



## BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXSITING PRELOADS RESERVOIR SYSTEM LOCATED ON THE REMAINDER OF ERF 19909, WORCESTER. WESTERN CAPE.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

20 February 2020

GNEC No: 20621

DEA&DP REFERENCE No: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1433/19

**\*Please Note: A Copy of the document currently on review is available at the Worcester Public Library and on GNEC's Website.**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide stakeholders with information about the proposed expansion of the existing Pre-loads Reservoir system located on the Remainder of Erf 19909, Worcester, Western Cape.
- Introduce and explain the Basic Assessment Process and Public Participation process to be followed for the proposed development, in terms of applicable environmental legislation (National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended;
- Invite all stakeholders to register between the **24<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 and 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020** as an Interested and Affected Party for the proposed development.
- Notify all stakeholders that the Interested and Affected Party registration period is from **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.**

#### 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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 m<sup>2</sup> in extent. The property consists predominately out of unchanged landscape with four existing reservoirs being located on the property.

The four existing reservoirs have been in existence for numerous years, providing the town of Worcester with potable 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 existing and 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.

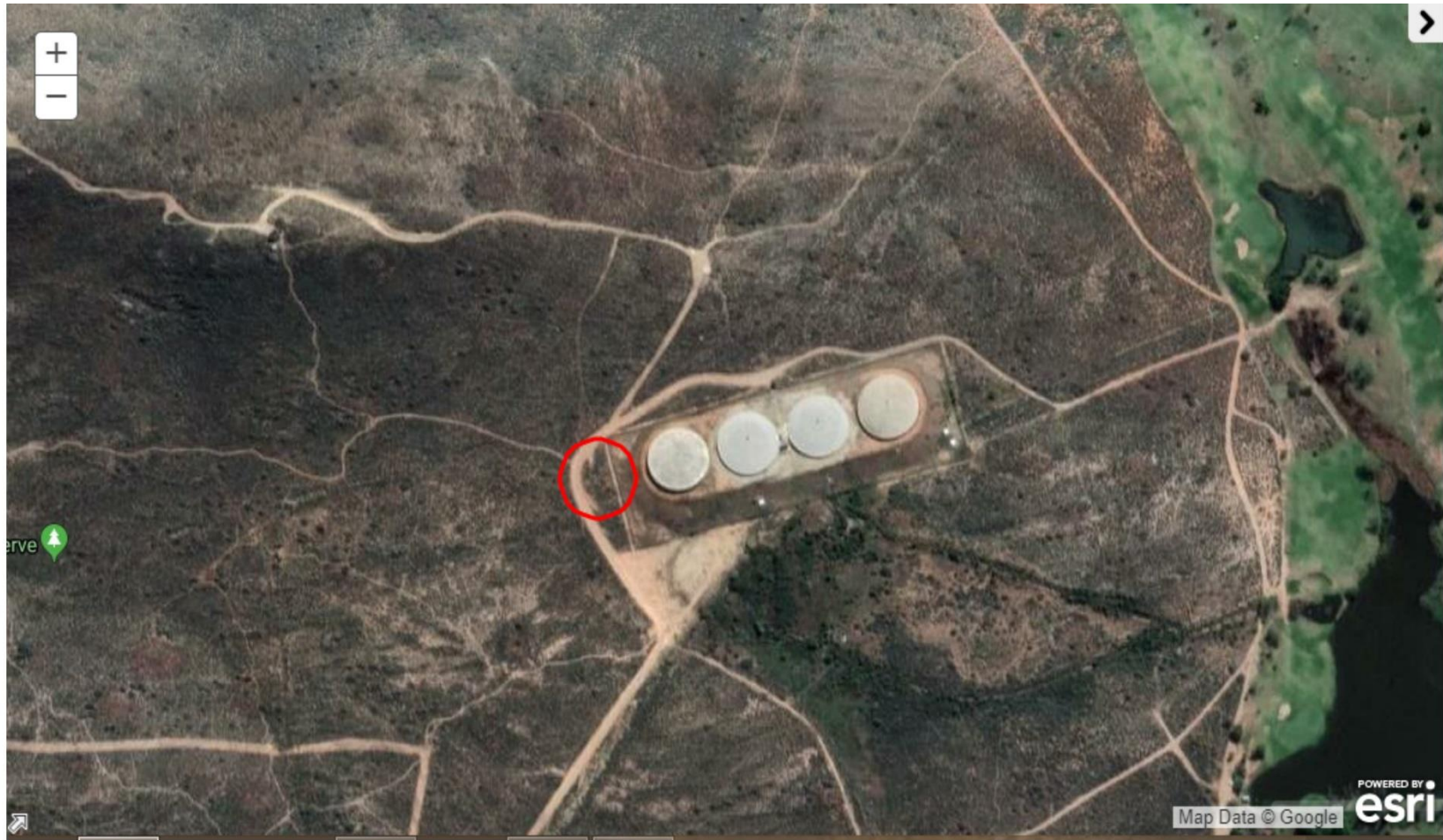
The current system consists out of four 13.27 ML reservoir tanks located on the Remainder of Erf No. 19909. The proposed development will entail the construction of a new and additional 20,0 ML reservoir along with the associated pipeline adjacent to and to the West of the operational system. It is furthermore 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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 reservoir development into account, the following listed activities will be triggered: Listing Notice 3 (GN No. R 324.): 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 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2019. A Botanical Impact Assessment was conducted by Mark Berry from Mark Berry Environmental Consultants.

