
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF TERNUS CC CATTLE FEEDLOT, NEAR DELMAS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



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ACRONYMS

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
DARDLEA	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested & Affected Party
LOCMA	Limpopo-Olifants Catchment Management Agency
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NWA	National Water Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT



EMG has prepared this document to inform you about:

- The current understanding of the environmental and social conditions.
- Environmental impacts and proposed specialist studies.
- How you can have input into the Environmental Authorisation (EA) and relevant processes.

2 YOUR ROLE



You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) who may want to be informed about the development and have input into the processes and environmental reports.



You have an opportunity to review this document and provide your initial comments to us for incorporation in the process.



Comments will be recorded and included in the reports submitted to the relevant authorities for decision-making.

3 PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESSES



I&APs



Surrounding landowners, land users and communities



Parastatals

3.1 KEY STAKEHOLDERS (other stakeholders may be identified during the Public Participations process)



Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)



Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)



Limpopo-Olifants Catchment Management Agency



Mpumalanga Department of Health



Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport



South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)



Cllr. J.Z Ndlovu- Ward 7 Councillor



ESKOM

3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Local Municipality: Victor Khanye Local Municipality



District Municipality: Nkangala District Municipality

4 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Management Group (EMG) (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Ternus CC to act as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Authorisation application for the proposed cattle feedlot development, in the Mpumalanga Province. The application for

Environmental Authorisation process is being undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998), as amended.

5 LOCALITY

The development is located on portions 30 and 31 of the farm Stompiesfontein 273, within the jurisdiction of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, under Nkangala District Municipality, in Delmas, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed site is located near the towns of Delmas (17 km) and Devon (15km), and traverses two farm portions, as indicated below:

