



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/1/D2/19/0199/23

DATE OF ISSUE: 13 November 2023

The Municipal Manager
% The Director: Civil Engineering Services
THE GEORGE MUNICIPALITY
PO Box 19
GEORGE
6530

Attention: Mr. Gerard de Swart

E-mail: gdeswardt@george.gov.za

Dear Sir

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COMMENT ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE SEWAGE RISING MAIN FROM THE SCHAAPKOP PUMPSTATION ON THE REMAINDER OF ERF 464 AND ERF 13486 TO THE OUTENIQUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS, GEORGE

1. The abovementioned Public Participation Plan ("PP-plan") dated 17 October 2023 compiled on your behalf by your appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP"), Mr. Michael Bennett (EAPASA No: 2021/3163) of *Sharples Environmental Services cc* ("SES") and received by the Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) ("this Directorate") on 18 October 2023, refers.
2. This letter serves as acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned document on **18 October 2023**.
3. Notwithstanding the fact that an agreement regarding the proposed actions to conduct the public participation process is no longer a requirement, this Directorate has reviewed the PP-plan and provides the following comment:

3.1. Notification to adjacent property owners and occupiers

From the document it is understood that the main purpose of the PP-plan is to agree to the extent of the public participation with regard to Regulation 41(2)(b)(ii) of the Environment Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations, 2014") as the affected properties, the Remainder of Erf 464 and Erf 13486, are extensive. It is noted that the EAP is proposing to inform the owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of 15 properties along Garcia Street, as identified in Figure 3 and Table 1 of the PP-plan.

3.2. Placement of site notice boards

Furthermore, the EAP is proposing to erect four site notices, i.e. 2 x English and 2 x Afrikaans, at locations depicted in Figure 4 of the PP-plan, which the EAP believes will reach the greatest public reach. This is in order to comply with Regulation 41(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

4. It is understood that the EAP intends to comply fully with the remainder of the requirements of Regulation 41. However, it is unclear whether a pre-application public participation process will be followed.

Therefore, the EAP is reminded to ensure that Regulation 41 of the Environmental Impact Assessment, 2014 (Government Notice No. R. 982 of 4 December 2014, as amended) is fully complied with during the pre-application phase or application phase (or both phases), simultaneously with when the required report and plans (i.e., Basic Assessment Report) are made available for comment.

5. In light of Points 3 and 4 above, this Directorate **agrees** to the proposed actions to conduct public participation, in respect of the proposed upgrade of the sewage rising main the Schaapkop Pumpstation on the Remainder of Erf 464 and Erf 13486 to the Outeniqua Wastewater Treatment Works, provided that the 30-day comment period will be concluded prior to the period between 15 December 2023 to 5 January 2024.

IMPORTANT

6. With due consideration of the period from 15 December to 5 January, please be reminded that in accordance with Regulation 3(2) of the EIA Regulations (2014 that for any action contemplated in the Regulations for which a timeframe is prescribed, that the period from 15 December to 5 January must be excluded from the reckoning of days. However, Regulation 3(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 states that the applicant must refrain from conducting any public participation process over the period unless justified by exceptional circumstances, as agreed to by the Competent Authority.

Therefore, should the EAP plan to conduct public participation over the specified period, the EAP must approach competent authority to reach an agreement prior to conducting the public participation.

7. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.
8. Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of this matter.
9. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw initial comments or request further information from you based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

pp _____

HEAD OF COMPONENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES: REGION 3

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Ref.: 16/3/3/6/7/11/D2/19/0199/23

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS PLAN

FOR THE

THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE SCHAAPKOP
PUMPSTATION RISING MAIN,
ON REMAINDER OF ERF 464 AND ERF 13486,
GEORGE, WESTERN CAPE

APPLICANT:	George Municipality
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:	Sharples Environmental Services cc Michael Jon Bennett
DEADP REFERENCE NUMBER:	16/3/3/6/7/1/D2/19/0199/23
DATE:	17 October 2023

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3. LOCALITIES AND ADJACENT PROPERTIES

As seen from Figure 2, the two properties which the proposal falls within are larger remainder properties with many adjacent landowners.

