

24 February 2020

**NOTIFICATION OF FIRST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD:
24 February 2020 – 27 March 2020**

GNEC Code: 20621

DEA&DP REF: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1433/19

Dear Interested and Affected Party

INFORMING OF START OF THE FIRST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING PRELOADS RESERVOIR SYSTEM LOCATED ON THE REMAINDER OF ERF 19909, WORCESTER, WESTERN CAPE.

The proposed development site is located just North of the N1 highway within Worcester. The property is situated adjacent to and North of the Golden Valley Casino as well as adjacent to and West of the Worcester Golf Club. The property boasts a total of 745365.5 m² in extent. The property consists predominately out of unchanged landscape with an existing reservoir being located on the property.

The existing four reservoirs have been in existence for numerous years, providing the town of Worcester with water. In the past few years, the town of Worcester has undergone rapid growth in terms of residential and commercial developments. As a result of this rapid growth, as well as the recent drought conditions, the bulk provision of infrastructure needs to be timeously planned and implemented to ensure adequate service delivery.

The applicant (Breede Valley Municipality) therefore proposes the construction of a new 20,0 ML reservoir with associated pipeline at the existing Pre-Loads Reservoir site to increase the reservoir's storage capacity.

At present, the existing Worcester Pre-Loads Water Reticulation system has insufficient capacity to supply the future developments within the area. Therefore, at present, there is a need for the development of the proposed infrastructure. The proposed development will thus result in a positive outcome for the area of Worcester.

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) have been appointed by the applicant to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed reservoir development on the Remainder of Erf 19909, Worcester, Western Cape.

The current system consists out of four 13.27 ML reservoirs located on the Remainder of Erf No. 19909. The proposed development will entail the construction of a new and additional 20,0 ML reservoir along with the associated pipeline adjacent to and to the West of the operational system. It is furthermore proposed that new reservoir will connect to the existing system. Therefore, only a short pipeline will be constructed. The proposed development will be contained to an area of approximately 4129 m² in size.

Furthermore, due to the surrounding area consisting of unchanged landscape, a botanical assessment has been conducted in order to assess the impact that the proposed development will have on any natural vegetation. It should however be noted that the area is not classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area, which was confirmed by the DEA&DP.

Taking the above mentioned proposed mixed-use development into account, the following listed activities will be triggered:

- **Listing Notice 3 (GN No. R. 325):** Activity 16.

Additionally, a Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) was submitted to Heritage Western Cape in November 2019 where after a positive Record of Decision was issued to the client indicating that no additional Heritage related impact assessments are required. The ROD was received on the 3rd of December 2019.

The aim of this EIA process is to ensure that:

- Public participation will be conducted, i.e. to afford stakeholders and/or the community sufficient opportunity to provide comment on the proposed development; and

- Sufficient information is submitted herewith to decision-makers to support an informed decision-making process.

The first Public Participation Process will run from the **24th of February 2020 until the 27th of March 2020.**

Please refer to GNEC's website (www.gnec.co.za) to access additional information pertaining to the Basic Assessment application. A copy of the first draft Basic Assessment Report will also be available for public review at Worcester Public Library.

Meanwhile, should you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself, at:

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Yours sincerely,

Heloise Groenewald

For GNEC

