the expansion area to efficiently sort and handle the different weight groups of cattle. This will also help manage the manure	26° 59' 02.01" S	28° 09' 14.05" E

and wastewater runoff. The manure will be collected and deposited in a separate composting area.		
Alternative 2		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Alternative 3		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)

c) Technology alternatives

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)
The preferred technology alternative is the expansion of the existing conventional open-lot cattle feedlot using established feedlot management practices and infrastructure that are already successfully implemented on site. This technology has been selected as it is compatible with the existing operational systems, requires minimal modification to current infrastructure, and enables the efficient management of livestock, feed, water, and waste. The expansion will utilise similar pen designs, feed delivery systems, watering infrastructure, handling facilities, and manure management practices as those currently employed at the feedlot. Existing operational procedures will be extended to the new facilities, allowing for consistency in animal husbandry, biosecurity, and environmental management.
Alternative 2
Alternative 3

d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input, scale and design alternatives)

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)
The manure produced by the cattle will be composted and utilised as a nutrient-rich fertiliser for the crops on site. Furthermore, the effluent will be used to wet the manure during the composting process. This creates a cost-effective system that operates within a circular business model.
Alternative 2
Alternative 3

e) No-go alternative

The "no-go" alternative refers to the option of not going ahead with a proposed expansion, which means not constructing the proposed expansion. Choosing this alternative would result in no environmental impact on the site or the surrounding local area. It provides a baseline against which other alternatives can be compared. If the "no-go" alternative is implemented, the following implications will occur:

- No benefits such as job creation and overall economic growth will be derived from implementing the proposed expansion.

- The cattle feedlot will not create additional food security locally and regionally.
- No economic revenue will be generated from the proposed expansion through the purchase of cattle and associated production inputs, including feed, veterinary products and services, animal health supplies, equipment, fuel, transport services, and other operational materials required for feedlot activities.
- Socio-economic benefits such as job creation, skills development, and local economic growth will be lost.

In addition to the implications already mentioned, implementing the no-go alternative would result in the following advantages:

- The natural state of the land will remain mostly unaltered.
- The existing landscape will not undergo any changes.
- No additional construction waste will end up in landfills.

It is important to note that while the no-go alternative may not have any negative environmental impacts, it will also not provide any socio-economic benefits to the local community. In addition, this alternative will not assist the government in addressing concerns such as food security, job creation, and economic revenue. Therefore, it is not considered the preferred alternative.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

3. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

a) Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:	**Size of the activity:**
Alternative A1[1] (preferred activity alternative)	75 000 m²
~~Alternative A2 (if any)~~	m²
~~Alternative A3 (if any)~~	m²

or, for linear activities:

Alternative:	**Length of the activity:**
~~Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)~~	m
~~Alternative A2 (if any)~~	m
~~Alternative A3 (if any)~~	m

b) Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Alternative:	**Size of the site/servitude:**
Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)	120 000 m²
Alternative A2 (if any)	m²
Alternative A3 (if any)	m²

[1] "Alternative A.." refer to activity, process, technology or other alternatives.

4. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?	YES x	~~NO~~
If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built		m

Describe the type of access road planned:

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

5. LOCALITY MAP

An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.). The map must indicate the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- indication of all the alternatives identified;
- closest town(s;)
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

6. LAYOUT/ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- the exact position of each listed activity applied for (including alternatives);
- servitude(s) indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- a legend; and
- a north arrow.

7. SENSITIVITY MAP

The layout/route plan as indicated above must be overlain with a sensitivity map that indicates all the sensitive areas associated with the site, including, but not limited to:

- watercourses;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWS);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;
- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species); and
- critical biodiversity areas.

The sensitivity map must also cover areas within 100m of the site and must be attached in Appendix A.

8. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this report. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

9. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of at least 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

10. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

1. Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The property is zoned for agricultural use, and the activity falls within the scope of agricultural activities permitted under the property's existing land use rights.			
2. Will the activity be in line with the following?			
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
According to the Free State Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) (2025), one of the key development and spatial drivers is enhancing competitive advantages for job creation, which can be achieved through agricultural activities, amongst other things. Furthermore, Fezile Dabi District Municipality, within which the proposed site falls under, is recognised as a strategic industrial and agricultural node. The proposed expansion is an agricultural activity. As thus, the expansion is regarded as being aligned with the spatial development objectives and strategic intent of the Free State PSDF.			
(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain
The proposed site is situated on the outskirts of Oranjeville, beyond the urban edge, and is surrounded by vast agricultural expanses primarily dedicated to crop cultivation.			

(c) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) of the Local Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing approved and credible municipal IDP and SDF?).	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain

Integrated Development Plan

The proposed activity is aligned with the objectives of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality (MLM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) (2025/26). The IDP identifies agriculture as one of the municipality's key economic sectors, with primary agricultural activities including red meat production, particularly beef and mutton. Furthermore, the municipality recognises agriculture and agro-processing as strategic sectors with significant potential to stimulate local economic growth and development. In this regard, the proposed expansion is considered to be consistent with the economic development objectives outlined in the MLM IDP.

Spatial Development Framework

The MLM Spatial Development Framework (SDF) (2025/26) highlights agriculture as a key driver of rural development, economic growth, and job creation. In addition, the municipality's long-term economic prospects are linked to the Vaal Special Economic Zones, particularly in the sectors of renewable energy, agriculture, and tourism. Therefore, the proposed expansion is considered consistent with the objectives and priorities of the MLM SDF.

(d) Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain

The proposed expansion site is situated within the agricultural component of the urban fringe, characterised predominantly by agricultural land uses and rural activities. The proposed activity is therefore regarded as in keeping with the prevailing land-use character of the area.

(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area and if so, can it be justified in terms of sustainability considerations?)	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain

It is uncertain whether an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) applicable to the project area has been formally adopted by the relevant MEC in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and associated EIA Regulations.

The Environmental Screening Tool Report for the proposed expansion does not identify any interaction with an adopted EMF. It is therefore assumed that no adopted EMF currently applies to the project area for environmental decision-making purposes.

Accordingly, the approval of the proposed expansion is not anticipated to compromise the integrity of any adopted Environmental Management Framework. Environmental sensitivities associated with the project area have nevertheless been identified and assessed through the specialist studies undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, minimise, and manage potential impacts, thereby ensuring compliance with applicable environmental legislation and sustainable development principles.

(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The National Development Plan (NDP) (2030) has developed a comprehensive strategy to enhance the growth of the agriculture sector and create more employment opportunities. It also advocates for the use of water resources for agricultural activities and the expansion of commercialised agriculture. This proposed expansion is aligned with the NDP's objectives and has a positive impact on several critical areas, including job creation, addressing national unemployment levels, boosting economic revenue, reducing poverty nationwide, and increasing food production and agricultural growth to address the national need for food security.			
3. Is the land use (associated with the activity being applied for) considered within the timeframe intended by the existing approved SDF agreed to by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. is the proposed development in line with the projects and programmes identified as priorities within the credible IDP)?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The IDP recognises agriculture and agro-processing as strategic sectors with significant potential to stimulate local economic growth and development. The proposed expansion thus enhances the municipal goal of stimulating economic growth.			
4. Does the community/area need the activity and the associated land use concerned (is it a societal priority)? (This refers to the strategic as well as local level (e.g. development is a national priority, but within a specific local context it could be inappropriate.)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The proposed expansion is expected to provide a range of socio-economic benefits at both the local and regional levels. As an expansion of an existing agricultural enterprise, the project will contribute to the more efficient use of land that has already been transformed and is currently utilised for feedlot operations. During the construction phase, the project is expected to create temporary employment opportunities and stimulate economic activity by procuring construction materials, equipment, and services from local and regional suppliers, where feasible. The operational phase may also result in additional permanent employment opportunities to support the expanded feedlot, thereby contributing to household incomes and the local economy. The expansion will increase the feedlot's production capacity, contributing to the supply of beef and supporting the broader agricultural value chain. By increasing livestock production, the expansion has the potential to contribute positively to regional and national food security while supporting the continued growth of the livestock sector. Overall, the proposed expansion is expected to generate positive economic impacts through investment in agricultural infrastructure, job creation, increased demand for goods and services, and enhanced agricultural productivity.			

