



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) **PRE-APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS**

BOTHA & BARNARD **PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE WOOD DRYING FACILITY** *Portion 30 of the Farm Boven Lange Valley, Wilderness, George*

October 2016

Introduction

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure compliance with the regulations contained in the **National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No 107 of 1998 as amended)** & the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for a **Basic Assessment (BA) Process**.

The **Proponent** (developer) is **Botha and Barnard cc** and the property is owned by the applicant.

The proposed activity involves the expansion and upgrading of the existing wood drying facilities on site, by the addition of a **Biomass Burning Boiler** and a **new timber drying chamber**. Before this activity may commence, approval is required in terms of the following legislation:

- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) & the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations;
- National Environmental Air Quality Act (NEM:AQA) & associated regulations;
- the Outeniqua Sensitive Coastal Area Extension Regulations (OSCAE)(GN R.1528, Nov.1998);

Project Proposal.

The proponent, Botha and Barnard cc, intend expanding and upgrading their existing wood drying facilities by the addition of a biomass burning boiler and a timber drying chamber.

The proposed timber drying facility will consist of the following two main components:

- Biomass burning boiler facility to generate steam for timber drying



Figure 1: Showing sketch plan of typical biomass boiler.

- Timber drying room.



Figure 2: Photograph of typical drying room.

The boiler will be equipped with a wood fired step grate furnace with the following details:

- Supply all materials and erect one wood fired step grate furnace for one single flue boiler fired with typical sawmill waste. The furnace will be built on the same floor level as the

boiler, with one linking tubes, approximately 1.5m long.

- The furnace walls will be 460 mm thick and will be supported by structural steelwork.
- Cast iron stepped grate without moving parts. Heavy duty cast iron access and cleaning doors. Cast iron flap door for manual loading of fuel. Large front access doors for easy cleaning and maintenance.
- Steel platform and staircase with hand railing for access to the fuel access area.

Description of the site

The development is proposed on **Portion 30 of the Farm Boven Lange Valley 189**, located along the N2 highway between wilderness and Sedgfield (Location plan annexed to this document).

The site is currently utilised for the Botha and Barnard Furniture manufacture facility as well as G&K Mouldings timber processing.

Access to the property is directly from the N2 and no additional access or changes to the current access are proposed as part of this process.

From an ecological point of view the majority of the site is considered to have **low sensitivity** as it is already transformed as part of the existing timber processing facilities.

Issues of specific significance relate to the potential impact on Air Quality as a result of the proposed expansion – and particularly through the addition of a biomass fired boiler.

Environmental Context

According to the Vegetation Map of South Africa (2006) and BGIS 2014, the vegetation mapped to have occurred on the is **Southern Cape Dune Fynbos**, which is not listed as a threatened ecosystem in terms of section 52 of NEM:BA.

It must be noted that **very little natural vegetation remains** throughout the site and the proposed location for the wood drying expansion will not require any removal of vegetation, as it is situated within the existing operational area of the facility.

The entire extent of the study site falls **within a Critical Biodiversity Area**.

What is the purpose of this document?

The main purpose of this **Background Information Document (BID)** is to:

- Provide potential “Interested and Affected Parties” (I&APs) with information regarding the revised development proposal (reduced density, compacted nodes to create larger open corridors for faunal movement and to reduce potential visual impacts);
- Describe the environmental process now being undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No.107 of 1998 as amended) including the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations; and
- Explain the way forward.

Applicable NEMA Listed Activities

NEMA specifies various ‘listed activities’ that require *prior* environmental authorisation.

Listing Notice 1: GN R983:

34 The expansion or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity where such expansion or changes will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions or pollution.

This activity relates to the expansion of the wood drying facility and this expansion will require an atmospheric emissions licence in terms of the NEM:AQA.

Environmental Process

The procedures for a **Basic Assessment Environmental Process**, as per the 2014 EIA Regulations, are being undertaken for this environmental process.

A pre-application public participation process (PPP) is being undertaken to inform the development proposal prior to submission of a formal Application. The pre-application PPP phase is to allow members of the public ample time to register as I&APs, receive & review project information and provide input/comments on the proposed development.

