

# PROPOSED PIG ABATTOIR, ERF 205, VAALKOPPIES NEDERSETTING, UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE



**BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT for comment**

**JULY 2018**

# **PROPOSED PIG ABATTOIR, ERF 205, VAALKOPPIES NEDERSETTING, UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE**

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## **PREPARED FOR:**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Introduction

It is proposed that a portion (2500m<sup>2</sup>) of the property be rezoned to accommodate a pig abattoir. The proposed facility will slaughter and process up to six (6) pigs per day. No animals are expected to be concentrated on the site, with all animals being brought to the facility. It is also expected that no waste, waste by - products etc. will be disposed of on-site, but will rather be removed from the premises and disposed of at a licensed waste facility.

The site is located on Erf 205, Vaalkoppies Nedersetting, located approximately 6km east of Upington, off the N10.

Site Coordinates: S 28°25'58.32", E 21°22'05.05".

## Services:

The services to the proposed development are described below:

- Electricity: Will be provided by Eskom. There is a 3 Phase electricity connection approximately 15m from the proposed site.
- Water: Will be supplied by a borehole located on Erf 205. The water has been tested and approved for the existing meat processing facility and household use.
- Waste: It is proposed that waste water used to clean the facility and carcasses, as well as blood and manure be pumped to a drain. From there, the contents will be pumped to a tank, and will then be transported to a facility in Upington for the purposes of compost production.
- Animal by-product: It is proposed that the animal by-product and unused meat and carcasses will be temporarily stored within a freezer room in the facility, and will then be transported to the Tanien Crocodile Farm, to be used for crocodile food

## Roads and access:

Access will be directly from the N10 (please see figure 1 below).

The existing internal roads will be utilised. No significant upgrades are expected to the roads.

## Environmental Requirements

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998), as amended, makes provision for the identification and assessment of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment and which require authorisation from the competent authority based on the findings of an Environmental Assessment. NEMA is a national act, which is enforced by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). According to the regulations of Section 24(5) of NEMA, authorisation is required for the following:

### **Government Notice R327 (Listing Notice 1):**

**Activity 3:** The **development** and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the **slaughter of animals** with a -

- (i) product throughput of poultry exceeding 50 poultry per day;
- (ii) product throughput of reptiles, game and red meat exceeding 6 units per day; or
- (iii) wet weight product throughput of fish, crustaceans and amphibians exceeding 20 000 kg per annum.

### Site Description

#### - Vegetation

The site would historically have been covered in Lower Gariep Alluvial Vegetation (Endangered) and/or Kalahari Karroid Shrubland. However, very little natural vegetation is present.

There is a Witgat Tree (*Boscia Albitrunca*) near the development footprint, located approximately 5m south-east of development footprint. There is also a Camel Thorn (*Vachellia Erioloba*) located approximately 30m north-west of the development footprint. Both these trees are to be protected, and demarcated a “no-go areas” during construction

The site has been relatively heavily impacted on by previous activities on the site, and parts of the site has been completely transformed, through storing of materials, a vehicle track running through the site and other disturbances.

#### - Freshwater

There are no watercourses (streams or wetlands) on the site, or within 32m of the property. The closest watercourse is a canal which runs adjacent to the property border, located approximately 90m north of the site, and the Orange River, which is approximately 230m to the north of the site. The proposed development is therefore expected to have no direct impacts on these watercourses.

#### - Heritage

The proposed development site is almost completely transformed. No heritage resources were observed or are expected on the site.

### Need and Desirability

Since the closure of the pig abattoir in Kakamas, the nearest pig abattoir is located approximately 200km away in Olifantshoek. Since a round trip between delivering the pigs for slaughter, and collection of the meat with a cooling unit and returning the meat to the existing meat processing facility on the farm is over 800km, this has a negative financial impact.

There is a need for a local registered pig abattoir because:

- There is also a high demand for affordable pig meat.
- Supermarkets have to buy meat from other pig abattoirs which means that other towns benefit from the economic boost, instead of benefitting the local economy of Upington.
- There are a lot of local pig farmers that do not have the capability to transport pigs to Olifantshoek abattoir, which could mean the closing down of local pig farmers.
- The closing down of local pig farms would mean the loss of jobs, especially to previously disadvantaged people, and the increase in the unemployment rate.
- There is also the risk of local pig farmers illegally slaughtering pigs since they cannot transport them to Olifantshoek, which could pose a health risk to the local community

The proposed facility would therefore:

- Help upcoming farmers especially previously disadvantaged groups to be able to produce pig meat for the community which is more affordable.
- By supporting local farmers, employment will increase
- It will keep money in the local community and boost the economy of Upington
- It will reduce the carbon footprint, eliminating the long-distance transport of the pigs and meat.
- It will be easier for the Department of Health to track the production of meat which is sold in the community and which means they have more control over unsafe meat which could pose a health risk.

The proposed development will also create jobs for previously disadvantaged individuals in the construction and operational phases of the development.

Conclusion

The overall environmental impact is expected to be Very Low (negative), with the following mitigation measures proposed:

Botanical

- All invasive alien plant species encountered on the property should be removed responsibly and follow-up work must be done during the construction period.
- The Witgat (*Boscia Albitrunca*) and Camel Thorn (*Vachellia Erioloba*) on site must be protected and demarcated as a “no-go area” during the construction phase.

Heritage

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- Should any unmarked human burials/remains or ostrich eggshell water flask caches be uncovered, or exposed during preparation of the lands for cultivation, these must immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency Burials, etc. must not be removed or disturbed until inspected by an archaeologist. Considering all the information, it is not envisaged that this proposed development will have a significant negative impact on the environment, and the environmental and socio-economic benefits are expected to outweigh any negative impacts.

It is therefore recommended that this application be authorised with the necessary conditions of approval as described throughout this BAR.