5. Are the necessary services with adequate capacity currently available (at the time of application), or must additional capacity be created to cater for the development? (Confirmation by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
Electricity is already supplied to the existing feedlot and will be extended where necessary to service the expanded facilities. This electrical service will also support the construction activities. Water for the feedlot is supplied from four existing boreholes, which provide an adequate and reliable water source for the current operation and the proposed expansion. The existing feedlot infrastructure also includes sorting and holding camps, which form part of the operational livestock management system and have been designed to accommodate the proposed increase in capacity. The expansion has been planned to integrate with the existing infrastructure, thereby minimising the need for additional service provision. As part of the proposed expansion, stormwater management infrastructure, including diversion channels and berms, will be constructed to effectively manage clean and dirty stormwater runoff. These measures will be designed to reduce erosion, minimise the risk of contaminated runoff leaving the feedlot, and ensure that stormwater is managed in accordance with applicable environmental management requirements and engineering best practice.			
6. Is this development provided for in the infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if not what will the implication be on the infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority and placement of services and opportunity costs)? (Comment by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.)	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain
The proposed expansion is not included in the municipality's infrastructure planning. However, it will be in an area allocated for agricultural activities, aligning with the municipality's goal for agricultural growth, as stated in IDP.			
7. Is this project part of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The National Development Plan (NDP) has developed a comprehensive strategy to enhance the growth of the agriculture sector and create more employment opportunities. It also advocates for the use of water resources for agricultural activities and the expansion of commercialised agriculture. The key objective of the plan is to stimulate technological advancements in the field of agriculture. The proposed expansion enhances the achievement of this goal as it will create employment and the growth of the agricultural sector. In essence, proposed expansion is aligned with the NDP's objectives and is expected to have a positive impact on several critical areas, including job creation, addressing national unemployment levels, boosting economic revenue, reducing poverty nationwide, and increasing food production and agricultural growth to address the national need for food security.			

8. Do location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This relates to the contextualisation of the proposed land use on this site within its broader context.)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The proposed expansion is located within the existing operational footprint of an established cattle feedlot, on land that has already been transformed and is actively used for feedlot activities. The site is therefore well suited to the proposed land use, as the expansion will occur within an area that has already been disturbed, thereby avoiding the unnecessary transformation of undisturbed land. The location is favourable as it allows the proposed expansion to utilise existing feedlot infrastructure, including access roads, electricity supply, water supplied from four boreholes, livestock handling facilities, and other supporting operational infrastructure. This reduces the need for additional infrastructure development and limits the overall environmental footprint of the project. The proposed expansion is also compatible with the surrounding land uses, which are predominantly agricultural in nature. The continuation and expansion of an existing feedlot is consistent with the established agricultural character of the area and does not introduce a new or incompatible land use.			
9. Is the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The proposed expansion will occur on existing agricultural fields. The favourable slope of the terrain presents an opportunity for efficient water management, particularly in managing run-off during rainfall events, which will be directed towards an evaporation pond. Moreover, the utilisation of the collected effluent during the composting process of the manure as well as wetting the agricultural field on site, and the use of manure as compost for the crops underscores a proactive approach towards sustainable resource management, thereby curbing potential negative ecological impacts. The surrounding terrain predominantly comprises cultivated land, indicative of the feedlot's capacity to harmonise with existing agricultural practices without exacerbating landscape degradation. Furthermore, the expansion's design and implementation strive for seamless integration with the surrounding environment, enhancing compatibility with the broader ecological context.			
10. Will the benefits of the proposed land use/development outweigh the negative impacts of it?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The anticipated benefits of the proposed feedlot expansion are considered to outweigh the potential negative environmental impacts, provided that the recommended mitigation measures and the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) are effectively implemented. The proposed expansion will increase the production capacity of an existing agricultural enterprise, contribute to the livestock sector and food production, create temporary employment during construction and additional employment during operation, and stimulate the local economy through the procurement of goods, materials, equipment, and services. The expansion will be confined to the existing operational footprint of the feedlot on land that has already been cleared, degraded, and transformed, thereby avoiding the disturbance of previously undisturbed areas and making efficient use of existing infrastructure. Although potential impacts such as dust, odour, noise, stormwater runoff, manure management, and increased traffic may occur, these impacts are expected to be localised and can be effectively avoided, minimised, or mitigated through the implementation of appropriate environmental management measures, including the construction of stormwater diversion channels and berms, sound waste and manure management practices, and compliance with the EMPr and applicable legislation.			

11. Will the proposed land use/development set a precedent for similar activities in the area (local municipality)?	**YES x**	~~NO~~	Please explain
The proposed land use and expansion can potentially set a significant precedent within the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, particularly for future agricultural developments. The NDP aims to attract investors for agricultural ventures, and the cattle feedlot expansion could act as a catalyst for similar initiatives in the area. This proposed expansion aims to showcase a commitment to socio-economic advancement and environmental stewardship, setting a high standard. Its adherence to stringent guidelines, emphasising the containment of surface and groundwater contamination, utilisation of already disturbed land, and limitation of its physical footprint, underscores its responsible approach. This project could boost the local economy and serve as a blueprint for future developments. Demonstrating the viability of responsible land use practices paves the way for a more sustainable and beneficial approach to development within the region, thus setting a precedent for others to follow suit.			
12. Will any person's rights be negatively affected by the proposed activity/ies?	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain
The Public Participation Process (PPP) allows the community and all landowners in the surrounding area to express their concerns and issues regarding the expansion. The PPP is currently in progress, and all comments and concerns will be addressed and made available in Appendix E.			
13. Will the proposed activity/ies compromise the "urban edge" as defined by the local municipality?	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain
The proposed expansion will not compromise the urban edge as defined by the local municipality, as the site is located outside the designated urban edge within an established agricultural area. The proposed activity is compatible with the surrounding rural land use character. The expansion does not contribute to the outward spread of urban development but rather supports the continued use of land for agricultural purposes. The proposed expansion will therefore not conflict with municipal spatial planning objectives or undermine the purpose of the urban edge.			
14. Will the proposed activity/ies contribute to any of the 17 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPS)?	~~YES~~	**NO x**	Please explain
The proposed expansion it is not linked to a designated SIP programme.			
15. What will the benefits be to society in general and to the local communities?			Please explain
The expansion will contribute to the following benefits regarding society in general and the local communities: • Feedlot operations will contribute to economic growth by creating jobs in the feedlot and the associated industries, such as transport, veterinary service, feed supply, and meat processing facilities. • Tax revenue will increase further and be allocated to SARS, which can then be distributed to municipalities to fund public services. • The local economy will be supported by purchasing equipment, feed, and supplies. • The feedlot will ensure a stable food supply by providing consumers with a consistent source of meat products. This can contribute to food security at both local and national levels. • Introducing the feedlot expansion can diversify the local agricultural landscape, providing farmers with additional options for livestock production and potentially reducing dependence on single crops or activities.			

