



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions)  
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Ref: F13/11/2/311/1

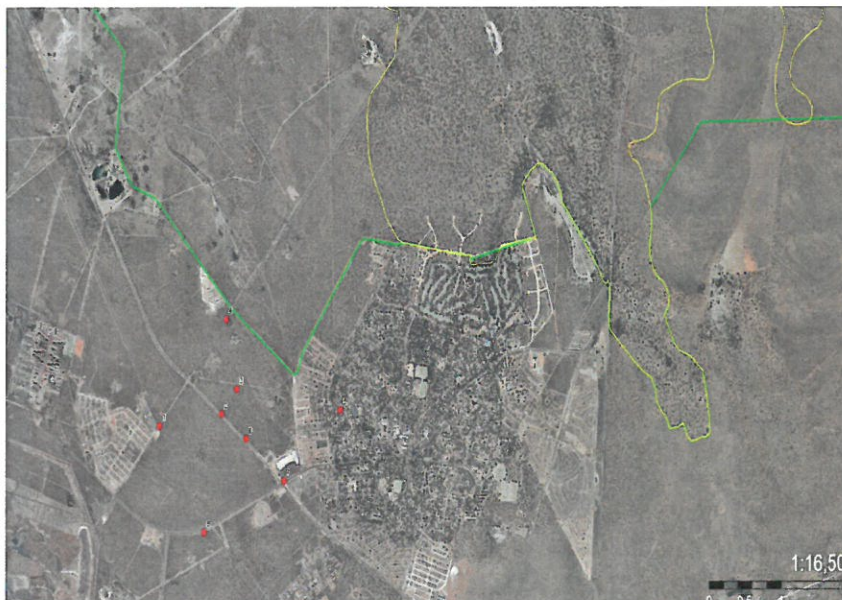
Department of Environment and Nature Conservation  
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ATTENTION: Mr. Thulani Mthombeni ([tmtho@webmail.co.za](mailto:tmtho@webmail.co.za))  
cc Mr. Clinton Geyser ([Clinton@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:Clinton@enviroafrica.co.za))

**RE: COMMENTS ON FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 1 AND THE REMAINDER OF FARM SIMS 462, KATHU (DENC REF: NC/EIA/10/JTG/GAM/KAT2/2014)**

The Directorate: Forestry Management (Other Regions) in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has commented on the Draft Scoping Report on 20 May 2015. The DAFF has studied the final Scoping Report and would hereby like to make the following additional comments:

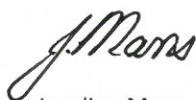
1. Page 24 of the report stated that the proposed development does not fall in the demarcated Kathu Forest. The DAFF agrees with the statement (see red dots below).



2. Page 16 confirmed that the proposed development may impact on a number of mature *Acacia (Vachellia) erioloba* or Camel thorn trees and that some trees may need to be removed. Page 30 indicated that a botanical assessment will be conducted to assess impacts on the seasonal pan to the north of the site during the EIA phase. Kindly forward a copy of the botanical assessment to this office for comments as soon as it is available. Where possible, layout designs should accommodate protected trees. Where trees cannot be avoided, the developer must apply for a Forest Act License prior to disturbing any protected tree on site.
3. Please ensure that the terms of reference for the botanical assessment include assessment of potential impacts on avifauna, because water birds may be attracted to the seasonal pan in the northern corner of the site. According to page 36 of the report, there is no need for an avifauna specialist study.
4. Gamagara Local Municipality has indicated a critical need to make provision for burial sites in the town of Kathu. They proposed expansion of the existing cemetery located in the Kathu Forest which forms part of a land swap agreement between the SIOC and the municipality. They argued that purchasing land may have significant financial implications for the municipality and that alternative sites investigated have shallow calcrete outcroppings, limiting the ability to dig graves. In order to preserve the Kathu Forest in its current natural state, expansion of the cemetery cannot be tolerated in the demarcated Kathu Forest (Nationally Protected Woodland); hence the DAFF is of the opinion that future expansion projects in the town of Kathu should make provision for burial sites. The applicant of the proposed housing development is Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC). The Department would like to know whether the proposed development can somehow make provision for a cemetery to alleviate the immediate need for additional burial sites.
5. The developer may require a Flora Permit under the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, 9 of 2009 (NCNCA) from the provincial Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC), for disturbance of any protected, specially protected or common indigenous vegetation.

Thank you very much for allowing this Department to comment. We are looking forward to receiving the botanical assessment.

Kind Regards,



Jacoline Mans  
Chief Forester: NFA Regulation

