
THE ESTABLISHMENT & OPERATION OF AN ELECTRONIC WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY IN LENASIA, SOUTH JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

DFFE Ref: Pending

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice in terms of Section 28 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (as amended) in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), of the establishment and operation of an electronic waste (e-waste) recovery facility located within the BBS Décor Park, Anchorville Ext. 12 in Lenasia, South Johannesburg Gauteng.

This document provides a brief description of the proposed project as well as the environmental regulatory compliance process that will be followed.

2. INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

Platinum Blac is a newly established waste recovery and processing facility located in Lenasia, Gauteng. The facility commenced with operations on the 1st of May 2024. Platinum Blac is involved in "urban mining" i.e. the recovery of electronic (e-waste), with e-waste items consisting of catalytic converters from exhaust systems, as well as PCB and other boards. Additionally, Platinum Blac are approaching local mines for the recovery of their waste (rock and pebbles) for crushing.

The following activities are currently undertaken at Platinum Blac:

- The catalytic converters received by Platinum Blac are crushed and exported, whilst PCB and other boards are disassembled into their various recyclable components for export.
- The crushing of mining waste (rock and pebble form) is undertaken on site, the resulting powder is tested in an onsite laboratory and subsequently exported. This operation is not permanently running.
- The crushed catalytic converters are procured by refineries.
- Approximately 90% of the processed e-waste is exported.



Platinum Blac are currently processing 300-400kgs of e-waste per day, however they would like to increase these volumes to over one ton per day for future growth, as their aim to be the largest purchaser of PCB boards for recovery. In order to do this, Platinum Blac will need to apply for a Waste Management Licence.

Green Choice Consulting have been appointed by Platinum Blac (Pty) Ltd to undertake and manage the environmental regulatory compliance process associated with the proposed establishment and operation of the Platinum Blac facility. The facility is located within the BBS Decor Park located off the R558 in Lenasia, within the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng. The site's central co-ordinates are 26°20' 46.29"S 27° 49' 49.35"E. A locality map is attached as Appendix A.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008)

In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008, NEMWA) Platinum Blac (Pty) Ltd will be required to apply for a Waste Management Licence for the establishment and operation of their e-waste facility. Considering that e-waste as well as the mining waste are classified as hazardous, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) will be the Competent Authority for the application. The following listed activities in terms of GN779 of NEMWA are applicable to the proposal:

CATEGORY B

A person who wishes to commence, undertake or conduct a waste management activity listed under this Category, must conduct a scoping and environmental impact reporting process set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations made under section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as part of a waste management licence application contemplated in section 45 read with section 20(b) of this Act.

Activity No.	Description	Applicability
(3)	<i>The recovery of waste including the refining, utilization, or co-processing of the waste at a facility that processes in excess of 100 tons of general waste per day or in excess of 1 ton of hazardous waste per day, excluding recovery that takes place as an integral part of an internal manufacturing process within the same premises.</i>	Platinum Blac (Pty) Ltd intends on dismantling more than 1 ton of e-waste per day in future.
(4)	<i>The treatment of hazardous waste in excess of 1 ton per day calculated as a monthly average; using any form of treatment excluding the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage.</i>	Crushing & grinding of catalytic converters & mining (rock & pebble) waste.



Activity No.	Description	Applicability
(9)	<i>The construction of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category B of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated waste management activity).</i>	Establishment of infrastructure necessary for the undertaking of the waste management activity.

4. APPROACH TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (EIR) process as set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations made under section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) will be followed for the Waste management Licence process.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place. The purpose of the EIA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in terms the environmental, social and economic aspects of the project. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the EIA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to the Competent Authority for consideration.

The EIA consists of two phases. The first phase is a Scoping Study which identifies potential issues requiring more detailed investigation via specialist studies. If required, a list of specialist studies and the issues they should address will be detailed in the Draft Scoping Report, which will be made available for public and authority review. The second phase is the Impact Assessment phase, during which detailed investigations of the issues identified during scoping will be undertaken.

The Waste Management Licence application is currently in the pre-application phase. This phase serves primarily to inform the public, stakeholders and the relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts associated with the project.

An illustration of the Scoping and EIR process according to the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, is provided in Figure 1.