16. Any other need and desirability considerations related to the proposed activity?	Please explain
The proposed feedlot expansion is considered desirable as it supports the continued utilisation and optimisation of an existing agricultural operation within an already transformed and degraded area. The expansion will allow for increased livestock production capacity without requiring the establishment of a new feedlot on previously undeveloped land, thereby promoting efficient land use and minimising additional environmental disturbance. The expansion is aligned with the agricultural character of the surrounding area and contributes to broader economic objectives through increased agricultural productivity, support of the livestock value chain, and the creation of employment opportunities during both construction and operational phases.	
17. How does the project fit into the National Development Plan for 2030?	Please explain
The project aligns closely with South Africa's National Development Plan for 2030, particularly in its emphasis on promoting sustainable agricultural practices while addressing social equity and economic development in rural communities. By advocating for efficient land use and recognising the importance of subsistence agriculture, the NDP aims to balance agricultural productivity and equitable access to resources. Moreover, the project addresses waste management issues, aiming to decrease emissions by minimising solid waste disposal and implementing recycling and composting initiatives. This aligns with national goals to reduce environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency. The project supports job creation and livelihood improvement in rural areas. The NDP's goal of creating close to 1 million new jobs by 2030 through agricultural expansion is a testament to its significance in achieving broader employment targets. Strategies such as expanding irrigated agriculture, utilising underused land, and supporting promising agricultural sectors highlight a comprehensive approach to boosting productivity and income generation in rural communities. The project's emphasis on agricultural training further underscores the need for capacity building to ensure the sustainability of these efforts. The proposed expansion aligns with this aim as it will create job opportunities within the local community, provide regional expansion of food production, address the national need for food security, and promote agricultural growth.	
18. Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA have been taken into account.	

Section 23 of NEMA promotes the application of appropriate environmental management tools in order to ensure the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) of activities.

The general objectives of IEM have been actively incorporated into the planning and assessment of the proposed cattle feedlot. The project has applied appropriate environmental management tools, including a comprehensive EIA and specialist studies, to ensure informed and transparent decision-making. Sustainable development principles have guided the selection of technologies and site layout, balancing ecological protection with socio-economic enhancement. The full lifecycle of the feedlot-from construction through to operation-has been considered to identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts. Public participation has been facilitated to promote inclusivity and accountability, while intersectoral coordination has ensured alignment with municipal planning frameworks. The precautionary principle has been applied where uncertainty exists, and adaptive management measures have been incorporated in the EMPr to ensure ongoing responsiveness to environmental risks.

19. Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account.

The principles of environmental management as set out in Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) have been considered throughout the planning and assessment of the proposed cattle feedlot expansion. The proposed expansion seeks to support sustainable agricultural production while ensuring that environmental impacts are avoided or minimised through appropriate planning, design, and management measures. The assessment has balanced environmental, social, and economic considerations to ensure that the expansion is environmentally responsible and contributes to the long-term sustainability of the farming operation.

The principle of sustainable development has guided the project by promoting responsible use of natural resources while supporting economic growth and local employment opportunities. The expansion will enhance the productivity and long-term viability of the agricultural enterprise, while mitigation measures have been incorporated to manage potential impacts associated with manure, stormwater runoff, wastewater, dust, odour, and noise. These measures are aimed at preventing pollution, protecting soil and water resources, and minimising impacts on surrounding land uses and the receiving environment.

Integrated environmental management has been achieved through consideration of the site's environmental characteristics, surrounding land uses, and applicable planning and environmental legislation. Public participation formed an important component of the environmental assessment process, providing interested and affected parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) outlines the mitigation, monitoring, and management measures required during construction and operation to ensure compliance with environmental legislation and to promote ongoing environmental protection. Collectively, these measures demonstrate that the proposed cattle feedlot expansion has been planned in accordance with the environmental management principles contained in Section 2 of NEMA.

11. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline	Applicability to the project	Administering authority	Date
The Constitution of South Africa Act 108 of 1996	The proponent should comply with the Constitution by ensuring that no pollution or ecological degradation occurs due to the proposed expansion and by conducting environmentally sustainable developmental practices.	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	18 December 1996
National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998	The proposed expansion triggers a Listing Notice activity; therefore, an Environmental Authorisation needs to be obtained.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. DARDEA	27 November 1998
National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008	Although the proposed expansion any activities listed within the Waste Act, the expansion will result in waste generation that includes cattle manure. Therefore, it is crucial for the proponent to comply with the Waste Act.	DFFE	10 March 2009
National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004	The proposed site falls within an ESA category 2, therefore a terrestrial biodiversity study has been conducted to evaluate the site for possible protected species or Species of Conservation Concern within the expansion footprint.	DFFE	07 June 2004
The National Water Act 36 of 1998	The proposed expansion activities will trigger licensing in terms of the National Water Act of 1998. Application for Sections 21 (a) (b) (c) (g) and (i) will be required.	DWS VOCMA	26 August 1998
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004	Although the proposed expansion does not trigger registration or licensing in terms of this Act, generation of dust and other emissions from the cattle could become a factor to surrounding land users. It is crucial for the proponent to remain within the acceptable limits as stipulated in the NEM:QA.	DFFE	24 February 2004

The White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management for South Africa	The proposed expansion may result in waste generation that includes debris (concrete, asphalt, metals, and packaging materials), hazardous waste (oils, and paint), and organic waste (food). Therefore, it is crucial for the proponent to comply with the White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management.	DFFE	17 March 2000
Environmental Conservation Act 73 of 1989	The proposed expansion triggers the application of both the EIA and WULA before the activity can be undertaken. Moreover, the expansion may result in pollution and waste generation, therefore it is essential for the proponent to control and manage pollution and waste.	DFFE	09 June 1989
The National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999	According to the DFFE screening tool, the expansion footprint possesses medium sensitivity regarding palaeontology theme. A heritage Impact Assessment has been to be conducted to identify the paleontological and archaeological features present within the area	South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	28 April 1999
The Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993	The construction phase of the project exposes the workers to risks associated with working with heavy machinery, excavation and exposure to hazardous substances. As such, the proponent needs to comply with this Act.	Department of Employment and Labour	02 July 1993
Conservation Of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983	The proponent must comply with this Act by implementing appropriate soil and water conservation measures, preventing land degradation, and controlling invasive alien plant species to ensure the sustainable use and protection of agricultural	Department of Agriculture.	27 April 1983

	resources throughout the construction and operational phases of the project.		

12. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?	**YES x**	~~NO~~
If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?	6.15 m^3	

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

All solid waste generated during the construction phase will be managed in accordance with municipal by-laws and national environmental legislation. Dedicated waste skips and bins will be provided on site to prevent littering, where waste will be collected from. To prevent littering, dust, and spillage during transit, all waste will be transported using enclosed trucks to a licensed landfill site. Contractors will be required to implement a waste management plan to ensure accountability and minimise environmental impacts.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

All construction waste will be disposed of at the nearest licensed landfill site.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?	**YES x**	~~NO~~
If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?	4 000 m^3	

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

The primary waste generated by the feedlot during the operational phase is cattle manure. Additional waste streams include feed residues, empty feed bags, and general domestic waste generated by employees. The manure will be collected and composted for beneficial reuse in the applicant's crop farming operations, where it will be applied as an organic soil amendment to improve soil fertility and productivity.

If the solid waste will be disposed of into a municipal waste stream, indicate which registered landfill site will be used.

N/A

Where will the solid waste be disposed of if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

The manure will be dried and composted in a composting area on site. The area is approximately 2004 m^2 in size, which will be sufficient to accommodate the manure. Once the manure is dried it will fertilise the farmer's crop fields. The manure is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, making it a highly beneficial fertiliser for crops.

