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**SM** *Services & Consulting*

# Plan of Study for Paula Poultry Abattoir, Brandfort, Masilonyana Municipality, Free State



Report prepared for

**Paula Farm, Brandfort**

DWS Reference Number: TBD

Environmental Assessment Ref: TBD

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 dated 4 December 2014 a Plan of Study must be submitted to the relevant authority for consideration and approval for a Basic Assessment.

The Plan of Study need to contain the following:

- i) Description of the alternatives that need to be considered and assessed
- ii) Description of the aspects that need to be assessed
- iii) Aspects that need to be assessed by specialists
- iv) Description of the proposed method for assessing the environmental aspects and methods by specialists
- v) Description of the proposed method for assessing the duration and significance
- vi) Indication of when the competent authority will be consulted
- vii) Particulars of the proposed public participation process (PPP)
- viii) Description of tasks
- ix) Identify suitable measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate, manage the impacts and to determine the extent of residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project proponent, Mr. Estian de Swart has appointed SM Services and Consulting Pty Ltd as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an application for a Basic Assessment and a water use license.

The required environmental impact assessment (Basic Assessment Report) (BAR) will be conducted 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, for the proposed construction of an abattoir on the Farm Paula. Concurrent to the BAR, an application for a water use license (WULA) in terms of Section 21 and associated activities has been be launched to meet the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998)(NWA).

Paula Farm is a family owned agricultural holding, located on the outskirts of the town Brandfort, in the Lejweleputswa District, Masilonyana Local Municipal area, Free State

(Co-ordinates: 28° 48.088'S; 26° 17.699'E) which is 91 hectares in size. The current site is an active agricultural area whereby crops are planted, irrigations is applied and small-scale animal farming, including sheep and chickens.

The Farm Paula is an existing agricultural producer on the outskirts of the town Brandfort, in the Free State. There are existing chicken/poultry houses on-site and Mr. de Swardt has been breeding and selling live chickens the last few years. He now wishes to extent the operation to include the processing of the chickens further. This application is for the construction of a Poultry Abattoir for the processing of chickens ( $\pm$  800 per day) on the Farm Paula and additional chicken houses.

### **3. ALTERNATIVES THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED**

Alternatives are seen as different means of meeting the general purpose and need of a proposed activity. Alternatives could include, amongst others the following:

- Activity Alternatives: This requires a change in the nature of the proposed activity. This alternative is most appropriate at a strategic decision-making level.
- Location Alternatives: Alternative locations for the entire project proposal, of for components of the project proposal.
- Layout Alternatives: This alternative allows different spatial configurations of an activity on a specific site.
- Scheduling Alternatives: also refer to alternative phasing options for the development. This alternative considers different phasing options during the implementation of the development.
- Infrastructure / Input Alternatives: Also referred to as technological or equipment alternatives. This option considers various alternatives that will result in the same end result.

Location and Scheduling alternatives are most pertinent to this EIA process, however all the above-mentioned alternatives will be briefly explored as well as the alternative of maintaining the status quo, commonly know as the “no-go” option.

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASPECTS THAT NEED TO BE ASSESSED**

The proposed site is located on an active agricultural property. The area has to a large extent already been disturbed. A Screening Report was compiled from the Department of Environmental Affairs Website and site environmental sensitivities were identified. The following environmental sensitivities were identified as high or very high:

- Agricultural Theme
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme
- Paleontological Theme
- Terrestrial Biodiversity

#### **5. ASPECTS THAT NEED TO BE ASSESSED BY SPECIALISTS**

Based on the Screening Report it is proposed to undertake specialist assessment on the following:

- Paleontological Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment

The EAP will motivate in the Assessment Report, the reason for not including any of the other identified specialist studies (i.e. agriculture, cultural & heritage).

#### **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED METHOD FOR ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND METHODS BY SPECIALISTS**

The overall approach to this assignment included the following activities:

- Apply for Environmental Authorisation to the Department regarding the proposed construction and operation of a poultry abattoir on the Farm Paula.
- A detailed analysis of the proposed development, the area where it will take place, and the identification of potential impacts.
- All legislative requirements in terms of the EIA Regulations and to provide the Department with sufficient information to take a decision regarding the development.

### **Paleontological Specialist Assessment**

The aim of a paleontological specialist assessment aim 0o evaluate the risk to palaeontological heritage in the proposed development. This include all trace fossils and fossils. All available information will be consulted, and the follow methodology is proposed:

1. Desktop study
2. Data sources from literature of the same area, aerial photos, and Google Earth images, topographical as well as geological maps will be consulted
3. If required, a site visit will be undertaken

### **Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment**

The environmental characteristics of this site and the prominent features surrounding it play a key role in whether an animal would theoretically inhabit the study area. In assessing species occurrence, they approximate distribution and habitat requirements need to be considered. Therefore, focus will remain on animal groups for which distribution data and ecological requirements are available.