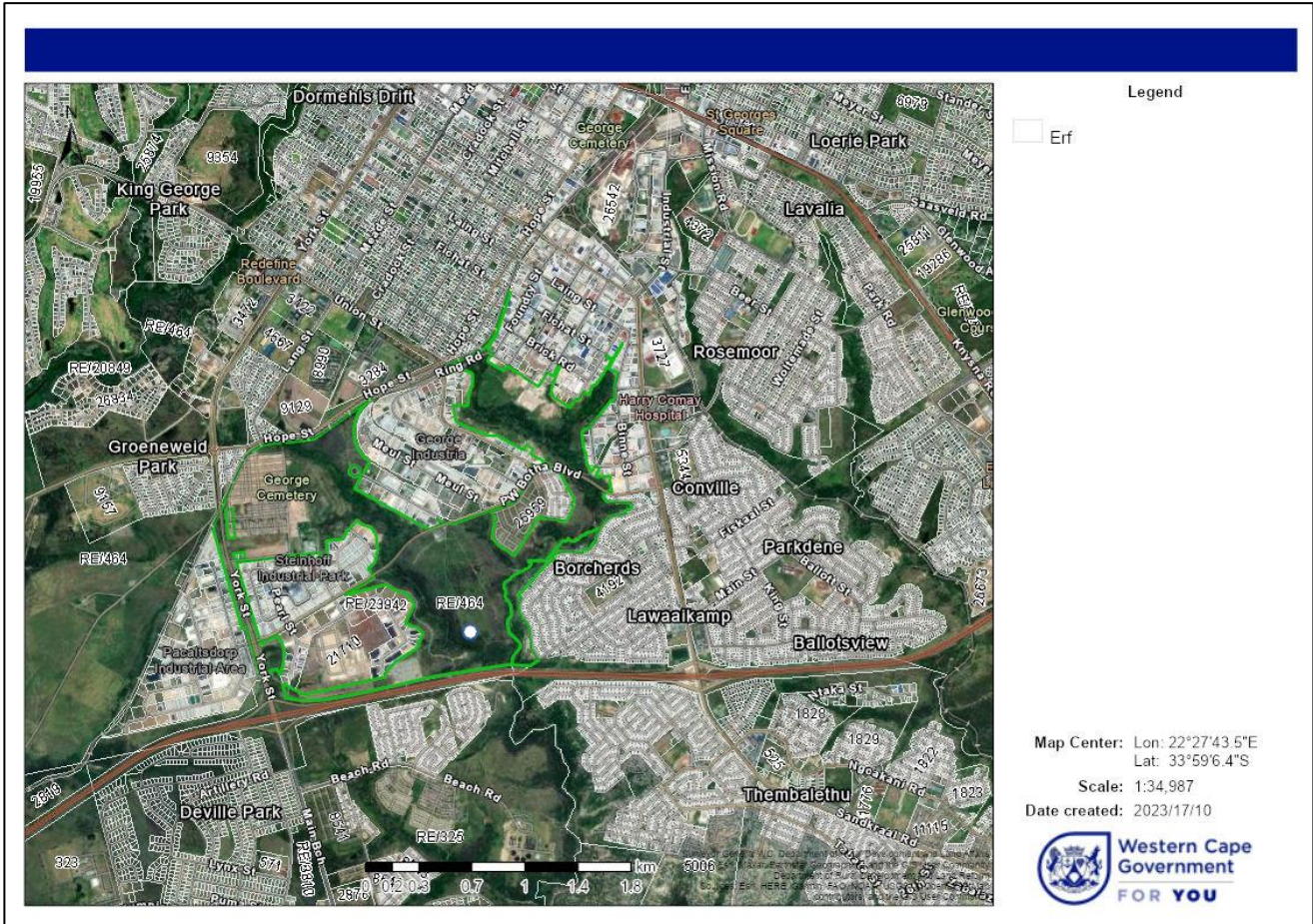


Figure 2: Remainder of Erven 464 and 13486



Figure 3: Proposed Automatically registered I&AP's

Table 1: Proposed I&AP's


Proposed I&AP's	
Farm Portion / Erf	Organisation / Name
Erf 21773	SA&NH KRAAI
Erf 21774	A TERBLANCHE
Erf 21775	J ESAU
Erf 21776	E MEYER P/A A SAAIMAN
Erf 21777	J BRUINTJIES
Erf 21778	H RUITERS
Erf 21779	M VENA
Erf 18672	NNM MAY
Erf 18671	I&M PIETERSEN
Erf 18670	K&N AWERIES
Erf 18669	T ABRAHAMS
Erf 18668	F&M FOSTER
Erf 18667	PE&E MTSHIMLA & MAZWAYI
Erf 21780	L BAILEY
Erf 21782	P&R MASHABA

