

THE PROPOSED 1HA EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING CEMETERY ON THE FARM MIER NO. 585, RIETFONTein



DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT:

June 2023

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THE PROPOSED 1HA EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING CEMETERY ON THE FARM MIER NO. 585, RIETFontein

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	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
Application Number:	
Date Received:	

Basic Assessment Report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended

Kindly note that:

- This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority
- The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
- Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
- An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
- The use of “not applicable” in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
- This report must be handed in at the offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
- No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
- The signature of the EAP on the report must be original.
- The report must be compiled by an independent environmental assessment practitioner.
- Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this request report, during any stage of the application process.
- A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.
- Should a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report must also be submitted.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	NO
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If YES, please complete the form titled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for the specialist appointed and attach it in Appendix I.

1) ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

a) Describe the project associated with the listed activities applied for

The development proposal entails expanding by approximately 1ha, the existing Cemetery on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein. The proposed cemetery expansion will be on a vacant parcel of land located immediately east the existing cemetery.

Access to the proposed site exists.

b. Provide a detailed description of the listed activities associated with the project as applied for

Listed activity as described in GN 327, 325 and 324, EIA Regulations (2014 as amended)	Description of project activity
GN 324 Listing Notice 1	
<p>Item 27, i.e., “The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan”.</p>	<p>The proposed expansion of the existing Jupiter Cemetery requires that approximately 2ha of indigenous vegetation be cleared.</p>
<p>Item 44, i.e., “The expansion of cemeteries by 2 500 square metres or more”.</p>	<p>The proposed expansion of the existing Jupiter Cemetery is approximately 2ha in size.</p>

2) FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

“alternatives”, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application as required by Appendix 1 (3)(h), Regulation 2014. Alternatives should include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity (NOT PROJECT) could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed.

The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes, etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the, competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The coordinates should be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

Needs and Desirability

The Northern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework/ Development and Resource Management Plan was completed in 2012 and reviewed in 2018¹. Spatial development strategies as referred to in the PSDF, include improvement in the provision of basic services. A key issue identified in the province and especially in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District is that space for burying the deceased is quickly becoming less available in existing cemeteries as a result of the growing population size and associated higher number of deaths.

A need therefore exists for the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality to provide additional burial space as soon as possible in Rietfontein.

The proposed expansion to the existing Jupiter Cemetery is desirable, as this will enable the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality to provide additional burial space where the residents of Rietfontein can lay their loved ones to rest without experiencing the inconvenience of travelling further off to other neighbourhoods in search of space in cemeteries. In addition, the provision of the additional burial space close by is desirable, as this will enable the residents of Rietfontein to enjoy the convenience of not having to expensively travel further off to other neighbourhoods when wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.

a) Site alternatives

The proposed site is a vacant parcel of land located immediately east of the existing cemetery within the growing town of Rietfontein, where a great need exists for additional burial space to soon be made available.

The potential impacts of the cemetery expansion will remain low as a result of the implementation of the recommendations specified in the specialist reports attached to this Draft BAR and the implementation of the EMPr and conditions of environmental authorisation. This raises the suitability level of the proposed site for the proposed cemetery expansion and significantly lowers the necessity for time and effort to be spent investigating other site alternatives.

In view of the above, the proposed site is the preferred site alternative and is the only site alternative that the applicant has considered.

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with coordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

In the case of an area being under application, please provide the coordinates of the corners of the site as indicated on the lay-out map provided in Appendix A of this form.

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Corner 1	26°	44'
Corner 2	20°	44'
Corner 3	20°	44'
Corner 4	26°	44'

b) Layout alternatives

The development proposal entails expanding the existing Rietfontein Cemetery onto the vacant land located immediately east of the said cemetery. This means that very little advantage may be gained by investigating various layout alternatives and so no layout alternatives have been considered.

¹ Northern Cape – Reviewed PSDF Executive Summary 2018. Accessed at: <http://app.spisys.gov.za/download.php?201809271245138HLWTRHI3MO3ECI2CM26>

c) Design alternatives

N/A

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)
See "ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION" of this Draft BAR.

d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input and scale alternatives)

NA

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
N/A		
Alternative 2		
N/A		
Alternative 3		
N/A		

e) No-go alternative

The no-go alternative entails maintaining the *status quo*. This means that in spite of the increased death rate that is quickly diminishing the availability of burial space in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality would do nothing about the matter with regard to the growing town of Rietfontein.

A crisis would eventually result in which the cemetery in the town no longer has burial space and the residents of the town are forced to suffer the inconvenience of burying their loved ones further off in other towns. This would also mean that the residents of Rietfontein would have to incur higher travelling costs whenever wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.

All in all, this would amount to a failure by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality to deliver a basic service to the community of Rietfontein and so adopting the 'no-go' alternative would be highly undesirable. The 'no-go' alternative should therefore be discarded and the preferred alternative should be authorised by the competent authority.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below should be completed for each alternative.

3) PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

a) Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)

Alternative A2 (if any)

Alternative A3 (if any)

Size of the activity:

The area onto which the Rietfontein Cemetery is to be expanded is approximately 1ha in size.

or, for **linear activities**: N/A

Length of the activity:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)	
Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)	
Alternative A2 (if any)	
Alternative A3 (if any)	
Alternative A4 (if any)	

b) Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

	Length of the activity:
Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)	m ²
Alternative A1 (if any)	
Alternative A2 (if any)	
Alternative A3 (preferred activity alternative)	
Alternative A4 (if any)	

4) SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?	YES	NO
If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built		

Describe the type of access road planned:

Access to the proposed site is gained by means of existing roads in Rietfontein

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road about the site.

5) LOCALITY MAP

An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.). The map must indicate the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- indication of all the alternatives identified;
- closest town(s);
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS coordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The coordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

6) LAYOUT/ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land-use zoning of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land-use zoning each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- the exact position of each listed activity applied for (including alternatives);
- servitude(s) indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- a legend; and
- a north arrow.

7) SENSITIVITY MAP

The layout/route plan as indicated above must be overlain with a sensitivity map that indicates all the sensitive areas associated with the site, including, but not limited to:

- watercourses;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWS);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;
- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species); and
- critical biodiversity areas.

The sensitivity map must also cover areas within 100m of the site and must be attached in Appendix A.

8) SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this report. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

9) FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of at least 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

10) ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed site is zoned Agriculture and so an approval in terms of land use planning legislation will have to be applied for and obtained before the proposed cemetery expansion can be implemented.</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the activity be in line with the following? 			
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The footprint of the proposed cemetery expansion is approximately 1ha in size in Rietfontein and is intended to augment the dwindling space where the residents of the town can bury their loved ones. In any case, the proposed development is too small to have any bearing on the PSDF.</p>			
(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion is located in the town and the applicant, <i>i.e.</i>, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality plans for the proposed cemetery expansion to augment the dwindling space where the town residents can bury their loved ones. The proposed cemetery expansion is too small in scale to have any bearing on the urban edge.</p>			
(c) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) of the Local Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing approved and credible municipal IDP and SDF?).	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion has been proposed by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality in order to augment the quickly diminishing space where the residents of the town can bury their loved ones. The proposed cemetery expansion is in line with the IDP of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality.</p>			
(d) Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion is located Rietfontein and the applicant, <i>i.e.</i>, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality plans for the proposed cemetery expansion to augment the quickly diminishing space where the town residents can bury their loved ones. The proposed cemetery expansion is in line with the Approved Structure Plan of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality.</p>			
(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area and if so, can it be justified in terms of sustainability considerations?)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>No EMF exists for the area.</p>			
(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion is located with the town of Rietfontein and the applicant, <i>i.e.</i>, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality plans for the proposed cemetery expansion to augment the quickly diminishing space where the residents of the town can bury their loved ones. The proposed cemetery expansion is in line with the Plans for the area.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the land use (associated with the activity being applied for) considered within the timeframe intended by the existing approved SDF agreed to by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. is the proposed development in line with the projects and programmes 	YES	NO	Please explain

identified as priorities within the credible IDP)?			
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion is located in the town of Rietfontein and the applicant, <i>i.e.</i>, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality intends for the proposed cemetery expansion to alleviate the problem of burial space that is quickly decreasing in availability as a result of the growing population and increasing death rate within the municipal area.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the community/area need the activity and the associated land use concerned (is it a societal priority)? (This refers to the strategy as well as the local level (e.g. development is a national priority, but within a specific local context it could be inappropriate.) 	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>The population in the town of Rietfontein and in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District in general is growing and the death rate is also increasing. This is causing the availability of space for burials in cemeteries to quickly diminish. If no action is taken to address the situation, the community in the town of Rietfontein will soon have no cemetery space available in the area for burying their loved ones.</p> <p>This would be an undesirable state of affairs and it is with this reality in mind that the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality identified the need for the proposed expansion of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the necessary services with adequate capacity currently available (at the time of application), or must additional capacity be created to cater for the development? (Confirmation by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.) 	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>Access roads to the area onto which the cemetery is to be expanded are in existence. The proposed cemetery expansion does not require any other municipal services.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this development provided for in the infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if not what will the implication be on the infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority and placement of services and opportunity costs)? (Comment by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.) 	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>The applicant for the proposed expansion of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery is the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality. The municipality has made the required resources available for the proposed cemetery expansion to be implemented when an environmental authorisation has been obtained from the competent authority.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this project par required resources have t of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance? 	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>N/A</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This relates to the 	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>