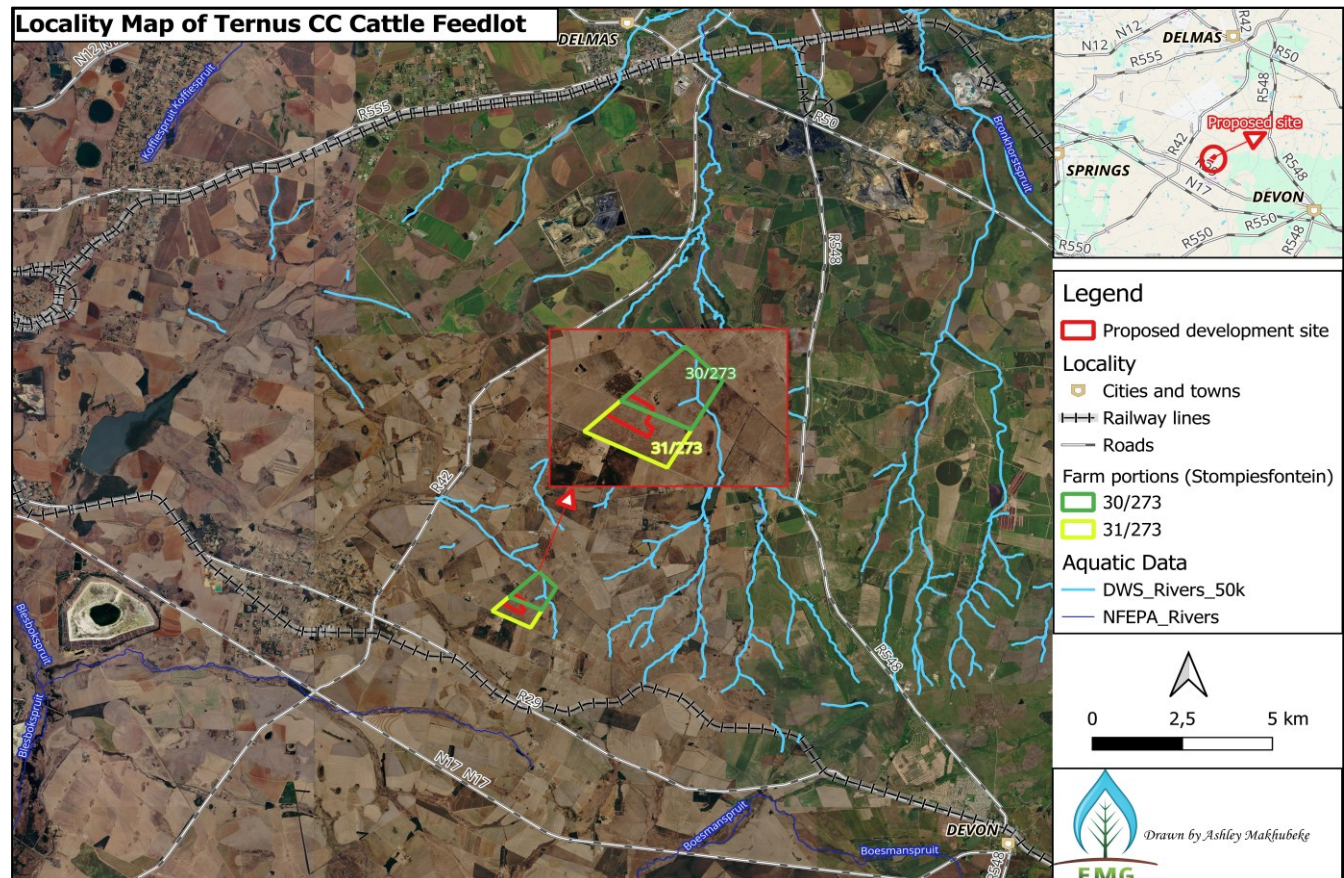


Figure 1: The locality map illustrates the locality of the proposed development. The properties are distinctly marked in green and yellow, and the feedlot footprint in red, while the closest towns of Delmas and Devon are also depicted. In the right-hand corner, a larger-scale map highlights the location of the proposed development relative to the surrounding towns

6 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed cattle feedlot is designed to accommodate 4,000 Large Stock Units (LSU) across 4 blocks, with 2 blocks comprising of 9 pens, 1 block with 8 pens, and 1 block with 10 pens, resulting in a total of 36 pens. The surface area of the feedlot is 75 600 m² (7.56 ha). The calculated stocking density of proposed feedlot is 19 m² per LSU. The stocking density was calculated as depicted in Equation 1.

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

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

Additional infrastructure to be constructed to support the proposed feedlot includes:

-  Receiving pens
-  Processing area
-  A feed shed
-  Wash bay
-  Entrance gate with biosecurity dip
-  Weigh bridge
-  Office
-  Canteen
-  Feed bunker
-  Temporal manure storage area
-  Stormwater channels
-  Settling pond
-  Retention pond
-  Water storage tanks