Registered I&APs will be provided an opportunity to review & comment on this Pre application Background Information Document. Input/comments received during the Pre-App. PPP phase will be considered and included in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) to be made available to registered I&APs once a formal Application has been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

The following steps, amongst others, will be undertaken as part of the Pre-Application Environmental Process:

- Identifying potential Interested and Affected Parties (“I&AP’s”);
- **Advertising** a ‘Call for Registration of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs)’ in a local newspapers (Suid Kaap Burger & George Herald) with a registration period of 30-days;
- Placement of **Site Notices** at the site ‘Calling for Registration of I&APs’;
- Make available the **Background Information Document (BID)** for distribution to potential and registered I&APs and neighbouring land owners, briefly explaining the process and project (**this document**);
- Open and maintain a **Registered Stakeholder database**;
- Submission of the **Application Form** to DEA;
- Compilation of **BAR** and Environmental Management Programme (EMP) and to make the BAR available for I&AP review / comment;
- **Submit** the FINAL BAR and EMP to DEA for **decision-making**; and

- Notification of registered I&APs and Stakeholders of **Environmental Decision**, and details of appeal process / period.

Alternatives

In terms of the NEMA legislation, alternatives must be considered during an environmental assessment. These may be site, activity, or technological alternatives.

The No-Go Alternative (no activities undertaken) must be considered as a baseline against which the impacts of any other Alternatives are measured.

Why and how should you get involved?

Names and details of members of the public who respond to the legal advert &/ notices (calling for I&APs to register) will be captured on the project **Stakeholder Register**. All written comments provided will also be recorded. According to the Guidelines on Public Participation, only those parties that submit their full contact details for registration purposes, will be registered. Documentation containing incomplete, or no contact details may not be considered.

In the event that you (or any other party you may be aware of) have an **interest** in the process, or feel that you **may be affected** by the proposed development, you are invited to **register** as an I&AP for the environmental process. A vital part of the process is **public consultation** as it provides stakeholders with an opportunity to gain an informed understanding of the proposed development and provide input thereto. In order to do so, I&APs are requested to submit their full contact details, in writing, to *Cape EAPrac* at the address provided at the end of this document.

Cape EAPrac is obliged to investigate and respond to all issues/concerns raised during the course of the environmental process. In order to do this, we will rely on professional input from engineers and various specialists if required, as well as guidance from local, provincial and national Authorities who will also been requested to comment.

Please note that the main purpose of this Pre-Application process is to gain an understanding of all issues/concerns related to the development proposal. The formal Application will only be submitted to DEA once the issues/concerns have been resolved and/or potential impacts sufficiently mitigated.

**TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP, PLEASE SEND
YOUR REGISTRATION REQUEST, NAME &
FULL CONTACT DETAILS, AND ANY
PRELIMINARY COMMENTS**

