



# BLUELEAF ENVIRONMENTAL

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ALONG HEATHERBANK ROAD IN THEESCOMBE, PORT ELIZABETH IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

BlueLeaf Environmental Consulting (BlueLeaf) has been appointed by the Christopher Lovemore Family Trust to undertake a Basic Environmental Assessment as regulated by the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA, as amended) for the proposed new housing development in Theescombe, Port Elizabeth. As per the legislative requirements, an application must be submitted with the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) located in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province.

#### LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed new housing development and associated infrastructure will be located on a portion of Erf 4087 along Heatherbank Road in Theescombe, Port Elizabeth. The land is currently utilized as part of an equestrian ranch.



**Figure 1: Location of the proposed new Lovemore Group housing development in Heatherbank, Port Elizabeth (Google Earth image).**

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Figure 2: The Proposed Lovemore Group Housing Development outline, Heatherbank road, Theescombe, Port Elizabeth

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed new “The Heath” housing development consist of 29 units of upmarket, free-standing homes in a secure estate located along Heatherbank Road in Theescombe, Port Elizabeth. Plot sizes will range between 300-700 square meter in size.

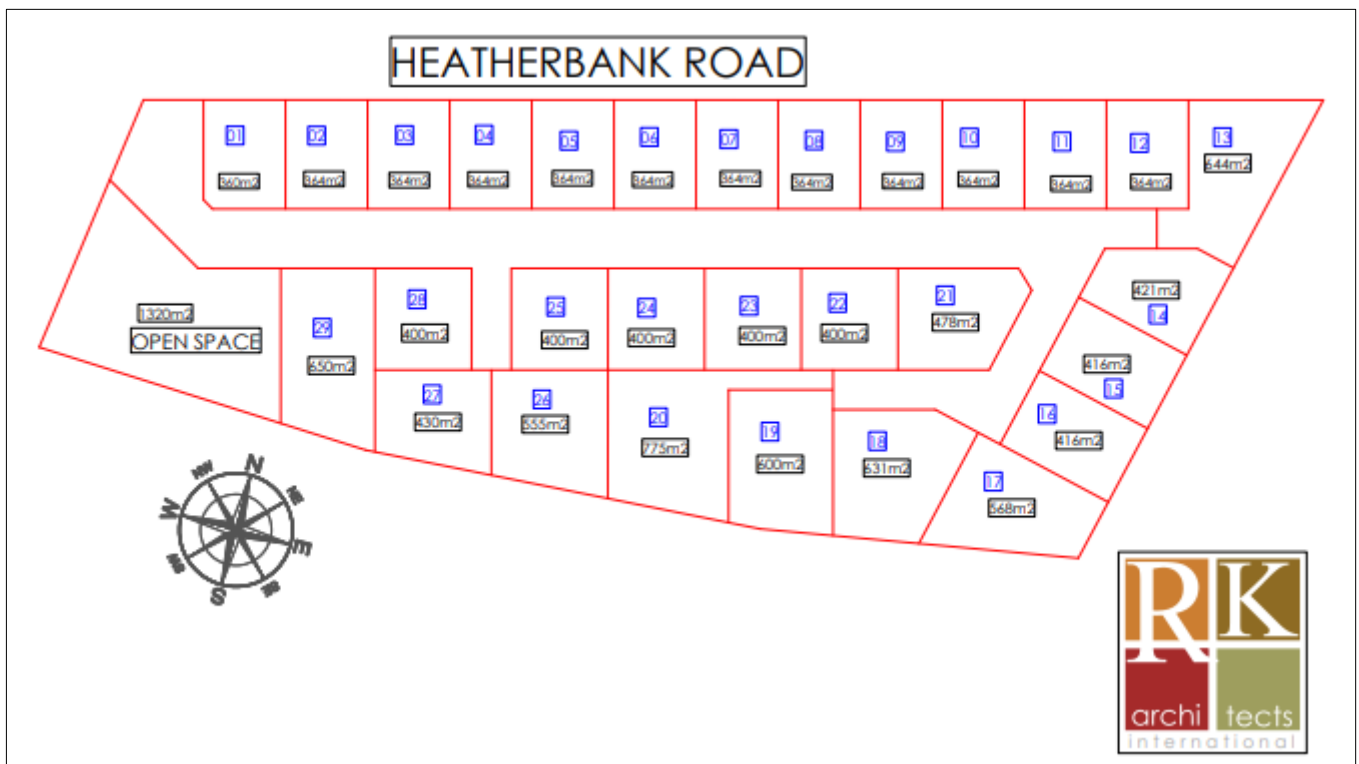


Figure 3: Layout of the proposed new “The Heath” housing development along Heatherbank Road in Theescombe.

## PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide background information to landowners and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the proposed development.
- Consult stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to register as I&APs.
- Obtain comments and contributions to incorporate into the Basic Assessment Report (BAR).
- Explain the Basic Assessment (BA) process.

The public participation process aims to enable landowners, lawful occupiers, directly affected individuals and or I&APs to raise any issues, comments and or concerns regarding the proposed prospecting activities.

The project will be announced in the locally distributed newspaper and notices will be placed in the project area to inform people of the proposed development. Notifications will request I&APs to contribute to the identification of potential environmental impacts. Stakeholders will be notified in writing of the project via email, fax or hand delivered letters.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (Draft BAR) will be prepared which will list all potential environmental impacts identified during the EIA Study. Relevant mitigations to reduce the environmental impact on the natural environment will also be included. Registering as an I&AP allows individuals or groups the opportunity to contribute ideas, issues, and concerns relating to the project. I&APs also have an opportunity to review all the reports and submit their comments on those reports. All comments that are received will be included in the reports that are submitted to the Competent Authority.

## THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

According to the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) promulgated under NEMA, certain listed activities need to obtain an Environmental Authorization. In this case the following project activities require that a **Basic Environmental Assessment be submitted to DEDEAT** for approval:

**Table 1: Listed Activities which require Environmental Authorisation**

LISTED ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
Listing Notice 1; Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except 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.

## APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following BA process will be followed during the EIA:



## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

An Environmental Screening Report was drafted for the proposed project and the following initial impacts have been identified. These issues will be addressed in the BAR or specialists will be appointed where specialist input is required:

1. Visual/Landscape impacts
2. Terrestrial Biodiversity impacts
3. Animal Species impacts
4. Plant Species impacts
5. Paleontological Impacts
6. Archaeological impacts
7. Aquatic Biodiversity impacts
8. Avian (Bird) impacts
9. Socio-economic impacts

## **HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?**

You are hereby invited to register as an I&AP and to participate in the BA Process by submitting your comments by the following means:

- Registering as an I&AP.
- Reviewing the Background Information Document.
- Submitting any comments/views on the project on the enclosed Comments and Registration Form.
- You can also submit your comments by writing a letter, sending an email, or contacting us at the below given contact details.

I&APs wanting to obtain further project information, register on the project database and or provide comments must provide such together with their name, contact details and interests in the matter to Mr Mark Marshall at the following details:

**Mr Roy de Kock**

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Blue Leaf Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Port Elizabeth

Cell: 076 281 9660

or send us your comments by email to [roy@blueleafenviro.co.za](mailto:roy@blueleafenviro.co.za)

**I hereby wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)**

Name & Surname:

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Postal Address:

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Email:

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Phone #:

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Fax #:

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My initial comments, issues or concerns are:

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