

# Background Information Document

Proposed Residential Development, Erf 1731, St Francis, Kouga Local Municipality,  
Eastern Cape

June 2023

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

Telephone / Fax: 041 – 581-2983 / 086 504 2549

E-mail: [steenbok@aerosat.co.za](mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za) / [irma@environmentcen.co.za](mailto:irma@environmentcen.co.za)

## Purpose of the Background Information Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties in the Environmental Assessment Process and to obtain their initial comments on the Environmental Authorisation Application.

Mr D.E. Van Schalkwyk will be applying for an **Environmental Authorisation** in terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014**, as amended. This application will be done in terms of activities listed in Government Notice R.327, R.324 of 7 April 2017, published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as amended. The proposed activities require that a Basic Assessment process be undertaken and the relevant authority is the **Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)**.

If you would like to participate in the public participation process please register yourself and or your organization as an interested and affected party. Submit issues that you feel need to be addressed in the assessment by completing the response form or in a letter or by email to:

**Dr Mike Cohen / Lucille Behrens / Irma van der Merwe**  
**CEN IEM Unit**  
**Port Elizabeth**  
**6070**

[lucille@environmentcen.co.za](mailto:lucille@environmentcen.co.za) / [steenbok@aerosat.co.za](mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za) /  
[irma@environmentcen.co.za](mailto:irma@environmentcen.co.za)

**All comments must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice, i.e. 31 July 2023**

## 1. Proposed Project

### 1.1 Description of Activities

The applicant, Mr Van Schalkwyk, proposes to develop a residential dwelling on Erf 1731, Sea Vista, situated in the Kouga Local Municipality. The property is approximately 685 square metres in size. The project area is located within 100 m of the high water mark and access is from the existing Tom Brown Boulevard.

The proposed development entails the clearing of vegetation and the construction of a residential dwelling with the footprint size of approximately 304m<sup>2</sup>. The proposed dwelling will consist of two stories, with a combined floor plan of approximately 479m<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 1: View of the property

### 1.2 Locality

The site is located in Ward 12 in St Francis, of the Kouga Local Municipality. **Refer to Figure 2: Locality Map.**

The geographic coordinates of the central point is: 34°10'54.36"S, 24°50'51.65"E.

The SG 21 digit code is: C03400140000173100000.



Figure 2: Locality Map

## 2. Environmental Assessment Process

### 2.1 Identified Listed Activities in Terms of the EIA Regulations

The Minister of Environmental Affairs has in terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998, NEMA), listed the activities that require an environmental assessment.

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify potential impacts associated with the development and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and enhance beneficial or positive impacts.

The following activities are subject to a Basic Assessment process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, made under section 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Act and published in Government Notice No. R. 327, 324 of 2017

2014 NEMA Listed Activities	Description of Activities
<p><b>GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 17</b> Development (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever is greater; In respect of (e) infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more.</p>	<p>The property is within 100 metres of the high-water mark of the sea.</p> <p>The proposed dwelling will be approximately 304 square metres in size.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 3: Activity 12</b> The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation- a. Eastern Cape i. within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004, ii. within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans iii. within littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high water mark of the sea, whichever distance is greater,</p>	<p>More than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation will be cleared. The site area is situated within 100 metres from the high water mark of the sea.</p>

### **3. Identified issues / impacts**

As the environmental investigations progress, potentially beneficial and adverse impacts will be identified. All identified issues will be subjected to an assessment to determine if they are significant and if they require additional investigation. Possible mitigation measures will also be provided to reduce the anticipated adverse impacts. Based on preliminary investigations, together with the DFFE Screening Tool, the following specialist assessments have been identified:

- Terrestrial biodiversity assessment, including plant species assessment
- Aquatic biodiversity assessment.

#### **3.1 Description of Tasks in Basic Assessment Process**

- Notification of the intended application for Environmental Authorisation are sent to identified stakeholders, landowners and adjacent landowners prior to submission of the application for Environmental Rectification to the competent authority, namely the DEDEAT for this project. (We are here in the process)
- Public participation starts announcing the proposed project. Newspaper advertisements are placed and site notices are placed. Registration of IAPs begins. (We are here in the process)
- Background information documents are also sent to identified stakeholders and registered IAPs (We are here in the process)
- An application for Environmental Authorisation is submitted to the competent authority.
- A Basic Assessment Report is compiled that considers inputs from stakeholders, IAPs and specialists, in terms of:
  - impacts of the activity on the environment;
  - Whether the impacts can be mitigated, and if so to what extent; and,
  - Whether there are any other significant issues/impacts to be investigated.
- Once the Draft Report is compiled, it is then submitted for a 30 day review period to registered IAPs and stakeholders. This enables you to comment on the Basic Assessment Report.
- Your comments are incorporated and the reports are then finalised.
- These final reports are submitted to the DEDEAT for consideration.
- The DEDEAT reviews the documents and decides whether the project can proceed or not, their decision is known as an Environmental Authorisation.
- A copy of the EA is made available to you to consider, along with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal.

#### **3.2 How do You Participate**

Every proposed project and/or development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed development site. While some of the impacts will have an adverse impact on the environment others will have a beneficial impact.

For this reason it is imperative that you as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP) comment on the proposed development and raise issues or concerns that you feel

need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process. This can be done by completing the attached registration form and submitting it to the contact details below. All of your comments will be addressed and included in the Environmental Assessment Report.

Upon submission of the registration form to CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive future project notifications.

Regulation 42 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, requires a register of interested and affected parties to be opened and maintained throughout an EIA process. This register must contain the names, contact details and addresses of (a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted, have submitted written comments or attended meetings; (b) all persons who have requested in writing, for their names to be placed on the register.

In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your personal information (names, contact details and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please note the I&AP database is required to be included in any draft or final BAR reports, however CEN IEM Unit will endeavour to not make your personal information (contact details or addresses) available in reports that are provided in the public domain.

If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company / organisation being publicly available such objection is to be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

CEN IEM Unit will maintain the I&AP database until the end of the EIA Process, and will not wilfully or intentionally distribute this information to a 3rd party.

In certain circumstances, e.g. appeals of Environmental Authorisations, CEN IEM Unit may be required to provide the I&AP database to the Applicant on closure of the EIA Process.

Please note if you do not want to be included in the I&AP database, please advise us in order for your details to be removed. Otherwise it is deemed that you consent for your details to be included, in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013 (POPIA)).

**Please provide comments on the BID within 30 days of its distribution. Registered I&APs will also be given 30 days to review the Draft Basic Assessment Report and provide comments.**

# CEN IEM UNIT



Email: [lucille@environmentcen.co.za](mailto:lucille@environmentcen.co.za) / [steenbok@aerosat.co.za](mailto:steenbok@aerosat.co.za) / [irma@environment.co.za](mailto:irma@environment.co.za)

## Registration / Comment Sheet Erf 1731, St Francis, Kouga Local Municipality

I wish to register as an Interested and / or Affected Party and request that the following issues receive attention during the assessment process

**Closing date for registration / comments: 31 July 2023**

Name of Respondent	
Organisation / Company	
Address	
Fax Number	
Telephone Number	
Email	

Please use additional sheets as necessary

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_