contextualisation of the proposed land use on this site within its broader context.)			
<p>The area onto which the existing Rietfontein Cemetery is to be expanded is located right next to the Rietfontein Cemetery. The proposed site can therefore logically be deemed an area onto which the existing Rietfontein Cemetery can expand.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed site is located immediately east of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery. The proposed site therefore can be viewed as a logical expansion area for the Jupiter Cemetery at this point in time when the availability of burial space in cemeteries is quickly diminishing.</p> <p>The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on biodiversity is of low significance as confirmed in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement attached hereto as Appendix D1. The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on cultural/ historical and paleontological aspects is negligible (Appendix D2, refers). The potential visual impact and loss of a sense of place is also of low significance, as the proposed site is located immediately east of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery and can therefore be deemed a logical expansion area for the Rietfontein Cemetery. The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on groundwater resources will be kept minimal, as the applicant will put in place and maintain an effective stormwater management system to help prevent any ponding on the proposed site as recommended in the geotechnical specialist report Appendix D3, refers).</p> <p>In light of the low environmental impacts expected from the proposed cemetery expansion and the fact that the proposed cemetery expansion will significantly benefit the community by addressing the issue of burial space that is quickly diminishing in the town of Rietfontein, the proposed cemetery expansion onto the proposed site is deemed the Best Practicable Environmental Option.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the benefits of the proposed land use/development outweigh the negative impacts? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on biodiversity is of low significance, as confirmed in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement attached hereto as Appendix D1. The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on cultural/ historical and paleontological aspects is negligible (Appendix D2, refers). The proposed site is located immediately south-west of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery and therefore appears logically as an area onto which the cemetery can be expanded. The potential visual impact and loss of a sense of place as a result of the proposed expansion of the Rietfontein Cemetery is therefore also of low significance.</p> <p>In light of the low environmental impacts that society is likely to face as a result of the proposed cemetery expansion and the significant benefits that society will enjoy when the proposed cemetery expansion alleviates the problem of the rapidly diminishing availability of burial space in the town of Rietfontein, it is clear that the societal benefits that will result from the proposed expansion of the existing cemetery far outweigh any potential negative impacts.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposed land use/development set a precedent for similar activities in the area (local municipality)? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>It is highly unlikely that the granting of an environmental authorisation for the proposed cemetery expansion would be deemed a precedent by the municipality to divert public funds from other community needs in a manner that violates the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) and pursue the expansion of other existing cemeteries in the municipal area.</p> <p>On the contrary, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality is likely to only use the limited public funds made available to the municipality on the expansion of existing cemeteries when a very real community need for doing so exists.</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will any person's rights be negatively affected by the proposed activity/ies? 	Yes	NO	Please explain
<p>The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on biodiversity is of low, as confirmed in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement attached hereto as Appendix D1. The potential impact of the proposed cemetery expansion on cultural/ historical and paleontological aspects is negligible (Appendix D2, refers). The proposed site is located immediately east of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery and therefore appears logically as an area onto which the cemetery can be expanded. The potential visual impact and loss of a sense of place as a result of the proposed expansion of the Jupiter Cemetery is therefore also of low significance.</p> <p>In light of the low environmental impacts that society is likely to face as a result of the proposed cemetery expansion and the significant benefits that society will enjoy when the proposed cemetery expansion alleviates the problem of the rapidly diminishing availability of burial space in the town of Rietfontein, it is clear that the societal benefits that will result from the proposed expansion of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery far outweigh the potential negative impacts.</p> <p>A public participation process that meets the minimum legal requirements will be followed and should anybody express a concern that their legal rights stand to be violated, the concern raised will be dealt with appropriately.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposed activity/ies compromise the "urban edge" as defined by the local municipality? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The proposed cemetery expansion is located in the town and the applicant, <i>i.e.</i>, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality plans for the proposed cemetery expansion to augment the dwindling space where the residents of the town can bury their loved ones. The proposed cemetery expansion is too small to have any bearing on the urban edge.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposed activity/ies contribute to any of the 17 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPS)? 	YES	NO	Please explain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the benefits be to society in general and the local communities? 	Please explain		
<p>The population in the town of Rietfontein and in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District in general is growing and the death rate is also increasing. This is causing the availability of space for burials in in the area to quickly diminish. If no action is taken to address the situation, the community of the town will soon have no nearby cemetery spaces available for burying their loved ones.</p> <p>This would be an undesirable state of affairs, as the community of the town would be forced to seek burial spaces for their loved-ones further off in other neighbourhoods and suffer the inconvenience of higher costs when travelling to those further off neighbourhoods to visit the graves of their love-ones.</p> <p>It is with this reality in mind <i>inter alia</i>, that the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality identified the need for the proposed expansion of the existing cemetery in Rietfontein.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other need and desirability considerations related to the proposed activity? 	Please explain		
<p>N/A</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project fit into the National Development Plan for 2030? 	Please explain		
<p>The proposed expansion of the existing cemetery on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein will alleviate the problem of burial space that is quickly diminishing in the town of Rietfontein. The provision of burial space for the community to bury their loved ones is a basic service that municipalities must provide to the public. The provision of additional cemetery space in the face of the quickly</p>			

diminishing burial spaces in Rietfontein is therefore in line with the National Development Plan for 2030² in that the National Development Plan aims to *inter alia*, promote the development of infrastructure that supports the improvement of services provision to the public.