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the NEM:WA?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?		m^3
Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?	**YES x**	~~NO~~

If YES, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:			
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		**Cell:**	
E-mail:		**Fax:**	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

The proposed expansion's stormwater management plan showcases a comprehensive strategy for optimizing the reuse and recycling of wastewater. Through the implementation of stormwater drainage lines, stormwater berm, and an evaporation pond, runoff water, including that containing manure, is effectively directed towards designated collection point while allowing suspended solids and contaminants to settle out in the evaporation pond. The evaporation pond serves as a reservoir, providing water for agricultural use and further enhancing water quality through additional settling. By utilising this water for crop irrigation and wetting manure during the composting process, the expansion promotes sustainable practices and reduces reliance on freshwater sources. Regular cleaning and maintenance of the evaporation pond ensures its continued effectiveness, with waste material being transferred to dry manure storage for eventual use as fertiliser. Moreover, carcasses from the feedlot will be donated to a wildlife farm, which will be used as feed for wild animals. This integrated approach prioritises environmental conservation and sets a commendable standard for wastewater management in similar developments, contributing to collective efforts towards sustainability.

c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere other that exhaust emissions and dust associated with construction phase activities?	**YES x**	~~NO~~
If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If NO, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

The proposed expansion inevitably results in emissions, primarily from animal manure and bodily gases. Leytem *et al.* (2009) conducted a comprehensive study on emission rates, detailing the average emissions per cow per day from various sources within a farm setting. In summary, the average emissions per cow per day from the open lots, wastewater pond, and compost area are as follows:

Open lots:

- 0.13 kg NH_3
- 0.49 kg CH_4
- 28.1 kg CO_2
- kg N_2O

Wastewater pond (per unit area per day):

- 2.0 g NH_3
- 103 g CH_4
- 637 g CO_2
- 0.49 g N_2O

Compost area (per unit area per day):

- 1.6 g NH_3
- 13.5 g CH_4
- 516 g CO_2
- 0.90 g N_2O

Combined emissions per cow per day:

- 0.15 kg NH_3
- 1.4 kg CH_4
- 30.0 kg CO_2
- 0.02 kg N_2O

The open lots are identified as the primary source of emissions, contributing significantly to NH_3, CO_2, and N_2O emissions, accounting for 78%, 80%, and 57% of the total farm emissions, respectively. Several factors influence these emissions, such as type of feed, water quality, and cattle type. However, this was used as a case study to predict the estimated emissions produced by cattle.

In assessing compliance with environmental regulations, specifically the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act No. 39 of 2004, it's crucial to ensure that ambient air quality standards are not exceeded. The Act stipulates the following standards concerning the expansion:

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) Concentrations:

- One-hour average: 0.2 parts per million (ppm)
- 24-hour average: 0.1 ppm (not to be exceeded more than three times in one year)
- One-month average: 0.08 ppm
- Annual average: 0.05 ppm

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Concentrations:

- 24-hour average: 300 µg/m³
- Annual average: 100 µg/m³

These standards serve as benchmarks to ensure air quality is maintained within acceptable limits, safeguarding both environmental and public health. Adherence to these standards requires thorough monitoring and quarterly evaluation of air quality using an EVM/Particulate Meter, as well as consistent maintenance to alleviate any potential adverse impacts stemming from the proposed feedlot expansion.

d) Waste permit

Will any aspect of the activity produce waste that will require a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, please submit evidence that an application for a waste permit has been submitted to the competent authority

e) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?	**YES x**	~~NO~~
If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

Describe the noise in terms of type and level:

There may be some noise generated during the expansion's construction phase due to movement of construction vehicles and equipment. In addition, there may be some occasional noise from the livestock handling at the feedlot. It is worth noting that this noise will not be constant and will only occur at certain times. Furthermore, during the cattle transportation, noise levels may increase due to the truck movement and the handling of the cattle.

However, the expansion area is surrounded by cultivated lands, where tractors are used. The movement of tractors in the nearby cultivated land may cause noise levels to reach between 80 dBA and 90 dBA. Compared to the surrounding area, the noise generated by the cattle will be lower.

13. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es):

~~Municipal~~	~~Water board~~	**Groundwater**	**River, stream, dam or lake**	~~Other~~	~~The activity will not use water~~

If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:	451 007,5 litres
Does the activity require a water use authorisation (general authorisation or water use license) from the Department of Water Affairs?	**YES x** / ~~NO~~

If YES, please provide proof that the application has been submitted to the Department of Water Affairs.

**** Water Use License Application process is in its initiation stage. Proof of submission will be attached with the final BAR.***

14. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, which have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Given that the feedlot has an open-plan design and relies on manual feeding systems, the amount of energy needed to operate it is expected to be quite low. However, to further minimize energy consumption, it is recommended to consider using LED lights for illumination purposes and installing motion sensors in strategically targeted areas. This would help to conserve energy while still maintaining a safe and efficient environment.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

N/A

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

1. For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section B and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section B Copy No. (e.g. A): **A**

2. Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

3. Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? **YES x** ~~NO~~

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed and attach it in Appendix I. All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

Property description/physical address:

Province	Free State
District Municipality	Fezile Dabi District Municipality
Local Municipality	Metsimaholo Local Municipality
Ward Number(s)	5
Farm name and number	***Attached on the next page**
Portion number	***Attached on the next page**
SG Code	***Attached on the next page**

Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application including the same information as indicated above.

Current land-use zoning as per local municipality IDP/records:

Agricultural

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required? ~~YES~~ **NO x**

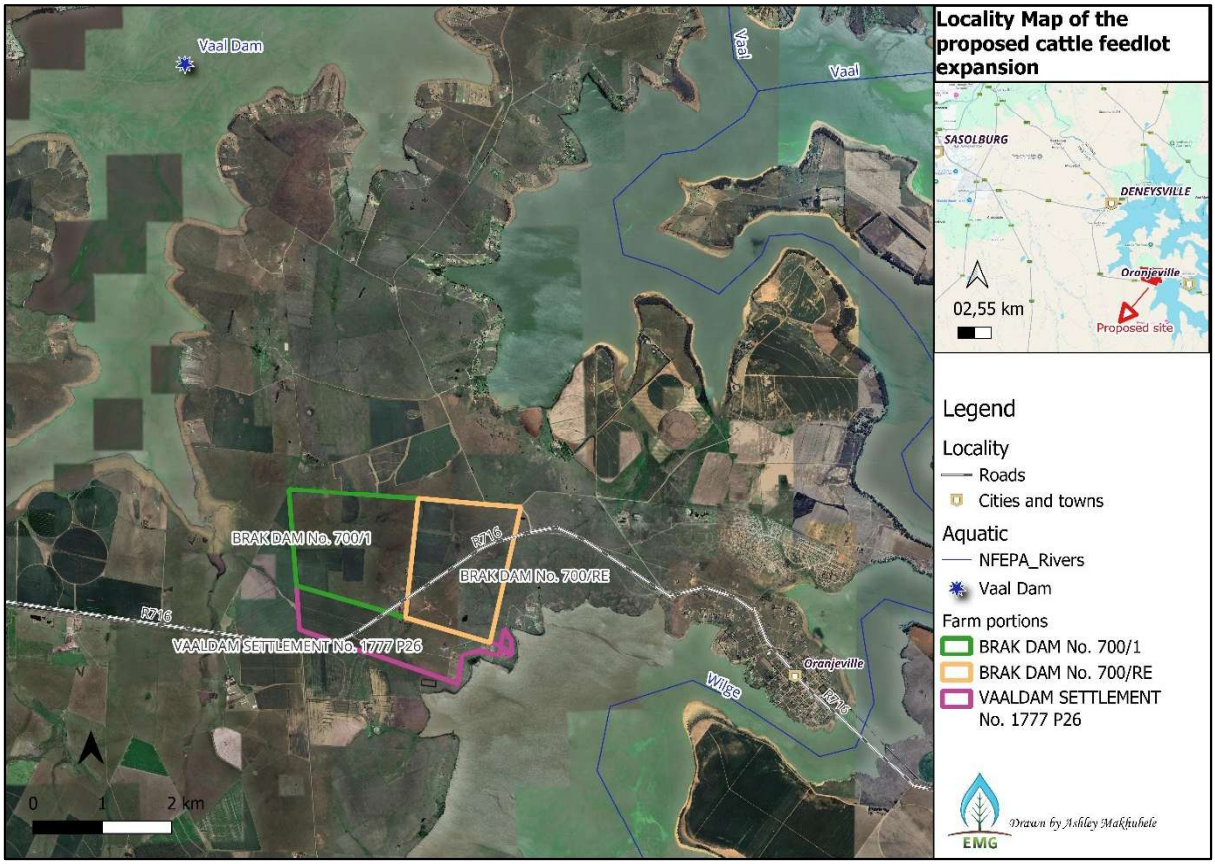

Figure 7: *Locality map of the proposed expansion site*

Farm/Erf name & number (incl. portion):	Portion 1 of the farm Brak Dam no. 700					
SG21 Digit code:	F01600000000070000001					
Co-ordinates:	**Latitude (S):**			**Longitude (E):**		
	26º	58‘	34.05”	28º	8‘	37.83”