Cape-EAPrac

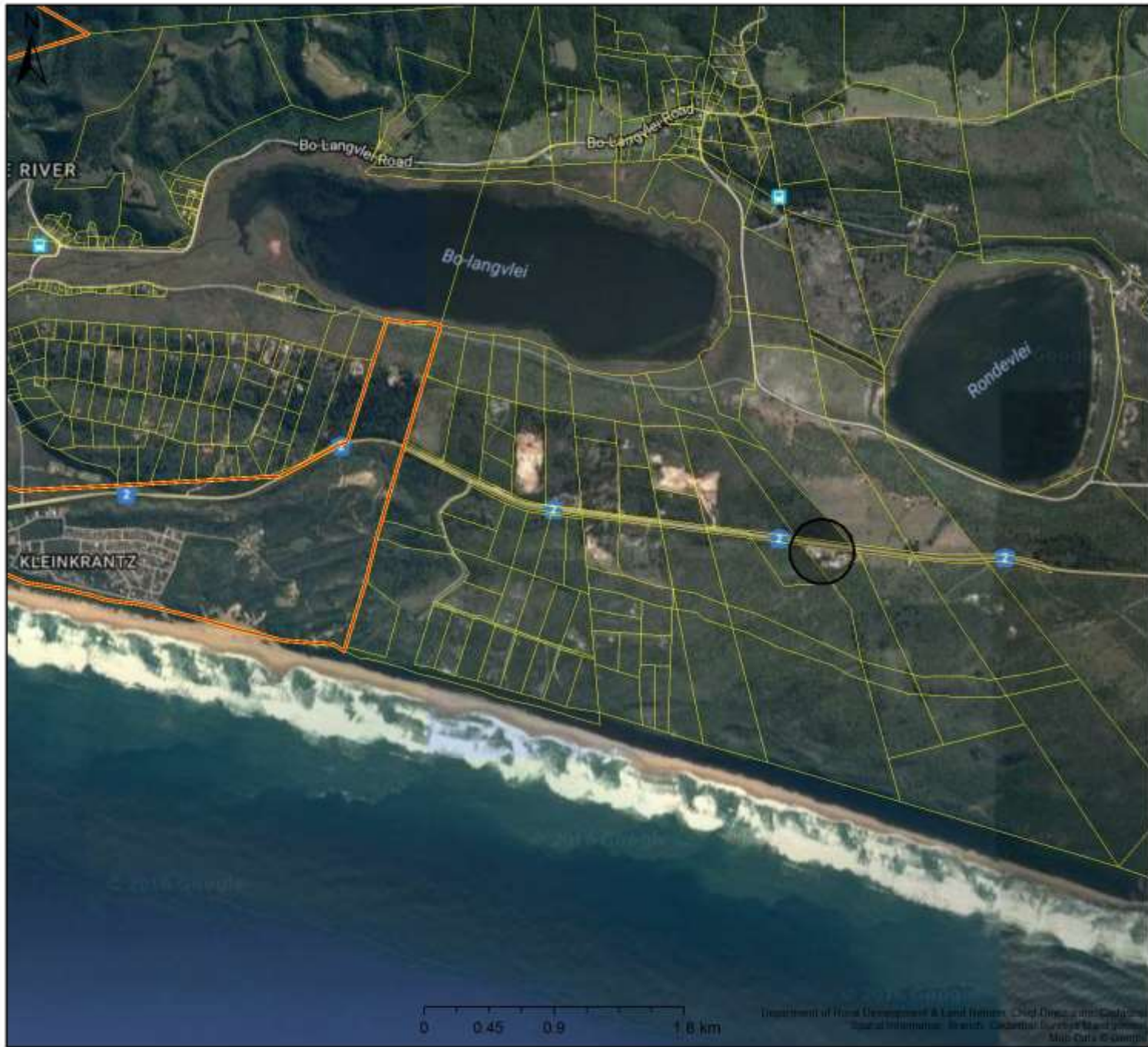
ATT: Mr Dale Holder

PO Box 2070 George 6530

Telephone: 044 874 0365 Fax: 044 874 0432


E-mail: Dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

All registration requests and comments must be submitted in writing. A registration and initial comment sheet is attached overleaf and is also available on the Cape EAPrac website.



Proposed upgrade of wood drying facility

Legend

-  Allotment Township
-  Farm Portions

Scale: 1:36 112
 Date created: October 19, 2016



**Western Cape
 Government**

Agriculture

BASIC ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS
Upgrade and Expansion of Wood Drying Facility

Portion 30 of Farm 189 Boven Lange Valley

REGISTRATION / INITIAL COMMENT SHEET on BID

Should you have any preliminary comments and would like to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party ("I&AP"), please complete this form and return it to *Cape EAPrac* at P O Box 2070, George, 6530. Tel: 044 874 0365, Fax: 044 874 0432, Email: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za. Registration may also be done online at www.cape-eaprac.co.za on the active project page.

TITLE & NAME	
REPRESENTING	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
TEL NO.	
FAX NO.	
CELL NO.	
E-MAIL	

NOTE: Submission of incomplete contact details may result in a person/entity not being registered. Please ensure that you complete the above table in full.

COMMENTS (please feel free to submit more pages)

1. List any **key issues or concerns** relating to the proposed expansion of the Botha and Barnard Wood Drying Facility.

3. Describe your **reason/motivation** for participating in this environmental process (disclose any interest)

NOTE **ito the 2014 Environmental Regulations it is compulsory for I&APs to state their interest in a project/process, thus not providing reasons, may result in a person/entity not being registered.**

4. List any potential (reasonable and / or feasible) **alternatives** for the activity and **state why** you are recommended the alternative(s):

5. List **interested & affected parties** (I&APs) or Stakeholders that you feel should be registered (provide their **full contact details (name, telephone, fax, email and postal details)** and who they represent in order that we may contact them):