- **Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in Section 23 of the NEMA have been taken into account.**

The general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management, namely, to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and ecological considerations as well as the maintenance of inter- and intra-generational equity have been taken into account through the following:

- The actual and potential impacts of the proposed activity on the environment, socio-economic conditions, and cultural heritage, relative to the proposed site have been identified and evaluated. The proposed mitigation measures, with a view to minimizing negative impacts on the environment, socio-economic conditions, and any cultural heritage, while maximizing benefits and promoting compliance with the principles of environmental management, were assessed.
- The potential environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery on the Farm Mier 585, Rietfontein have been identified, assessed, and measures proposed to avoid or minimise the negative impacts.
- A public participation process that meets the minimum legal requirements has been followed for the Basic Assessment application to help ensure that the decision-making process takes into account the comments of members of the public and commenting authorities.
- The environmental features of the proposed site have been considered and evaluated in the management and decision-making of the activity. An EMPr has been compiled (Appendix G, refers) for the proposed cemetery expansion activities and in the EMPr, the potential impacts with impact avoidance and mitigation measures to be adhered to during the implementation phase are specified.

- **Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account.**

The principles of environmental management, as per Section 2 of the NEMA have been taken into account. The principles include:

- **Socio-economic development:** People and their needs have been placed at the forefront while serving their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural, and social interests – the proposed activity is unlikely to cause an overall negative effect on people. The proposed expansion of the existing cemetery on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein will provide additional burial space and alleviate the problem of burial spaces that are quickly diminishing as a result of the growing population and increasing death rate. This will enable the community of Rietfontein to enjoy being able to bury their loved ones close by and not suffer the inconvenience of expensively travelling further off to other neighbourhoods when wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.
- **Sustainable development:** Development must be socially, ecologically and economically sustainable. The environmental impacts associated with the proposed cemetery expansion are of low significance as indicated by the terrestrial biodiversity specialist in the specialist report attached hereto as Appendix D1 and the heritage impact specialist in the report attached hereto as Appendix D2. It is also indicated in the geotechnical report attached hereto as Appendix D3 that when the recommendations contained in the geotechnical report are implemented, the suitability of the proposed site for the proposed cemetery expansion will significantly increase. The recommendations contained in the specialist reports are included in the EMPr and will be implemented to help ensure that the potential impacts identified in the said reports are avoided or minimised. The potential impacts of the proposed expansion of the Rietfontein Cemetery will also be minimised further through the implementation of the impact avoidance and mitigation measures contained in the EMPr (Appendix G, refers). In this way, the benefits associated with the proposed cemetery expansion that have been detailed in this Draft BAR will be kept outweighing the potential negative impacts.

²National Development Plan, 2030. Accessed at <https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/Executive%20Summary-NDP%202030%20-%20Our%20future%20-%20make%20it%20work.pdf>

- **Transparent Public Participation Process:** The public participation process followed has given I&APs an opportunity to view the draft report that will subsequently be submitted to the competent authority for decision-making and the decision of the competent authority will be forwarded to all I&APs so that whomsoever wishes to appeal the decision may appeal.

11) LIST ALL LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES OF ANY SPHERE OF GOVERNMENT THAT ARE APPLICABLE TO THE APPLICATION AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE EIA REGULATIONS, IF APPLICABLE

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that apply to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline	Applicability to the project	Administering authority	Date
The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations of 2014 (as amended)	Applications for environmental authorisation must comply with the requirements specified in the NEMA and in the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended)	Northern Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	This application
Integrated Environmental Management Information Series	Criteria to be used for evaluating the environmental impacts of the proposed activity during the NEMA EIA application process (a copy of the Integrated Environmental Management Information Series can be accessed at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/strategies/integrated_environmentalmanagement_eim).	Northern Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	This application
By-laws of Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality and ZF Mgcawu District Municipality	To be adhered to during the construction and operational phase.	Local and District Municipalities	In progress

12) WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?

YES	NO
10m ³	

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Waste generated on-site during construction activities will be consolidated, adequately stored, and disposed of at a lawfully registered waste disposal site. The waste includes vegetation that will be cleared from the proposed site and general waste such as food wrapping discarded by on-site workers etc.)

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

Waste generated on-site during the construction phase will be collected, adequately stored, and disposed of at a lawfully registered waste disposal site.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

m ³

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

If the solid waste will be disposed of into a municipal waste stream, indicate which registered landfill site will be used.

Where will the solid waste be disposed of if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

N/A

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of at a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the NEM: WA?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM: WA must also be submitted with this application.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, then the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM: WA must also be submitted with this application.

b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

m ³

Will the activity produce an effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on-site?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, the applicant should consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility Name:			
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:	Cell:		
E-mail:	Fax:		

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of wastewater, if any:

N/A

c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere other than exhaust emissions and dust associated with construction phase activities?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If NO, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

--

d) Waste permit

Will any aspect of the activity produce waste that will require a waste permit in terms of the NEM: WA?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, please submit evidence that an application for a waste permit has been submitted to the competent authority - N/A

e) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

YES	NO
-----	----

Describe the noise in terms of type and level:

Normal construction-related noise is likely and will be limited to regular daytime working hours as is explained in the EMPr.

13) WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es):

Municipal	Waterboard	Groundwater	River, stream, dam or lake	Other	The activity will not use water
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If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:

Does the activity require a water use authorisation (general authorisation or water use license) from the Department of Water Affairs?

YES	NO

If YES, please provide proof that the application has been submitted to the Department of Water Affairs.

14) ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, which have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

N/A

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity if any:

N/A

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

- For linear activities (pipelines, etc.) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section B and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section B Copy No. (e.g. A):

- Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

- Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? YES NO

If YES, please complete the form titled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed and attach it in Appendix I. All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

C 0 2 8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 8 5 0 0 0 0 0

Property description/physical address:	Province	Northern Cape
	District Municipality	ZF Mgcau District Municipality
	Local Municipality	Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality
	Ward Number(s)	
	Farm name and Number	Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein
	SG Code	C02800070000058500000
Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application including the same information as indicated above.		
Current land-use zoning as per local municipality IDP/records:	Undetermined	
	In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.	
Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required?		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

1) GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1 (Preferred):

Flat	1:50 — 1:20 Average	1:20 — 1:15	1:15 — 1:10	1:10 — 1:7,5	1:7,5 — 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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Alternative S2 (if any):

Flat	1:50 — 1:20 Average	1:20 — 1:15	1:15 — 1:10	1:10 — 1:7,5	1:7,5 — 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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Alternative S3 (if any):

Flat	1:50 — 1:20 Average	1:20 — 1:15	1:15 — 1:10	1:10 — 1:7,5	1:7,5 — 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
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2) LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

2.1 Ridgeline		2.4 Closed valley		2.7 Undulating plain / low hills	
2.2 Plateau		2.5 Open valley		2.8 Dune	
2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain		2.6 Plain	✓	2.9 Seafront	
2.10 At sea					

3) GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following?

	Alternative A1		Alternative A2		Alternative A3		Alternative A4	
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist should be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for GeoScience may also be consulted.

4) GROUNDCOVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site. The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements should be accurately indicated on the site plan(s).

Natural veld—good condition	Natural veld with scattered aliens	Natural veld with a heavy alien infestation	Veld dominated by alien species	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

Please see Appendix B for Site Photographs and further descriptions of site vegetation.

If any of the boxes marked with an "E" is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

N/A

5) SURFACE WATER

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites?

Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Non-Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Permanent Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Seasonal Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Artificial Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE

If any of the boxes marked YES or UNSURE is ticked, please describe the relevant watercourse.

A wetland is located to the west of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery and the proposed site is located immediately east of the cemetery, i.e., approximately 100m away from the wetland.

6) LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give a description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

Natural area	Dam or reservoir	Polo fields
Low density residential	Hospital/medical centre	Filling station ^{H,±}
Medium density residential	School	Landfill or waste treatment site
High density residential	Tertiary education facility	Plantation
Informal residential ^A	Church	Agriculture
Retail commercial & warehousing	Old age home	River, stream or wetland
Light industrial	Sewage treatment plant ^A	Nature conservation area
Medium industrial ^{AN}	Train station or shunting yard ^N	Mountain, koppie or ridge
Heavy industrial ^{AN}	Railway line	Museum
Power station	Major road (4 lanes or more) ^N	Historical building
Office/consulting room	Airport	Protected Area
Military or police base/station/compound	Harbour	Cemetery
Spoil heap or slimes dam ^A	Sport facilities	Archaeological site
Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Golf course	Other land uses (indigenous vegetation) –

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, how this impact will / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

N/A

If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

N/A

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

N/A

Does the proposed site (including any alternative sites) fall within any of the following:

Critical Biodiversity Area (as per provincial conservation plan)	YES	NO
A core area of a protected area?	YES	NO
A buffer area of a protected area?	YES	NO
The planned expansion area of an existing protected area?	YES	NO
Existing offset area associated with a previous Environmental Authorisation?	YES	NO
A buffer area of the SKA?	YES	NO

If the answer to any of these questions was YES, a map indicating the affected area must be included in Appendix A.

7) CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or paleontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site? If YES, explain:	YES	NO
	Uncertain	

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field (archaeology or palaeontology) to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site. Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:
N/A

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?	YES	NO
Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?	YES	NO
If YES, please provide proof that the permit application has been submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial authority.		

8) SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER

a) Local Municipality

Please provide details on the socio-economic character of the local municipality in which the proposed site(s) are situated.