Farm/Erf name & number (incl. portion):	Remainder of farm Brak Dam no. 700					
SG21 Digit code:	F01600000000070000000					
Co-ordinates:	**Latitude (S):**			**Longitude (E):**		
	26º	58‘	42.47”	28º	9‘	9.87”

Farm/Erf name & number (incl. portion):	Portion 26 of the farm Vaaldam Settlement no. 1777					
SG21 Digit code:	F01600000000177700026					
Co-ordinates:	**Latitude (S):**			**Longitude (E):**		
	26º	59‘	18.06”	28º	8‘	57.35”

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1:

~~Flat~~	~~1:50 – 1:20~~	~~1:20 – 1:15~~	~~1:15 – 1:10~~	**1:10 – 1:7,5**	~~1:7,5 – 1:5~~	~~Steeper than 1:5~~

Alternative S2 (if any):

~~Flat~~	~~1:50 – 1:20~~	~~1:20 – 1:15~~	~~1:15 – 1:10~~	~~1:10 – 1:7,5~~	~~1:7,5 – 1:5~~	~~Steeper than 1:5~~

Alternative S3 (if any):

~~Flat~~	~~1:50 – 1:20~~	~~1:20 – 1:15~~	~~1:15 – 1:10~~	~~1:10 – 1:7,5~~	~~1:7,5 – 1:5~~	~~Steeper than 1:5~~

2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

~~2.1 Ridgeline~~		~~2.4 Closed valley~~		**2.7 Undulating plain / low hills**	**x**
~~2.2 Plateau~~		~~2.5 Open valley~~		~~2.8 Dune~~	
~~2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain~~		~~2.6 Plain~~		~~2.9 Seafront~~	
~~2.10 At sea~~					

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following?

	Alternative S1:		**Alternative S2 (if any):**		**Alternative S3 (if any):**	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	**YES x**	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~
An area sensitive to erosion	**YES x**	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~	~~YES~~	~~NO~~

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted.

4. GROUNDCOVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site. The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

~~Natural veld - good condition~~[E]	**Natural veld with scattered aliens**[E]	~~Natural veld with heavy alien infestation~~[E]	~~Veld dominated by alien species~~[E]	~~Gardens~~
~~Sport field~~	~~Cultivated land~~	~~Paved surface~~	**Building or other structure**	**Bare soil**

If any of the boxes marked with an "[E] "is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

5. SURFACE WATER

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites?

Perennial River	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~
Non-Perennial River	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~
Permanent Wetland	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~
Seasonal Wetland	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~
Artificial Wetland	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~

If any of the boxes marked YES or UNSURE is ticked, please provide a description of the relevant watercourse.

6. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

~~Natural area~~	~~Dam or reservoir~~	~~Polo fields~~
~~Low density residential~~	~~Hospital/medical centre~~	~~Filling station~~ [H]
~~Medium density residential~~	~~School~~	~~Landfill or waste treatment site~~
~~High density residential~~	~~Tertiary education facility~~	Plantation
~~Informal residential~~[A]	~~Church~~	Agriculture
~~Retail commercial & warehousing~~	~~Old age home~~	River, stream or wetland
~~Light industrial~~	~~Sewage treatment plant~~[A]	~~Nature conservation area~~
~~Medium industrial~~ [AN]	~~Train station or shunting yard~~ [N]	~~Mountain, koppie or ridge~~
~~Heavy industrial~~ [AN]	~~Railway line~~ [N]	~~Museum~~
~~Power station~~	~~Major road (4 lanes or more)~~ [N]	~~Historical building~~

~~Office/consulting room~~	~~Airport~~ [N]	~~Protected Area~~
~~Military or police base/station/compound~~	~~Harbour~~	~~Graveyard~~
~~Spoil heap or slimes dam~~[A]	~~Sport facilities~~	~~Archaeological site~~
~~Quarry, sand or borrow pit~~	~~Golf course~~	~~Other land uses (describe)~~

~~If any of the boxes marked with an "N "are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:~~

~~If any of the boxes marked with an "A" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:~~

~~If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:~~

Does the proposed site (including any alternative sites) fall within any of the following:

Critical Biodiversity Area (as per provincial conservation plan)	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Core area of a protected area?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Buffer area of a protected area?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Planned expansion area of an existing protected area?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Existing offset area associated with a previous Environmental Authorisation?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Buffer area of the SKA?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If the answer to any of these questions was YES, a map indicating the affected area must be included in Appendix A.

7. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or paleontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site? If YES, explain:	~~YES~~	**NO x**
	~~Uncertain~~	

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field (archaeology or palaeontology) to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site. Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

According to the specialist investigation, no in situ Stone Age archaeological material, prehistoric structures, graves, or historically significant buildings older than 60 years were identified within the site during the assessment. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999), no heritage resources were identified within the assessed footprints that would constitute a constraint sufficient to halt the proposed expansion. The affected areas are accordingly assigned a field rating of Generally Protected C (GP.C), indicating **low heritage significance.**

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?	~~YES~~	**NO x**

If YES, please provide proof that this permit application has been submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial authority.

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER

a) Local Municipality

Please provide details on the socio-economic character of the local municipality in which the proposed site(s) are situated.

Level of unemployment:

As of 2022, the unemployment rate in MLM is 32.1%. In Ward 05, within which the proposed site is located, 1432 residents are employed while 611 residents are unemployed. The overall rate of unemployment in Ward 05 is 29.9%. The leading sector that contributes to employment is manufacturing, making up 41%, followed by finance which makes up 17%.

Economic profile of local municipality:

Demographics

The total population in MLM as of 2022 is 158 391, which is an increase from 149 108 in 2011. The population group was as follows: 85.1% Black African; 13.9% White; 0.6% Coloured; 0.4% Indian/Asian; and 0.2% Other. The population is dominated by females, who make up 50.8% of the population.

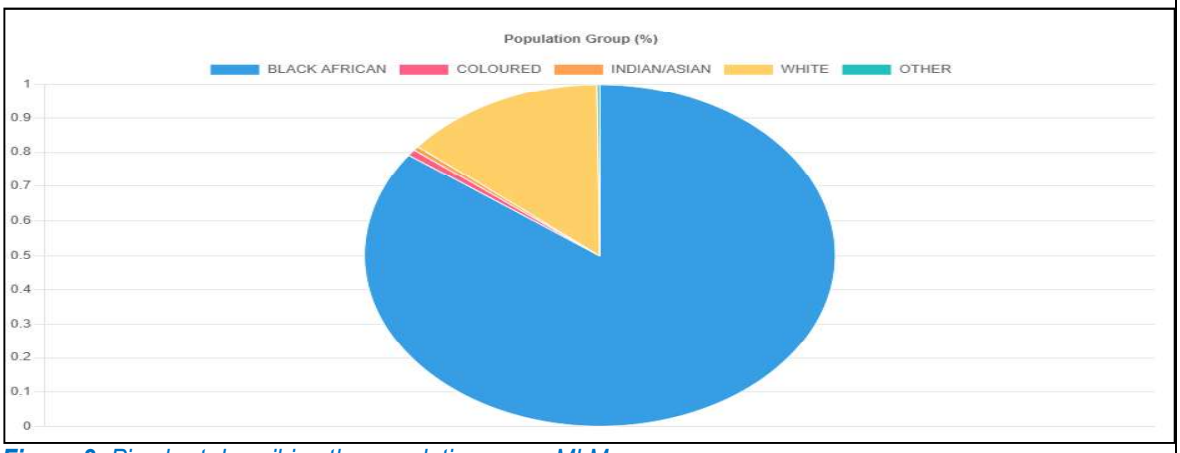

Figure 8: *Pie chart describing the population group MLM*

Economic growth

As of 2023, Metsimaholo Local Municipality's (MLM) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is R57.2 billion. The leading contributors to the GDP are manufacturing, finance and mining. However, between 2022 and 2023, the municipality's economic growth decreased by 3 %.

