
THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A DAM ON DARTFORD FARM, UNDERBERG, KWAZULU-NATAL



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EDTEA Ref No.: 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 proposed development of a dam on Dartford Farm, Portion 0 of Lot FP 173 No. 8581 in the Underberg area of KwaZulu-Natal.

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

Green Choice Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Kevin Fraser of The Dartford Farming Trust to undertake and manage the environmental regulatory compliance process for the proposed development of a dam located on Dartford Farm, Portion 0 of Lot FP 173 No. 8581 in the Underberg area of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Applicant intends on developing a storage dam with a capacity of 1 500 000m³ and covering an area of approximately 37 hectares, to be used for the irrigation of grass pastures. It is anticipated that the proposed dam will have the capacity to irrigate 101 hectares of pasture in total once operational.

Dartford Farm is currently operating as a dairy farm which has a capacity to milk 600 dairy cows. In order for the business to be profitable, the Applicant must expand his operations to milk at least double the number of cows in the near future. To do this, additional grass pastures will need to be cultivated and watered to feed additional cows, resulting in the need for a storage dam for irrigation purposes.

The proposed project property is located along the P322 road (Coleford Road) outside Underberg, and is situated within the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality of the Harry Gwala District. The proposed dam's central co-ordinates are 29° 52' 46.93"S and 29° 29' 46.12"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 (Act No. 107 of 1998, NEMA) The Dartford Farming Trust will be required to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed development of the dam. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) will be the Competent Authority for the application. The following listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended) are applicable to the proposal:

Activity No.	Description	Applicability
GNR327 (LN1, 12)	The development of – (i) Dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; Where such development occurs – (c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.	The proposed dam will be located within the Ekamanzi Stream i.e. an in-stream dam, and will comprise a total area of 37 hectares. Therefore, infrastructure such as the dam wall and pump house will be constructed within the watercourse.
GNR327 (LN 1, 19)	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.	The proposed construction of the dam will require the removal of all land cover in the proposed area of inundation. Additionally, material will need to be deposited in the Ekamanzi Stream to construct the dam wall.
GNR325 (LN 2, 15)	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i)The undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The entire area of inundation will be cleared of all land cover, including grassland and wetland vegetation. The maximum area of inundation (when the dam is at its fullest) will be approximately 37 hectares in extent.
GNR325, (LN 2, 16)	The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or when the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.	The highest part of the proposed dam wall will be 10.5m in height, and the high-water mark of the proposed dam will cover an area of 37 hectares.
GNR324 (LN 3, 14)	The development of-	The Coleford Nature Reserve is located approximately 7 kilometres from the proposed dam. The proposed dam and



Activity No.	Description	Applicability
	(i) Dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more: Where such development occurs- (a) Within a watercourse d. KwaZulu-Natal x. Outside urban areas: (aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any terrestrial protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.	associated infrastructure will cover an area of 37 hectares.

4. APPROACH TO THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (EIR) process as set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended) made under section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) will be followed for the Environmental Authorisation application 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 Environmental Authorisation 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.



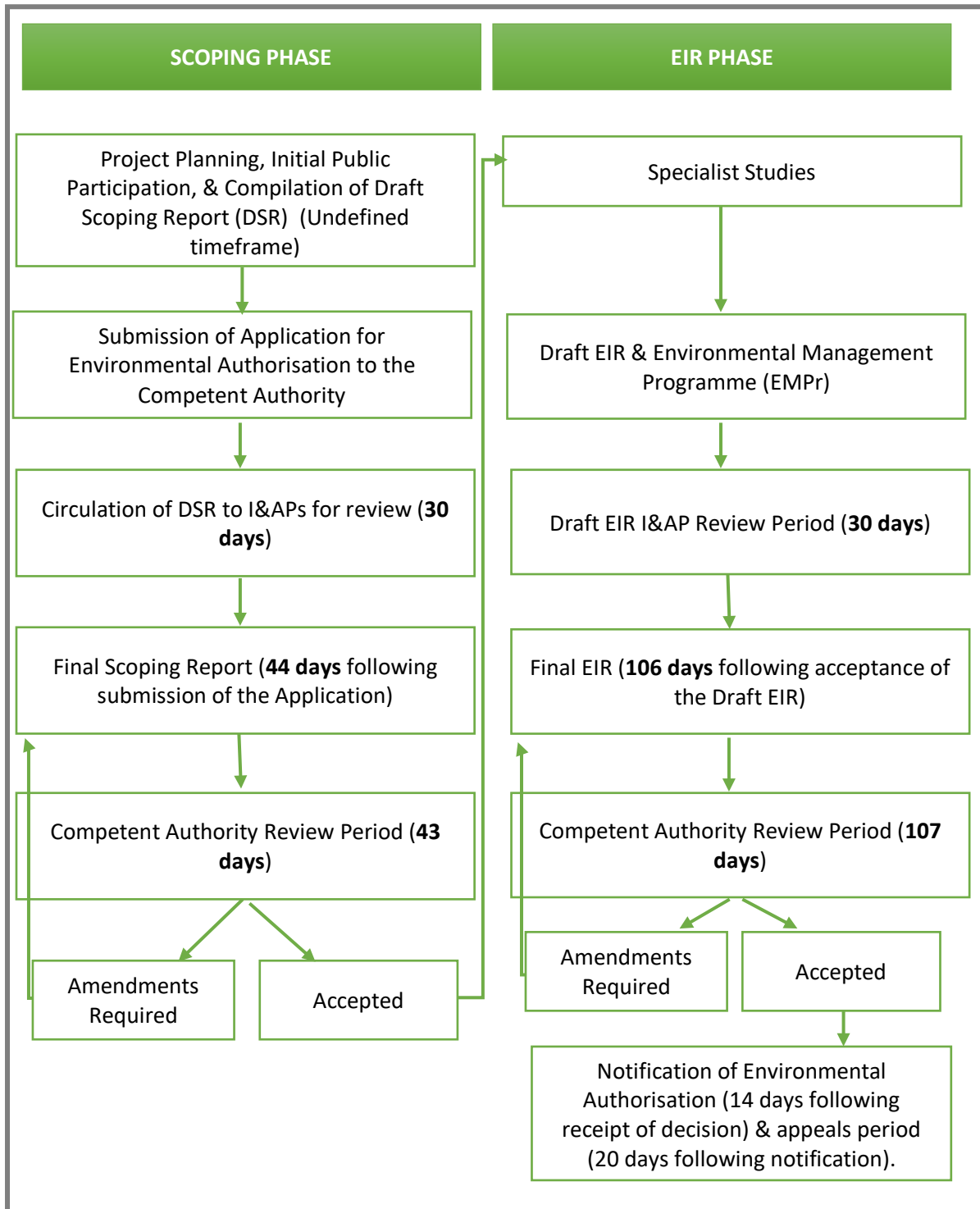


Figure 1: The Scoping & EIR Process



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 Environmental Authorisation 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 Environmental Authorisation 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.
4. If you know of a company/private person who may be interested in the project, kindly forward their contact details to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

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 project property outlined in red, with the location of the proposed dam shaded in blue (©Google Earth Satellite Imagery).





GREEN CHOICE CONSULTING

Durban, KwaZulu natal

T: +27 71 851 6976

E: sarah@greenchoiceconsulting.co.za