<p>The population of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality area grew by an average of approximately 1.75% between 2007 and 2017, which is very similar to the growth rate of South Africa as a whole (1.56%) and the population of the municipal area currently stands at approximately 114 000 people.</p> <p>The Dawid Kruiper Municipal area has a strong resource base that supports a variety of economic sectors, including agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and the solar energy production industry. The municipal area is the acknowledged commercial, educational, military, agricultural, medical, transport and tourism centre of the area.</p> <p>The Orange River passes through the area, from the south-east to the north-west. The presence of perennial river water contributes to the production of table grapes, which are marketed and exported via the Upington International Airport to Western Europe.</p> <p>In 2007, the unemployment rate for the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality area was 25.6% and increased over time to 26.2% in 2017.</p> <p>The unemployment rate of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality area is higher than that in the rest of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality area. Compared to the Northern Cape Province in general, the unemployment rate for the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality was lower than the 30.52% unemployment rate of the Northern Cape in general.</p>
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b) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected annual turnover to be generated by or as a result of the project?	N/A. The provision of burial space for the deceased is a basic public service and not a means of generating any income
New skilled employment opportunities created in the <u>construction</u> phase of the project	N/A
New skilled employment opportunities created in the <u>operational</u> phase of the project	None. The proposed development will only support employment opportunities for existing maintenance workers of the municipality
New un-skilled employment opportunities created in the <u>construction</u> phase of the project	None
New un-skilled employment opportunities created in the <u>operational</u> phase of the project	None
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the operational and construction phase?	N/A

9) BIODIVERSITY

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on-site and the ecosystem status consult <http://bgis.sanbi.org> or BGIShelp@sanbi.org. Information is also available on compact disc (cd) from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8698. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as Appendix D to this report.

- a) Indicate the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on-site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category

Systematic Biodiversity Planning Category				If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)	Ecological Support Area (ESA)	Other Natural Area (ONA)	No Natural Area Remaining (NNR)	

- b) Indicate and describe the habitat condition on site (will be described once assessments have been received)

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into the condition, e.g. poor land management practices, presence of quarries, grazing, harvesting regimes etc).
Natural		
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate levels of alien invasive plants)		
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	100%	The vegetation on the proposed site has been heavily disturbed by trampling and grazing, with many bare patches showing. Earthworks have also significantly disturbed the on-site vegetation. Please see the Biodiversity Compliance Statement attached hereto as Appendix D1
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)		

c) Complete the table to indicate:

- (i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, present on the site; and
- (ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem is present on site.

Terrestrial Ecosystems		Aquatic Ecosystems						
Ecosystem threat status as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	Critical	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and unchanneled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)			Estuary		Coastline	
	Endangered							
	Vulnerable							
	Least Threatened	YES	NO	UNSURE	YES	NO	YES	NO

d) Please describe the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on-site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on-site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

Vegetation
 The vegetation on the proposed site is identified as Kalahari Karroid Shrubland. The vegetation type is categorised as Least Threatened. Please refer to the Biodiversity Compliance Statement attached hereto as Appendix D1

Aquatic ecosystems
 The nearest watercourse is located just west of the existing cemetery, *i.e.*, approximately 100m west from the proposed site.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1) ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICES

Publication name	Noordkaap Bulletin
Date published	26 January 2023
Location of notices	
Up on the southern fence of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery	
At the entrance of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery	
At the general Dealer in the town of Rietfontein	
At the offices of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality in Rietfontein and in Upington	
Date placed: 26 January 2023	

Include proof of the placement of the relevant advertisements and notices (Refer to Appendix E1).

2) DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

Provide details of the measures taken to include all potential I&APs as required by Regulation 41(2)(e) and 41(6) of GN 733.

Pre-application PPP (Refer to Appendix E)

- An advertisement was placed in a local newspaper (Noordkaap Bulletin) which was published on 26 January 2023. Refer to Appendix E1.
- Adjacent landowners/ occupiers were notified via letter drops on 26 January 2023.
- An initial register of possible interested and affected parties was compiled (Refer to Appendix E)
- A site visit was conducted on 26 January 2023 to familiarise with the proposed site and nearby surrounding area and identify environmental sensitivities associated with the proposed site.
- A Comments and Response Report (C&R Report) has been compiled to address comments received during the initial stage of public participation (Refer to Appendix E).

Key stakeholders (other than organs of state) identified in terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of GN 733

Title, Name and Surname	Affiliation/ key stakeholder status	Contact details (Tel. number or e-mail address)

Include proof that the key stakeholder received written notification of the proposed activities (Appendix E2).

This proof may include any of the following:

- e-mail delivery reports;
- registered mail receipts;
- courier waybills;
- signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or
- or any other proof as agreed upon with the competent authority.

3) ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (Please See Appendix E)

Summary of main issues raised by I&APs	Summary of response from EAP
The National Department of Water and Sanitation requested to be given copies of the environmental reports that the EAP compiles so that the said Department can comment on the reports.	The Draft Basic Assessment Report has been made available for commenting to the National Department of Water and Sanitation as well as to other Interested and Affected Parties.

4) COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments received from I&APs and respond to each comment before the BAR is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to the BAR as Appendix E3.

Please refer to Appendix E3 for the comments and response report.

5) AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Authorities and organs of state identified as key stakeholders:

Authority/Organ of State	Contact person (Title, Name and Surname)	Tel No	Fax No	e-mail	Postal address
Please refer to Appendix E					

Include proof that the Authorities and Organs of State received written notification of the proposed activities as appendix E4.