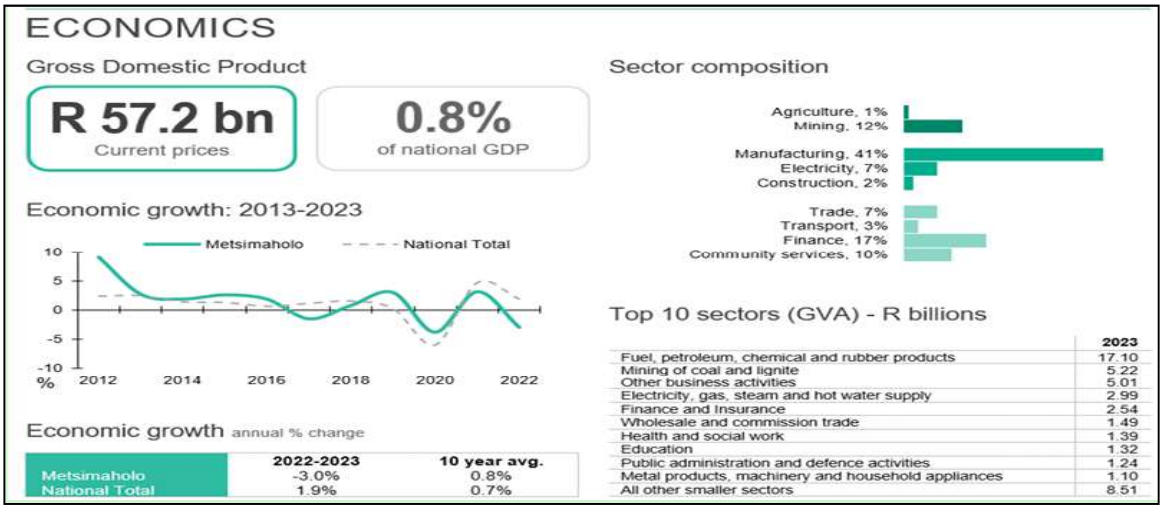

Figure 9: *Visual description of the Economic standing of MLM*

Level of education:

3.7% of the population have no schooling, while 3.2% have completed primary schooling. Furthermore, 35.2% of the population has attended secondary education, 39.6% have attended grade 12, and 10.3% have obtained higher education.

b) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	R20 000 000	
What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	R25 000 000	
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
Is the activity a public amenity?	~~YES~~	**NO x**
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development and construction phase of the activity/ies?	10	
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development and construction phase?	R300 000	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	95 %	
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	6	
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	R3 000 000	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	98 %	

9. BIODIVERSITY

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on site and the ecosystem status consult http://bgis.sanbi.org or BGIShelp@sanbi.org. Information is also available on compact disc (cd) from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8698. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as Appendix D to this report.

a) Indicate the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category)

Systematic Biodiversity Planning Category				If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
~~Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)~~	**Ecological Support Area (ESA)**	~~Other Natural Area (ONA)~~	~~No Natural Area Remaining (NNR)~~	According to the screening tool report, the site area has high sensitivity for the animal theme. Animals that can be found on site includes *Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius, Aves-Mycteria ibis, Insecta-Orachrysops mijburghi, Mammalia-Hydrictis maculicollis and Mammalia-Mystromys albicaudatus.* As such, the proposed site potentially provides important habitat for fauna. A Terrestrial Ecology Compliance has been conducted, as attached in **Appendix D** of this report.

b) Indicate and describe the habitat condition on site

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing, harvesting regimes etc).
Natural	0 %	The proposed feedlot expansion area is not regarded as natural, as it has been extensively modified by existing feedlot operations and prolonged livestock movement. These activities have resulted in the loss of natural vegetation, leaving the site with limited ecological integrity and functioning as a disturbed agricultural landscape.
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)	7.5 %	The northern portion of the site comprise remnant patches of indigenous vegetation that have experienced only low to moderate levels of disturbance and contain low to moderate infestations of alien invasive plant species, thereby retaining sufficient ecological characteristics to be distinguished from

		the predominantly transformed habitat across the remainder of the site.
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	85 %	The vegetation observed within the study area is largely disturbed and invaded with alien and invasive species and naturalised alien species. The entire study area has been influenced by long term agricultural practices, landscaping and general neglect in areas which were not the primary focus of agricultural practices. Thus, the majority of the site is in a degraded and poor ecological condition.
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)	7.5 %	Vegetation found on site showed signs of severe agricultural transformation, which led to poor site functionality and overall poor species richness in the affected areas. The proposed expansion has a history of agricultural land use up to date and is located in a developing agricultural environment. Roughly 7.5% of the site has been transformed by previous agricultural land-use practices.

c) Complete the table to indicate:

(i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, present on the site; and

(ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem is present on site.

Terrestrial Ecosystems		**Aquatic Ecosystems**						
Ecosystem threat status as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	~~Critical~~ ~~Endangered~~ ~~Vulnerable~~ Least Threatened	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and unchanneled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)			Estuary		Coastline	
		~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~UNSURE~~	~~YES~~	**NO x**	~~YES~~	**NO x**

d) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

Vegetation found in the surrounding area showed signs of severe agricultural disturbances, which lead to poor site functionality and overall poor species richness in the affected areas. The existing development and proposed expansion area have a history of agricultural land use up to date and is located in a developing agricultural environment. Roughly 99% of the survey site has been severely modified (cleared), with less than 1% of the expansion area consisting of undisturbed indigenous vegetation. However, this remaining vegetation has been impacted by surrounding agricultural practices and alien invasions. The surrounding vegetation composition for the surrounding area is lacking in respect to its original form of the Frankfort Highveld Grassland vegetation type, with species diversity consisting mostly of alien and invasive species, naturalised alien species and some heavily grazed indigenous grass species. Few indigenous species remain, with no floral SCC or nationally protected species observed within expansion area and its surrounds. No provincially protected species was observed in the surrounding area. In the surrounding vegetations current state, with little ecological functioning, the occurrence of floral SCC or protected species is low.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE

Publication name	Sasolburg Rekord	
Date published	22 July 2026	
Site notice position	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
Site notice 1	26° 59' 7.584"S	28° 8' 57.408 E
Site notice 2	26° 59' 12.408" S	28° 8' 48.839" E
Site notice 3	26° 59' 16.44" S	25°8' 41.208" E
Date placed	20 July 2026	

Include proof of the placement of the relevant advertisements and notices in Appendix E1.

2. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

Provide details of the measures taken to include all potential I&APs as required by Regulation 41(2)(e) and 41(6) of GN 326

Key stakeholders (other than organs of state) identified in terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of GN 326

Title, Name and Surname	Affiliation/ key stakeholder status	Contact details (tel number or e-mail address)
Juan Scheepers	Neighbouring landowner	[redacted]
Percusso Boerdery (Pty) Ltd	Neighbouring landowner	[redacted]
Bci Weltina (Pty) Ltd	Neighbouring landowner	[redacted]
JJ Malan Boerdery (Pty) Ltd	Neighbouring landowner	[redacted]
Fish Eagle's Rest	Neighbouring landowner	[redacted]

Include proof that the key stakeholder received written notification of the proposed activities as Appendix E2. This proof may include any of the following:

- e-mail delivery reports;
- registered mail receipts;
- courier waybills;
- signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or
- or any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary of main issues raised by I&APs	Summary of response from EAP
No issues have as of yet been raised by any I&APs. As this is a Draft BAR, any issues raised by I&APs during the 30-day PPP will be included and addressed in the final BAR.	

4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments received from I&APs and respond to each comment before the Draft BAR is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to the Final BAR as Appendix E3.

5. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Authorities and organs of state identified as key stakeholders:

Authority/Organ of State	Contact person (Title, Name and Surname)	Tel No	Fax No	e-mail	Postal address
Free State Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs	Ms Grace Mkhosana	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Free State Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs	Ms Juliet Shuping	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Metsimaholo Local Municipality	Mr Mojela Theko	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Metsimaholo Local Municipality	Cllr Sara Mapule Mofokeng	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Fezile Dabi District Municipality	Cllr Sidney Pittaway	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Department of Water and Sanitation	Mr. Vernon Blair	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Vaal Orange Catchment Management Agency	Mr Maneli Mzukisi	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Free State Department of Health	Mr. Ernest Mohlalo	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Free State Department of Community	Dr. Masego Tshabalala	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Safety, Roads and Transport					
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Ms. Natasha Higgitt	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
ESKOM	Mr Moreetsi Balepile	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Telkom	Mr. Serame Taukobong	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Include proof that the Authorities and Organs of State received written notification of the proposed activities as appendix E4.

In the case of renewable energy projects, Eskom and the SKA Project Office must be included in the list of Organs of State.

6. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for any activities (linear or other) where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that sub-regulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority.

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable. Application for any deviation from the regulations relating to the public participation process must be submitted prior to the commencement of the public participation process.

A list of registered I&APs must be included as appendix E5.

Copies of any correspondence and minutes of any meetings held must be included in Appendix E6.

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Provide a summary and anticipated significance of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed. This impact assessment must be applied to all the identified alternatives to the activities identified in Section A(2) of this report.

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)			
Loss of habitat and species diversity	***Direct impacts:*** Loss of habitat and species diversity	Pre and Post mitigation Low	• Habitat disturbance and vegetation clearance should be restricted to the authorised area. • Cleared indigenous vegetation should be mulched for use in rehabilitation. • Cleared alien and invasive vegetation should be burned within a controlled area (such as a metal drum) or removed from site and taken to a registered waste facility. • All barren/unvegetated spaces cleared during construction, which also includes the creation of topsoil stockpiles should be kept clear of vegetation. • Topsoil should not be accidentally mixed with waste or other contaminants. • An alien and invasive management plan
	Indirect impacts: • Reduction in biological diversity • Loss of habitat or animal and plant species • Changes in ecosystem function	Pre and Post mitigation Low	
	Cumulative impacts: The overall decline in ecosystem functioning is a result of the destruction of habitats and the diminishing populations of animal and plant species.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			should be drafted and implemented. Alien and invasive species monitoring and eradication must take place quarterly.
Encroachment, increase, and spread of alien invasive species	***Direct impacts:*** Loss of native animal and plant species.	Pre-mitigation Low-Medium Post-mitigation Low	An alien and invasive management plan should be drafted and implemented. Alien and invasive species monitoring and eradication must take place quarterly. Cleared alien and invasive vegetation should be burned within a controlled area (such as a metal drum) or removed from site and taken to a registered waste facility. All barren/unvegetated spaces cleared during construction, which also includes the creation of topsoil stockpiles should be kept clear of vegetation.
	Indirect impacts: Changes in ecosystem function and plant populations lead to an increase in pathogens and the spread of diseases.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	
	Cumulative impacts: Loss of biodiversity and change of ecosystem functioning.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	
Destruction of any archaeological artefacts or fossils	***Direct impacts*** Loss of cultural heritage through destruction of historical artefacts.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	All activity in the immediate vicinity of the site must cease as soon as potentially significant material is identified. The find spot must be demarcated and treated as a temporary no-go area to prevent further disturbance until it has been assessed by a qualified heritage specialist. The Environmental Control Officer (ECO), Site Manager, or other responsible site representative should photograph the material
	Indirect impacts: Loss of cultural and historical significance within the community	Pre and Post mitigation Low	
	Cumulative impacts: The loss of cultural heritage, degradation of ecosystems, and economic decline.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			in situ; record the GPS coordinates and location details; and document the nature of the exposure and the activity that led to its discovery. As far as possible, the find must be left in situ and undisturbed. Material must not be washed, cleaned, or handled unnecessarily. If the material is exposed and at risk of damage, it should be protected using a light but rigid cover such as a box, bucket, board, or metal sheet, provided this can be done without further disturbance. If archaeological material has already been inadvertently removed or newly excavated material is clearly portable and vulnerable to loss or damage, it should be placed in a safe, secure location pending specialist inspection. Such material must remain unwashed, uncleaned, and clearly labelled with the date and precise location of recovery. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed immediately (Tel. 021 462 4502) and a qualified archaeological or heritage specialist must inspect the find as

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			soon as reasonably possible in order to confirm whether the material is of heritage significance and to recommend the appropriate course of action. If the material is confirmed to be significant, further work in the affected area must remain suspended until the required mitigation has been determined. This may include a Phase 2 rescue or sampling operation, subject to any permits or approvals that may be required from SAHRA. Where authorised mitigation is required, the developer must appoint an appropriately qualified heritage specialist to undertake the recovery, recording, and transport of the material in accordance with the relevant permit conditions and heritage requirements.
Deterioration of the groundwater quality	***Direct impacts*** Deterioration of the groundwater quality	Pre-mitigation Low-medium Post-mitigation Low	A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid the increased runoff from eroding soils. Soil erosion prevention should be implemented. Soil polluted with hazardous substances, such as fuel, oil, paint, etc., should be removed and managed as hazardous waste—i.e.,
	Indirect impacts: Loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Increased human and livestock health risks. Reduced agricultural productivity.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	
	Cumulative impacts:	Pre and Post mitigation	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Persistent contamination can render aquifers unsuitable for domestic, agricultural, or industrial use.	Low	stored in the hazardous waste disposal area. • Waste must be collected and stored in waste bins/skips prior to disposal to prevent soil contamination. • On completion of construction work, all areas that are prone to erosion must be re-vegetated with indigenous species. • Anti-erosion measures must be implemented in areas where erosion is observed or is likely to occur, especially on topsoil, subsoil, and other stockpile areas. • Chemical toilets must be made available during construction. • Measures to contain impacts caused during high rainfall events must be planned for and available for use. • Regularly inspect stormwater infrastructure and clear debris to maintain functionality during heavy rainfall events. • Clean pens before rainfall events. • Keep composting area covered during rainfall. • Ensure lining of composting area is maintained and inspected as needed.
Air pollution introduced due the smell of cattle manure.	***Direct impacts*** Decrease in air quality due to odours, dust accumulation and emissions from vehicles.	Pre-mitigation Low-Medium Post-mitigation Low	• Areas cleared of vegetation must be wet down to prevent excessive dust during construction;