The following methodology is proposed:

1. Desktop review
2. Data sources from the literature and SANBI will consulted and used where necessary
3. Site visit and assessment

## **7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED METHOD FOR ASSESSING THE DURATION AND SIGNIFICANCE**

The impact assessment needs to aim at identifying potential environmental impacts (both positive and negative) and evaluating these impacts in terms of its significance. a systematic analysis framework to evaluate the nature, extent, duration, intensity, probability and significance of the various impacts will be considered both without and with mitigation and management measures

The following criteria's will be assessed:

- Nature of Impact

- Phase (Construction or Operational)
- Type (negative or positive)
- Extent / Scale
- Duration
- Intensity
- Probability
- Determination of Significance

## **8. INDICATION OF WHEN THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL BE CONSULTED**

The competent Department for the Basic Assessment is regarded as the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

The competent Department for the use of wastewater on crops is regarded as the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Initial meetings were held with both department on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at their offices. Background Information Documents (BIDs) were left at the offices.

Follow-up meetings were planned in March 2020 but due to COVID 19 restrictions all meetings were placed on hold.

It is anticipated that a second round of meetings will be held with the Departments in early October 2020, whereafter due process will be followed.

Formal applications to both Departments will be lodged early in October 2020.

## 9. PARTICULARS OF THE PROPOSED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

The table below outline the requirements for the public participation process set out in Section 41 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as well as the actions to be undertaken by the Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP).

2014 EIA Regulations	Action to be taken by EAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence along the corridor of</li> <li>i. The site where the activity to which the application related is or is to be undertaken; and</li> <li>ii. any alternative site</li> </ul>	<p>Notice boards will be placed at various locations on the site boundary to ensure that they are visible.</p> <p>Notice boards will be placed at the Community Notice Boards within SPAR and the local Library.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Giving written notice, in any manners provided for in Section 47D of the Act, to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The occupiers of the site and, of the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</li> <li>ii. owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken</li> <li>iii. the municipal councilor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organization of ratepayers that represents the community in the area;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A Background Information Document (BID) will be compiled for the proposed development and distributed to the surrounding neighbors.</p> <p>The BID must include some project background details of the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner as well as the process to be followed during the EIA. An invitation to become involved in the project and to register as a stakeholder will be also be included in the BID.</p> <p>Letters/Emails, as well as copies of the Background Information Document (BID) will be sent to the relevant Government Departments and Organizations who might have an interest in or be affected by the proposed development to invite them to comment on the proposed development.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</li> <li>v. any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, and</li> <li>vi. any other party as required by the competent authority.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Placing an advertisement in –             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. One local newspaper; or</li> <li>ii. an official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>It is proposed to advertise in the local newspaper, the Brandfort Rekord</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Using reasonable alternative methods as agreed by the competent authority</li> </ul>	<p>It is proposed to invite comments via social media platforms such as WhatsApps, Telegram or any other suitable platform.</p>

A register of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) will be maintained and a Comments and Response Report will be compiled.

Due to COVID 19 precautions, public meetings will not take place, but social media platforms will serve as safe communication tools.

## **10. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS**

The following steps will be taken:

1. Second pre-application meeting with relevant departments
2. Agreement on the Plan of Study
3. Completion and submission of applications
4. Payment for registering applications with the relevant departments
5. Initiate public participation process
6. Complete Specialist Assessments
7. Complete Basis Assessment Report
8. Complete EMP

9. Circulate Reports to registered I&AP's for comment
10. Compile Comments and Response Report
11. Finalize BA Report and submit to relevant authorities
12. Await authority decision.

**11. IDENTIFY SUITABLE MEASURES TO AVOID, REVERSE, MITIGATE, MANAGE THE IMPACTS AND TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF RESIDUAL RISKS THAT NEED TO BE MANAGED AND MONITORED.**

A variety of mitigation measures will need to be identified that will serve to mitigate the scale, intensity, duration or significance of the impacts which will have a medium to high significance rating.

These will be contained in an Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) whereby proposed mitigatory measures, if implemented, will reduce the significance of the majority of the identified impacts.

The mitigation measures must ensure that the project is planned and carried out in an environmentally responsible manner. It is noted that an EMPr is a dynamic document that should be updated as required and must provide clear and implementable measures for the proposed project.

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**Registration and Comment Sheet**

Public Participation Process for Paula Farm Abattoir

Title & Initials	
Name	
Surname	
Organisation / or Property	
Interest in Project e.g. neighbor	
Physical Address	
Postal Address	
Cell / Phone No.	
Email:	
<p>In accordance with NEMA – Section 43 (1) – A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.</p> <p>Please supply such information in the space provided below.</p> <p>The following issues / concern / recommendation must be noted:</p>	
1	
2	
3	

Submit to:  
 The Basic Assessment Officer  
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