In the case of renewable energy projects, Eskom and the SKA Project Office must be included in the list of Organs of State.

6) CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for any activities (linear or other) where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that sub-regulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority.

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable. Application for any deviation from the regulations relating to the public participation process must be submitted before the commencement of the public participation process.

A list of registered I&APs must be included in Appendix E5.

Copies of any correspondence and minutes of any meetings held must be included in Appendix E6.

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014 and should take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties should also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1) IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Provide a summary and anticipated significance of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed. This impact assessment must be applied to all the identified alternatives to the activities identified in Section A(2) of this report.

Please see Appendix F for Impact Assessment and Scoring Matrix.

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)			
Geographic and physical	Direct impacts:	Low negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement EMP; - Minimise development footprint; - ECO monitoring; - Waste management. - Limit construction work to normal working hours
	Indirect impacts:	Low negative	
	Cumulative impacts: <i>After mitigation</i>	Low negative	
Biological: (vegetation, protected species, CBAs,)	Direct impacts:	Low negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed expansion of the existing cemetery on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein will remain compliant with an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) approved by the competent authority. - A suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer must be appointed to help ensure that the proposed work of expanding the exiting Jupiter Cemetery is implemented in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the appointed specialists and is compliant with the environmental authorisation and approved EMPr. - All working areas must remain within the limits of the approximately 1ha proposed site. - All cleared vegetation, waste must be removed from the proposed site to a lawfully registered waste disposal site. The required permits must be obtained before the proposed cemetery expansion can impact the on-site plants that are protected by the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act. - An integrated waste management approach must be implemented during construction. All construction-related waste must be disposed of at an approved municipal waste disposal site.
	Indirect impacts:	Low negative	
	Cumulative impacts: <i>After mitigation</i>	Low negative	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)			
Sewage Management	Direct impacts:	Low negative	A portable toilet must be provided to construction workers during the construction phase and the sewage collected and disposed of at a licensed wastewater treatment works at least twice a week.
	Indirect impacts:	Low negative	
	Cumulative impacts: After mitigation	Low negative	
Groundwater	Direct impacts:	Low	An effective stormwater management system must be maintained on the proposed site to help prevent on-site ponding so that the possibility of groundwater pollution remains minimal.
	Indirect impacts:	Low	
	Cumulative impacts: After mitigation	Low	
Watercourse	Direct impacts:	N/A	The closest watercourse is located approximately 100m west of the proposed site.
	Indirect impacts:	N/A	
	Cumulative impacts:	N/A	
Socio-economic	Direct impacts:	Medium positive	-No mitigation is required.
	Indirect impacts:	Medium positive	
	Cumulative impacts: After mitigation	Medium positive	
Cultural-Historical	Direct impacts:	Low	No heritage features of any significance were identified on the proposed site. Please refer to Appendix D2
	Indirect impacts:	Low	
	Cumulative impacts: After mitigation	Low	
Noise impact	Direct impacts:	Low	Any noise from the proposed cemetery expansion that exceeds the current levels of noise in the area will be a temporary impact of the construction phase and the noise of the operational phase should revert to levels comparable to the current noise levels. The following mitigation measures will be implemented: - A complaints register will be maintained on-site. Any complaints received will be
	Indirect impacts:	N/A	
	Cumulative impacts:	N/A	

Activity	Impact summary	Significance	Proposed mitigation
Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)			
			<p>responded to and rectified accordingly. The ECO must be notified of any complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working hours must be strictly limited to regular daytime working hours (08h00-17h00)
Visual impact	Direct impacts:	Low	The impact avoidance and impact mitigation measures specified in the EMPr approved by the competent authority must be complied with to help ensure that the proposed cemetery expansion looks like just another part of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery.
	Indirect impacts:	Low	
	Cumulative impacts: <i>After mitigation</i>	Low	
No-go option			
The "No-Go" option: Potential impact associated with the No-Go alternative.	Direct impacts:	High negative	<p>- The no-go alternative entails maintaining the <i>status quo</i>. This means that in spite of the increased mortality rate that is quickly reducing the availability of burial space in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality would do nothing about the matter with regard to the densely populated and growing town of Rietfontein.</p> <p>A crisis would eventually result in which the cemeteries in the town of Rietfontein no longer have burial space and the residents of the town are forced to suffer the inconvenience of burying their loved ones further off in other neighbourhoods. This would also mean that the residents of Rietfontein would have to incur higher travelling costs whenever wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.</p> <p>All in all, this would amount to a failure by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality to deliver a basic service to the community of Rietfontein and so adopting the 'no-go' alternative would be highly undesirable, especially when considering that the competent authority can authorise the application with only low negative impacts resulting.</p>
	Indirect impacts:	High negative	
	Cumulative impacts: <i>After mitigation</i>	High negative	

A complete impact assessment in terms of Regulation 19(3) of GN 733 must be included as Appendix F.

2) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts occurring and the significance of impacts.

Please refer to Appendix F for the full Impact Assessment and proposed Mitigation Measures.