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Indirect impacts: The decline in biodiversity is a result of animal species migrating due to changes in the atmosphere. A decline in community health, contributing to respiratory issues..	Pre and Post mitigation Low-Medium	suppression measures must be implemented, including periodic wetting of exposed soils. Enforce a speed limit of 20 km/h and optimise the working schedule to reduce vehicle mobilisation. Limit the clearance of vegetation to only necessary areas. The construction of new dirt roads should be restricted by prioritising existing roads. Expansion should remain within the authorised area. Construction should be completed as soon as possible. Cleared vegetation and open areas susceptible to wind-blown dust must be rehabilitated and stabilised as soon as possible. Stockpiled material must either be covered or wet down to prevent dust particulates from entering the atmosphere. Construction vehicles must be maintained to prevent excessive release of emissions. No burning of waste shall be allowed on site Implement biofilters or vegetative buffers around the feedlot to help capture and absorb odorous compounds. Planting trees, shrubs, and other vegetation
	Cumulative impacts: Alteration in ecosystem functioning, economic repercussions, including diminished property values, heightened health issues, and an exacerbation of climate change.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			can help filter and neutralise odours. Promptly remove and properly manage manure to minimise its contact with air. Frequent manure removal reduces the production of odorous gases. Maintain an even pen floor surface to ensure rapid drying of manure, as wet manure releases more odour. Regularly remove manure and waste materials to keep the feedlot clean. Cleaning pens regularly helps prevent the buildup of odour-causing compounds. Clean drainage lines regularly to prevent manure and sediment buildup, which could lead to increased odours. Ensure the composting area is maintained and has sufficient runoff to ensure sufficient drying. In the event of precipitation, it is advisable to remove manure from pens to prevent further odour accumulation. Do not spread sewage on windy days
Solid waste pollution	***Direct impacts*** Contamination of soil, water pollution and odour emissions.	Pre-mitigation Low-Medium Post-mitigation Low	Reduce, reuse, and recycle strategy needs to be implemented. Waste receptacles must be made available, and all waste shall be
	Indirect impacts:	Pre-mitigation Low-Medium	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Contaminated groundwater contributes to the proliferation of diseases, degradation of habitats, and loss of biodiversity.	Post-mitigation Low	adequately stored and removed. • General site clean-up must be conducted on a daily basis. • All waste management strategies employed by the contractor should comply with environmental / waste management legislation. • Waste that can easily be dispersed by wind should be appropriately discarded in bins with lids. • The contractor must provide adequate waste collection facilities on site to efficiently collect and store waste prior to disposal. Construction waste (i.e. building rubble) must be separated from domestic waste. • Waste should be regularly removed from the site to a registered landfill. • The contractor should develop and comply with an on-site specific waste management plan. • No waste may be buried in an on-site waste pit. • No burning of waste material on site. Waste should be transported to a registered landfill site. • To prevent seepage, the stormwater channels should be lined with clay or any other suitable impermeable material. The temporary
	Cumulative impacts: Soil contamination, water contamination, decrease in air quality and increase of emissions.	Pre and Post mitigation Low	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			storage/drying area should also be lined. - Dried manure should not be unutilised for more than four months. Unutilised manure stockpiles should be sold or, at the very least, be given away to other farmers for secondary use. The last option would be to transport the manure to an appropriate waste-handling facility. - Mortalities should be removed immediately from the pens and can be donated to the nearest wildlife/ predatory farm. - Drainage lines need to be kept free of sediment and manure buildup to maintain maximum flow capacity. - Pens should be cleaned of manure and deposited in designated dry manure storage areas. - Pen should be cleaned every 3 months when manure is moist to ensure easy removal of manure and minimum disruption to pen layer surface. - For easy management, manure can be mounded in pens to ensure regular cleaning and confident removal. - Spoilt silage should be removed and deposited at the composting area. - Record the date of each manure deposit at the

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
			composting windrow to monitor the management of compost.
Impacts associated with the need for the appointment of workers	***Direct impacts*** Immediate employment opportunities created by the project during construction and operation.	Medium-High	Ensure transparent, fair recruitment and procurement practices. The contractor chosen should maximise the involvement of local communities in construction and support activities, to the extent possible, based on available skill levels. Training programmes that will benefit both construction stage skills requirements and long-term employment demand should be developed whenever possible. The proponent should maximise the involvement of local communities Priority should be given to the local suppliers of goods and services, which meet requirements of project procurement as far as is possible.
	Indirect impacts: Employment and economic opportunities created in supporting industries and services as a result of the project.	Medium-High	
	Cumulative impacts: Long-term reduction in unemployment. Increased local economic growth and investment. Improved household incomes and standards of living. Skills development and enhanced workforce capacity. Increased municipal revenue through taxes and economic activity.	Medium-High	
Alternative 2			
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
Alternative 3			

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
	Direct impacts:		
	Indirect impacts:		
	Cumulative impacts:		
No-go option			
Feedlot will not be expanded.	***Direct impacts:***	Medium	While the no-go alternative will not generate any negative environmental impacts, it will surely remove any socio-economic benefit the local community will receive. The no-go alternative will also not aid the government in addressing the national food security matter and job creation. Therefore, the no-go alternative is not considered the preferred alternative.
	Indirect impacts:	Medium	
	Cumulative impacts:	Medium	

A complete impact assessment in terms of Regulation 19(3) of GN 326 must be included as Appendix F.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Alternative A (preferred alternative)

The projected expansion's impact on the ecological aspect of the environment is deemed to be of low significance, contingent upon the correct adherence to mitigation measures. As per the assessment of the heritage specialist, no noteworthy archaeological or cultural features have been identified. Thus, the proposed expansion is expected to yield a low impact on the cultural and historical aspects of the environment.

No watercourses have been identified within a 32-meter radius of the expansion boundary. Nonetheless, there is a risk of groundwater contamination. It is imperative to strictly adhere to mitigation measures to uphold the low significance of the expansion's impact. The surrounding land

uses are predominantly agricultural, and the proposed feedlot is anticipated to affect the visual landscape aesthetic. Nevertheless, the overall impact of this expansion is deemed to be low, as it is expected to harmonize with the surrounding activities.

The air quality pertaining to the operational phase of the expansion is deemed to be moderately significant due to the introduction of cattle into the environment and the resultant emission of odours from their manure. Following mitigation efforts, the impact of noise and vibration is expected to be low, with surrounding activities being the primary contributors to the noise levels.

The environmental impact of waste varies between general and organic waste. Proper mitigation measures can minimize the environmental impact of general waste. However, organic waste from cattle has a comparatively higher environmental impact. The proposed expansion has a medium-high significant socio-economic impact, with the potential for job creation, increased local spending, training opportunities, economic growth, and addressing food security needs for the growing population.

In conclusion, taking into account the existing transformed condition of the site and the implementation of appropriate mitigation and management measures, the proposed cattle feedlot is not expected to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The expansion is anticipated to result in an overall positive impact associated with food security, job creation and overall socio-economic conditions.

Alternative B

Alternative C

No-go alternative (compulsory)

The "no-go" alternative refers to the option of not going ahead with a proposed expansion, which means not constructing the proposed expansion. Choosing this alternative would result in no environmental impact on the site or the surrounding local area. It provides a baseline against which other alternatives can be compared. If the "no-go" alternative is implemented, the following implications will occur:

- No benefits such as job creation and overall economic growth will be derived from implementing the proposed expansion.
- The cattle feedlot will not create additional food security locally and regionally.
- No economic revenue will be generated from the proposed expansion through the purchase of cattle and associated production inputs, including feed, veterinary products and services, animal health supplies, equipment, fuel, transport services, and other operational materials required for feedlot activities.
- Socio-economic benefits such as job creation, skills development, and local economic growth will be lost.

In addition to the implications already mentioned, implementing the no-go alternative would result in the following advantages:

- The natural state of the land will remain mostly unaltered.
- The existing landscape will not undergo any changes.
- No additional construction waste will end up in landfills.

In conclusion, the No-Go Alternative is not considered viable. The option results in the loss of socio-economic benefits such as employment creation, agricultural diversification, and local food security contributions. The implementation of the feedlot is essential to enhance food security as well as socio-economic aspect of the local area.

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?	**YES x**	~~NO~~

If "NO", indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment).

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application.

Mitigation measures and conditions are listed within the Environmental Management Plan.

Is an EMPr attached?	**YES x**	~~NO~~

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix G.

The details of the EAP who compiled the BAR and the expertise of the EAP to perform the Basic Assessment process must be included as Appendix H.

If any specialist reports were used during the compilation of this BAR, please attach the declaration of interest for each specialist in Appendix I.

Any other information relevant to this application and not previously included must be attached in Appendix J.

Mhloti Ashey Makhubele

NAME OF EAP

30/07/2026

SIGNATURE OF EAP DATE

Salmon E. van Rooyen

NAME OF EAP

30/07/2026

SIGNATURE OF EAP DATE

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

The following appendixes must be attached:

Appendix A: Maps

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Facility illustration(s)

Appendix D: Specialist reports (including terms of reference)

Appendix E: Public Participation

Appendix F: Impact Assessment

Appendix G: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

Appendix H: Details of EAP and expertise

Appendix I: Specialist's declaration of interest

Appendix J: Additional Information