AUTHORITIES TO BE INCLUDED

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5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Section 41 of NEMA was complied with during the Pre-Application Public Participation Process (dates to be confirmed)

Activity in accordance with regulation 41(2)(a) to (d) of the EIA Regulations	Requirements	Proposed
<p>(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of—</p> <p>(i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) any alternative site;</p>	<p>Proponents/ applicants, EAPs, specialists and professionals, where relevant, must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to identify potential I&APs for purposes of conducting public participation on the application; and - ensure that, as far as is reasonably possible, taking into account the specific aspects of the application- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application or proposed application is made available to potential I&APs; and (b) participation by potential or registered I&APs has been facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application or proposed application. <p>In ensuring the above, applicants and EAPs, in addition to the methods contained in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, or as part of reasonable alternative methods proposed in terms of regulation 41(2)(e) of the EIA Regulations, may make use of the following non-exhaustive list of methods :</p> <p>emails, websites, Zero Data Portals, Cloud Based Services, or similar platforms, direct telephone calls, virtual meetings, newspaper notices, radio advertisements, community representatives,</p>	<p>Due to the location of the site, we propose 4 site notices, one English and one Afrikaans at each of the red arrows in Figure 4.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Figure 4: Site notice locations</i></p> <p>We believe that these 4 site notices will have the greatest public reach for the PPP.</p>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—</p> <p>(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p>	<p>An I&AP database has been compiled, which identifies affected adjacent landowners, authorities, organs of state and other affected parties.</p> <p>Postal addresses have been obtained from the municipality for all the adjacent landowners highlighted in Figure 3.</p>	

<p>(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;</p> <p>(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p> <p>(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and</p> <p>(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;</p>	<p>distribution of notices at places that are accessible to potential I&APs.</p>	<p>As such all notifications for the availability of the BAR for commenting will be sent via post.</p> <p>All authorities will be notified via email.</p>
<p>(c) placing an advertisement in—</p> <p>(i) one local newspaper; or</p> <p>(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;</p>		<p>An advertisement will be placed in the George Herald, a newspaper which has both print and online readership.</p>
<p>(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken: Provided that this paragraph need not be complied with if an advertisement has been placed in an official Gazette referred to in paragraph (c) (ii)</p>		
<p>(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to—</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I&AP's will be notified via post. Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application or proposed application will also be circulated in this way.

<p>(i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If we are made aware of any I&AP with illiteracy, disability or other disadvantage we will engage with such I&AP to ensure their issues are noted.
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6. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS FOR REVIEW & COMMENT

All documents / reports with annexures will be uploaded onto the SES website for download, review and comment. The SEscc website is designed to be mobile friendly, allowing those with only mobile internet the availability to view the relevant reports. On request, reports will also be shared via bulk online sharing sites such as WeTransfer.

Any person(s) wishing to register as an I&AP, who may not be able to obtain documents via WeTransfer or the SES website, are encouraged to contact us within the allotted public participation period, and we will make alternative arrangements where necessary.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Should the need arise for an information sharing session, a virtual meeting will be set up during which the EAP, Engineer, Client and any required specialist will present on the findings of the Impact Assessments. Participants will be given the opportunity to post questions to the presenters, which will be answered in a Q&A session. Any virtual meetings held will be recorded and made available to all registered I&AP's.

7. CONCLUSION

SES confirms that all reasonable measures will be taken to identify potential I&APs for purposes of conducting the public participation on this application.

As far as is reasonably possible all information containing relevant facts in respect of this application will be made available to potential I&APs and participation by potential or registered I&APs will be facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered I&APs will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment.

This public participation plan, once agreed with the competent authority, will be strictly adhered to and any deviations, where relevant, will be identified and submitted to the authority.