**Please refer to Figure 1 for the site map of the proposed development site.**



<p>Aerial Image of the proposed new reservoir located on the Remainder of Portion 19909, Worcester, Western Cape.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Guillaume Nel</b> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">environmental consultants</p> <p>Tel: (021) 870 1874   Fax: 086 6933 802   Cell: 072 1571 321</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Source: Cape Farm Mapper</p>		

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the proposed reservoir development site.



## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (Act No. 107 of 1998), AS AMENDED 4 DECEMBER 2014.**

### **Environmental Assessment**

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998) identifies the proposed application for the Reservoir Development as an activity that may have detrimental effects on the environment with the following listed activities being triggered:

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

### **Definition of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An environmental impact assessment is a good planning tool to assist in the identification, evaluation and assessment of potential positive and negative impacts of a proposed development on the environment. It also recommends ways to avoid or reduce negative impacts and ensure that developments are sustainable without affecting people's lives and the environment adversely.

As mentioned, an EIA is undertaken in terms of the NEMA (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended, and the EIA Regulations.

### **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Potential environmental issues for the proposed development that will be addressed in the assessment include inter alia:

- Impact on fauna and flora:

Vegetation on the proposed site is mapped to support the Robertson Karoo (SKv7) vegetation type which hold a low conservation status. It should be noted that majority of the subject property is unchanged and remains in its natural state. A botanical assessment has been conducted in order to determine if any natural vegetation will be impacted upon by the proposed development.

It is proposed that the development will consists of approximately 4129 m<sup>2</sup> in extent. Therefore, approximately 4129 m<sup>2</sup> will be cleared for the proposed development to transpire. As mentioned above, a Botanical Assessment has been conducted in order to confirm the amount of indigenous vegetation that will possibly be cleared by the construction of the reservoir.

- Noise pollution:

There will be a temporary noise impact due to the construction of the reservoir. During the operational phase of the activity, the proposed development will not result in any increase in noise levels.

- Heritage impact:

No impact on heritage resources are expected since the proposed new Pre-loads reservoir will be located adjacent to the existing system, minimising the overall impact of the proposed expansion. A

positive Record of Decision (ROD) was also provided by Heritage Western Cape on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2019, indicating that no Heritage related impact are expected by the proposed expansion.

- Visual impact:

The proposed development will not have a significant visual impact due to the fact that the proposed Pre-loads reservoir will be located adjacent to the existing system, minimising the overall impact of the proposed expansion. The new proposed Pre-loads reservoir will visual be in line with the existing structure.