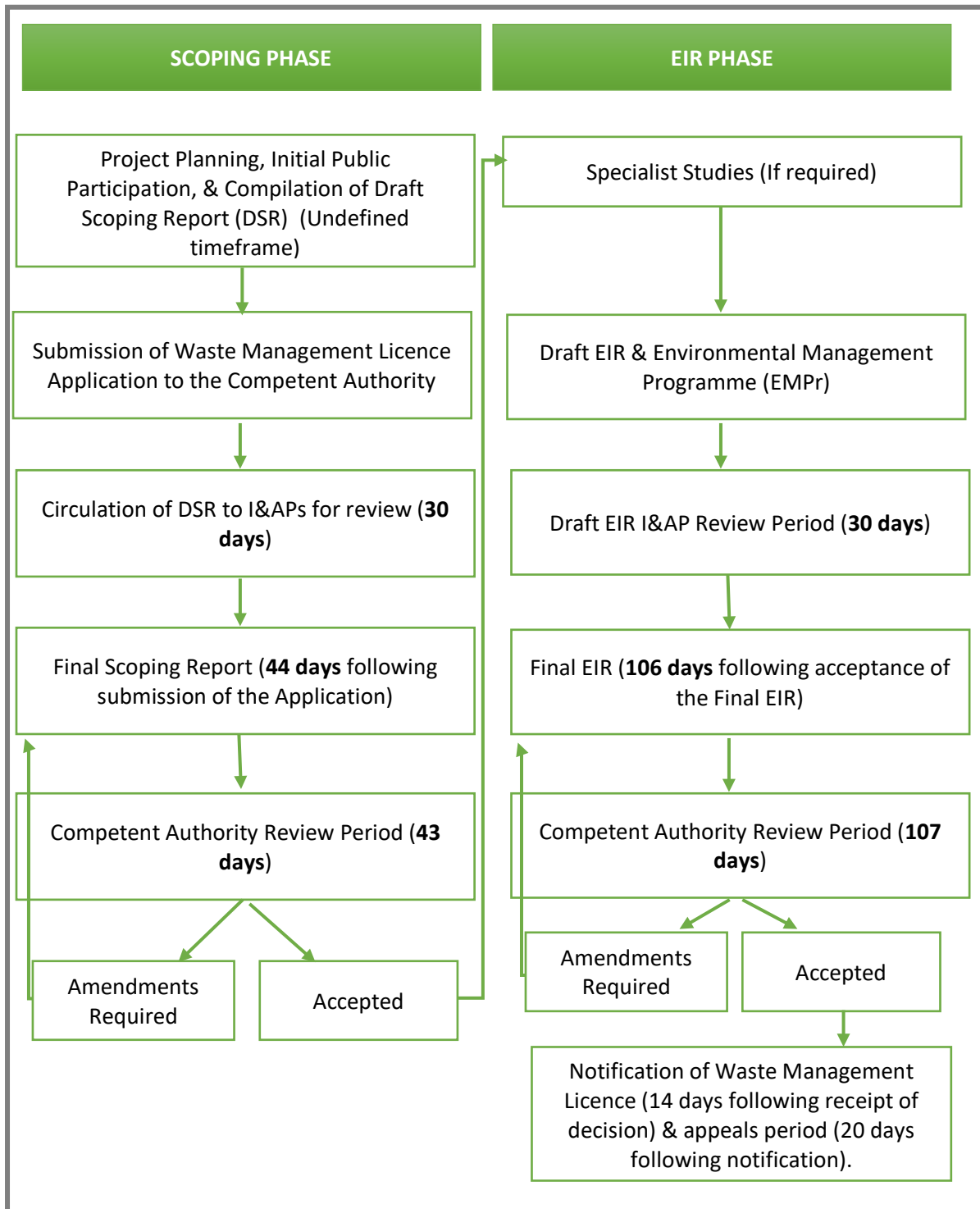


Figure 1: Scoping & EIR Process



5. HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

The aim of the public participation process (PPP) is to provide all interested and affected parties (I & APs) with an opportunity to provide their input into the Waste Management Licence application process. If you consider yourself to be an I & AP, it is important that you do the following:

1. Register as an I & AP by responding to this notification by submitting your name, contact details, and interest in the project to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (details are provided below). As a registered I & AP, you will be informed of report reviews and project developments throughout the Waste Management Licence application process.
2. Submit to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner any comments, queries or concerns you may have in relation to the proposed project.
3. Review reports and provide written comment within the regulated 30-day comment period.

Please note that the collection and storage of personal information by Green Choice Consulting is subject to the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act 4 of 2013). By providing Green Choice Consulting with your personal details, you acknowledge and permit Green Choice Consulting to use your details for the purpose as intended in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended). Should you wish to retract your registration, please inform Green Choice Consulting timeously.

To register as an I & AP, please submit your contact details to:



APPENDIX A: LOCALITY MAP



Satellite image showing the boundary of the BBS Decor Park in yellow with the location of the Platinum Blac facility in red (©Google Earth Satellite Imagery)





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