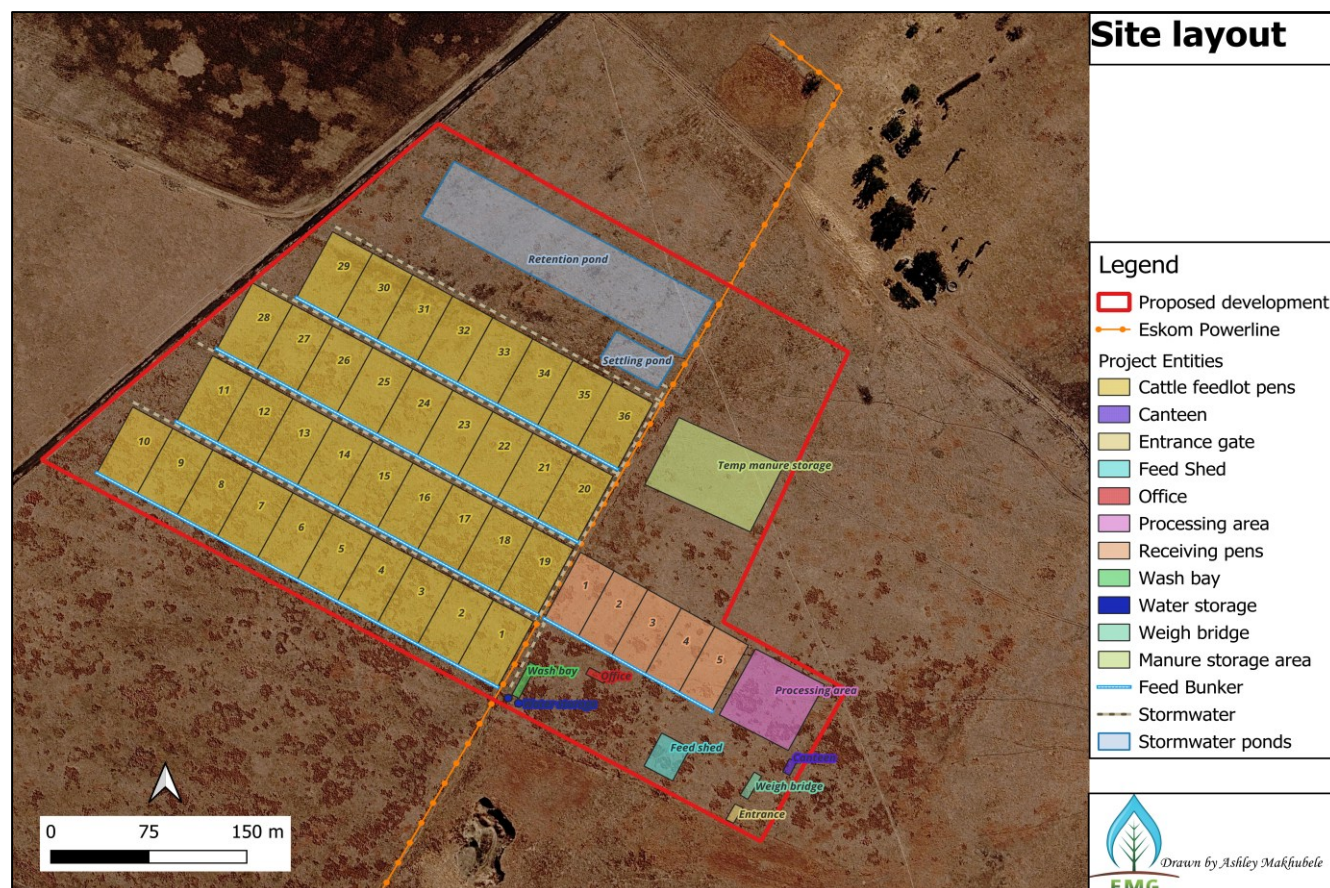


Figure 2: The map illustrates the proposed feedlot areas, indicated in yellow and numbered 1-36. Supporting infrastructures are also depicted in different colours.

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. The estimated water requirements per LSU for the proposed feedlot is 36.5 litres per day, based on the average weight of 365 kg.

The cumulative water demand for the entire cattle population can be calculated by extrapolating these daily requirements to an annual scale, as demonstrated below:

36.5 L (per LSU per day) x 4 000 x 365 = **53 290 m³/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. Water required for the proposed feedlot operations will be sourced from several boreholes located on the property. The existing boreholes have been pump tested and based on the preliminary assessment of the available abstraction yields, the existing groundwater sources are considered capable of supporting the anticipated water requirements of the feedlot during the initial operational phase.

The proposed feedlot will be progressively stocked rather than operated at full capacity from commencement. Stocking numbers are anticipated to increase gradually over an estimated period of one to three years. This phased stocking approach will result in a corresponding gradual increase in water demand and will allow groundwater availability and abstraction requirements to be monitored as the operation expands. As such, additional boreholes may be developed at a later stage, where required, to supplement the existing groundwater supply as operational water demand increases.

Specialist investigations will be compiled to assess for environmental implications pre- and post-development. These include:



Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment



Heritage Impact Assessment



Aquatic Impact Assessment

These will be distributed to registered I&APs during the commencement of the 30-day public participation process.

7 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Environmental Authorisation

Prior to the commencement of the proposed development, Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998), A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in accordance with the Regulations as amended 07 April 2017 is required. The BAR must be submitted to the Competent Authority (CA), Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA).

According to the NEMA, Listing Notice 1 (GN R327) – the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:

NEMA: Listing Notice 1 (GNR. 327, 07 APRIL 2017)

4 (i)	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed (i) 20 square metres per large stock unit and more than 500 units per facility
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation

NB: Listing notices will be confirmed and finalised during the Draft BAR stage with DARDLEA

7.2 Water Use License

Prior to the commencement of the development, A Water Use License in terms of the National Water Act (NWA), (Act No. 36 of 1998), as amended, a Water Use Licence Application, in accordance with the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GN R 267), must be submitted to the CA: catchment management agency (Limpopo-Olifants Catchment Management Agency - LOCMA).