Proposed expansion of the existing cemetery on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein Upington

The population of the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality Area which includes the town of Rietfontein is growing and this, together with the increased death rate are causing the availability of burial spaces in the area to quickly diminish. The proposed cemetery expansion will make additional burial spaces available in the town of Rietfontein, thereby enabling the community there to keep enjoying the convenience of being able to bury their loved ones nearby.

The additional burial spaces that will be provided by the expanded Rietfontein Cemetery will enable the community of Rietfontein to avoid having to soon endure the higher costs and other inconveniences of travelling further off to other neighbourhoods to bury their loved ones and to visit the graves of their loved ones. These envisaged positive impacts are significant for the lower community of Rietfontein.

On the other hand, it is indicated in the specialist reports attached hereto that if the recommendations specified by the specialists are implemented, the potential negative impacts of the proposed cemetery expansion will remain low. The implementation of the EMPr and compliance with the conditions of environmental authorisation will also help in minimising the potential negative impacts of the proposed cemetery expansion.

In light of the above, it is advisable that the proposed development be authorised by the competent authority.

No-go alternative (compulsory)

The no-go alternative entails maintaining the *status quo*. This means that in spite of the increased mortality rate that is quickly reducing the availability of burial space in the ZF Mgcau Municipal District, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality would do nothing about the matter with regard to the growing town of Rietfontein.

A crisis would eventually result in which the cemetery in the town of Rietfontein will no longer have burial space and the residents of the town are forced to suffer the inconvenience of burying their loved ones further off in other neighbourhoods. This would also mean that the community of Rietfontein would have to incur higher travelling costs whenever wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.

This would amount to a failure by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality in delivering a basic service to the community of Rietfontein and so adopting the 'no-go' alternative would be highly undesirable, especially when considering that the competent authority can authorise the application with only low negative impacts resulting.

Alternatives

The Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein is the preferred and only site alternative considered by the applicant as a result of the following:

- The proposed site is vacant readily accessible from the existing roads and is also conveniently located immediately east of the existing Rietfontein Cemetery. The proposed site can therefore logically be deemed an area onto which the Rietfontein Cemetery can be expanded when the availability of burial space in Rietfontein is quickly diminishing as is currently the case.
- The potential impacts of the cemetery expansion that is proposed on the Farm Mier No. 585, Rietfontein will remain low as a result of the implementation of the recommendations specified in the specialist reports attached to this Draft BAR and the implementation of the EMPr and conditions of environmental authorisation. This raises the suitability level of the proposed site for the proposed cemetery expansion and significantly lowers the necessity of spending time and effort investigating other site alternatives.

No-go alternative (compulsory)

The no-go alternative entails maintaining the *status quo*. This means that in spite of the increased mortality rate that is quickly reducing the availability of burial space in the ZF Mgcawu Municipal District, the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality would do nothing about the matter with regard to the growing town of Rietfontein.

A crisis would eventually result in which the cemeteries in the town of Rietfontein would no longer have burial space and the residents of the town are forced to suffer the inconvenience of burying their loved ones further off in other neighbourhoods. This would also mean that the residents of the town would have to incur higher travelling costs whenever wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones.

This would amount to a failure by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality in delivering a basic service to the community of Rietfontein and so adopting the 'no-go' alternative would be highly undesirable, especially, when considering that the competent authority can authorise the application with only low negative impacts resulting.

The 'no-go' alternative should therefore be discarded and the preferred alternative authorised by the competent authority.

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF EAP

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to decide in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?	YES	NO
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If “NO”, indicate the aspects that should be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require a further assessment).

The Draft BAR must first be made available to Interested and Affected Parties for public participation as per the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended), before the final report can be submitted to the competent authority for a decision on the application.

If “YES”, please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that should be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application.

<u>Recommended conditions</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All construction must take place in accordance with an approved construction and operational phase Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). A suitably experienced ECO must be appointed to ensure compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorization and the EMPr. Construction work must be strictly limited to daytime working hours to minimise the possibility of noise disturbance. All waste material on site must be removed and disposed of at a lawful municipal waste disposal facility. 		
Is an EMPr attached?	YES	NO

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix G.

The details of the EAP who compiled the BAR and the expertise of the EAP to perform the Basic Assessment process must be included in Appendix H.

If any specialist reports were used during the compilation of this BAR, please attach the declaration of interest for each specialist in Appendix I.

Any other information relevant to this application and not previously included must be attached in Appendix J.

Bernard de Witt
NAME OF EAP

SIGNATURE OF EAP

25/06/2023
DATE

SECTION F: APPENDICES

The following appendices are attached:

APPENDIX A: MAPS

APPENDIX B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX C: FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

APPENDIX D: SPECIALIST REPORTS

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX E1: PROOF OF ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICES

APPENDIX E2: COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

APPENDIX E3: I&AP REGISTER

APPENDIX F: IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND SCORING MATRIX

APPENDIX G: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr)

APPENDIX H: DETAILS OF EAP AND EXPERTISE