- Traffic Impact:

During the construction phase of the proposed development, an increase in construction vehicles are expected. These impacts will however only be temporary. No impacts are expected during the operational phase.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In terms of the NEMA, Public Participation forms an integral part of the environmental assessment process. The Public Participation Process provides people who may be affected by the proposed development with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Comments and issues raised during the Public Participation Process will be captured, evaluated and included in a Comments and Response Report (CRR). These issues will be addressed and included in the Final Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), to make a decision on whether to approve the application (provide Environmental Authorisation) or not.

## **3. DELIVERABLES**

The environmental assessment will culminate in the compilation of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The Basic Assessment Report will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), the regulatory authority responsible for the review of the report. The DEA&DP has to reach a decision as to whether, and under what conditions, the project may proceed, based on environmental considerations. An Environmental Authorization (EA) may be issued based on the information provided in the Basic Assessment Report. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) who have registered will be notified of the Environmental Authorisation (EA).

#### 4. TIMEFRAMES

The table below provides an indication of the proposed timeframes for the project.

Activity	Estimated Timeframe
Compilation of Nol	4 December – 5 December 2019
Submission of Nol	9 December 2019
Compilation of Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) (HWC)	4 – 7 March 2019
Submission of NID	28 November 2019
Heritage Western Cape review of NID	28 November – 19 December 2019
Possible Specialist studies	December 2019 – January 2020
Compilation of 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft Basic Assessment Report	February 2020
Submission of 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft BAR to Department of Environmental Affairs & Development (DEA&DP) Planning	20 February 2020
1 <sup>st</sup> Public Participation Process (30 days)	24 February 2020 – 27 March 2020
Compilation of Application	March 2020
Submission of Application	March 2020
Compilation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft BAR & Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	April 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Participation Process (30 days)	April 2020 – May 2020
Amend Final BAR & EMP	May - June 2020
Submit Final BAR to DEA&DP	June 2019
DEA&DP Review of Final BAR & EMP	June 2020 – September 2020
Authorisation	September 2020
Notify all Interested and Affected Parties	September 2020

#### 5. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants were appointed as an independent environmental consultancy by Breede Valley Municipality to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and public participation process for the requirements of NEMA for the proposed reservoir expansion. A hard copy of the First Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available at the Worcester Public Library (Ms Christine Gerber Tel: 023 348 2773) and an electronic copy will also be available on GNEC's website ([www.gnec.co.za](http://www.gnec.co.za)).

We would like to invite and encourage all stakeholders to complete and return the enclosed registration sheet and submit any written comments to:

**GNEC**

Att: Heloise Groenewald  
P.O. Box 2632, Paarl, 7620

Tel: 021 870 1874

Fax: 021 870 1873

E-mail: [hdp@gnec.co.za](mailto:hdp@gnec.co.za)

**GNEC Ref No: 20621**

**DEA&DP Ref No: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1433/19**

**Please submit the registration sheet to GNEC by no later than Friday, 27 March 2020.**

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**REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET  
 20 February 2020**

**DEA&DP REFERENCE No: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1433/19**

**GNEC REF: 20621**

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name and Surname** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Company Name/Interest** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Postal-or-Residential Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Area** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Please indicate your preferred method of communication (Please indicate with an X)</b>					
<b>Fax</b>		<b>E-Mail</b>		<b>Post</b>	

**Comments (You are welcome to attach more sheets if necessary (Your comments will be considered in the Basic Assessment process))**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide details of any other person/company whom you would like us to add to our mailing list**

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name and Surname** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax No:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to GNEC by no later than **Friday 27 March 2020.**  
**Attention Heloise Groenewald**  
 P.O. Box 2632, Paarl, 7620  
 Tel: 021 870 1874, Fax: 021 870 1873  
 E-mail: [hdp@gnec.co.za](mailto:hdp@gnec.co.za)  
**Thank you for your participation**