According to the NWA, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) as amended, the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:

NWA: Section 21 (ACT NO.34 of 1998), as amended

(a)	Taking water from a water resource
(c)	Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
(e)	Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 28(1) of the NWA
(g)	Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
(i)	Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse

NB: Water uses will be confirmed through a pre-application process with LOCMA

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Process (PPP) forms a fundamental part of the application for Environmental Authorisation.

In addition, inputs from the public, interested and affected groups are considered in the project development. As a result, a clear recording of issues raised, and comments made is maintained in a register of comments and responses. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised.

8.1 Environmental Authorisation PPP

-  Public meeting with I&APs and regulatory authorities (if required).
-  Submit application to DARDLEA
-  Submit Draft BAR to DARDLEA
-  Public & authority review of Draft BAR (30 calendar days).
-  Update of the Draft BAR with comments received during the review period.
-  Submit updated Final BAR to the competent authority.
-  Review of the Final BAR by the competent authority.
-  Circulate decision to I&APs on the project database.

Table 1: Summary of timeframes for the Basic Assessment Process

Process step	Responsible party	Estimated timeframe
1. Initial communication to clarify the application process with the authorising department	EMG	1 day
2. EAP to conduct a site investigation	EMG	1 day
3. EAP to arrange a pre-application meeting with the authorising department.	EMG	5 days

4. EAP to compile and submit an application for environmental authorisation to the competent authority	EMG	5 days
5. Authorising authority to formally recognise the application.	Authorising authority	14 days
6. EAP to undertake the BAR and compile a report (including specialist reports and draft EMP).	EMG	90 days
7. EAP to submit the final BAR report (inclusive of a 30-day PPP period) to the authorising authority.	EMG	1 day
8. Authorising authority to grant environmental authorisation.	Authorising authority	107 days
9. Environmental authorisation is subjected to a 20-day appeal period	EAP	20 days
10. Final approval of the environmental authorisation	Authorising authority	1 day

8.2 Water Use License public participation process

The WULA PPP will run concurrently with the EIA process in accordance with GN R 267, Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals Section 17(2) *“Where a public participation process has already been undertaken through the Environmental Impact Assessment Processes or any other public consultation process and that public participation process contains and covers all issues pertaining to water use activities, then that public participation process report may, subject to approval by the responsible authority, be submitted for the requirements of the water use licence application”*. The following process will be followed in accordance with GN R267:

-  Erect site notices.
-  Placing of newspaper advert in one local newspaper.
-  Public & authority commenting period of 60 calendar days.

Table 2: Summary of timeframes for receiving and steps in processing of a water use license application

Regulation	Steps in processing of WULA	Maximum Days allocated	Cumulative days	Responsible
0	Pre-application enquiry	0	0	EMG & LOCMA
1	Application submitted	1	1	EMG
2	Responsible authority acknowledges receipt of the application	10	11	LOCMA
3	Applicant confirms arrangements for site inspection with an allocated case officer	5	16	EMG
4	Site inspection to confirm water uses, determine information requirements and the need for public participation	20	36	EMG & LOCMA
5	Confirm requirements for water use licence application technical report based on site visit and meeting	5	41	LOCMA
6	Compilation, consultation and submission of water use licence application technical report by applicant	105	146	EMG

7	Reject / Accept water use licence application technical report	10	156	LOCMA
8	Assessment	139	295	LOCMA
9	Decision and communication to applicant	5	300	LOCMA

*In order to ensure that you are identified as an I&AP, individuals are requested to respond by submitting their complete contact details and any comment in writing to the details provided below. **Once registered, a notification will be sent for the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report for a thirty day (30) commenting period (in terms of NEMA). Sixty Days (60) is given for your comments/concerns on the Water Use License Application (National Water Act, 1998).***

All information will be available on the website provided below.

Contact person(s): Mhloti Ashley Makhubele/ Ricus Nel

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Email: mhloti@envmgp.com/ rnel@envmgp.com

Website: www.envmgp.com

**APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF TERNUS CC CATTLE FEEDLOT,
NEAR DELMAS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**
RESPONSE FORM FOR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Date			
Particulars of the I&AP			
Name			
Postal Address & Code			
Street Address & Code			
Telephone number			Cell phone no.
E-Mail Address			

Please Identify your Interest in the Proposed Project:

[illegible]

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