

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OAKWOOD CHICKEN BROILER HOUSES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POULTRY WITHIN AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AMATHOLE DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Background Information Document

INTRODUCTION

Indwe Environmental Consulting has been appointed by ANCA Foods (Pty) Ltd as the Professional Service Provider (PSP) to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) for the proposed construction of the Oakwood Chicken Broiler Houses for the production of poultry occurring within the Amahlathi Local Municipality, Amathole District, Eastern Cape. The project will include two sites with the construction of eight broiler houses per site.¹

The activities to be undertaken include, at minimum:

- GN. R. 327 Activity 5
- GN. R. 327 Activity 27

An application to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) relating to Section 21 (a), (b) (c), (i) & (g) water uses will also be carried out for this project.

***Descriptions to the activities are provided further on in the document.*

This document is intended to provide background information to stakeholders, authorities and other interested and affected parties and forms a key component of the public participation process being undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment process as well as the Water Use application process.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Oakwood Chicken Broiler Houses will occur along National Route 6 (N6), 3.5 km south-east of Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape (Figure 1). The precise co-ordinates of two broiler sites are 32°35'34.79"S, 27°27'29.18"E; and 32°36'18.26"S, 27°28'22.40"E, respectively, within the Amahlathi Local Municipality. The proposed broiler houses will be constructed on erven 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, and 2235. In terms of access to the proposed sites, existing gravel roads are available. The main watercourse in the area, the Kubusi River (perennial watercourse), acts as the cadastral boundary of the properties that the project falls on.

¹ Specific engineering information regarding stormwater design and management, wastewater, water reticulation and water storage is still pending.

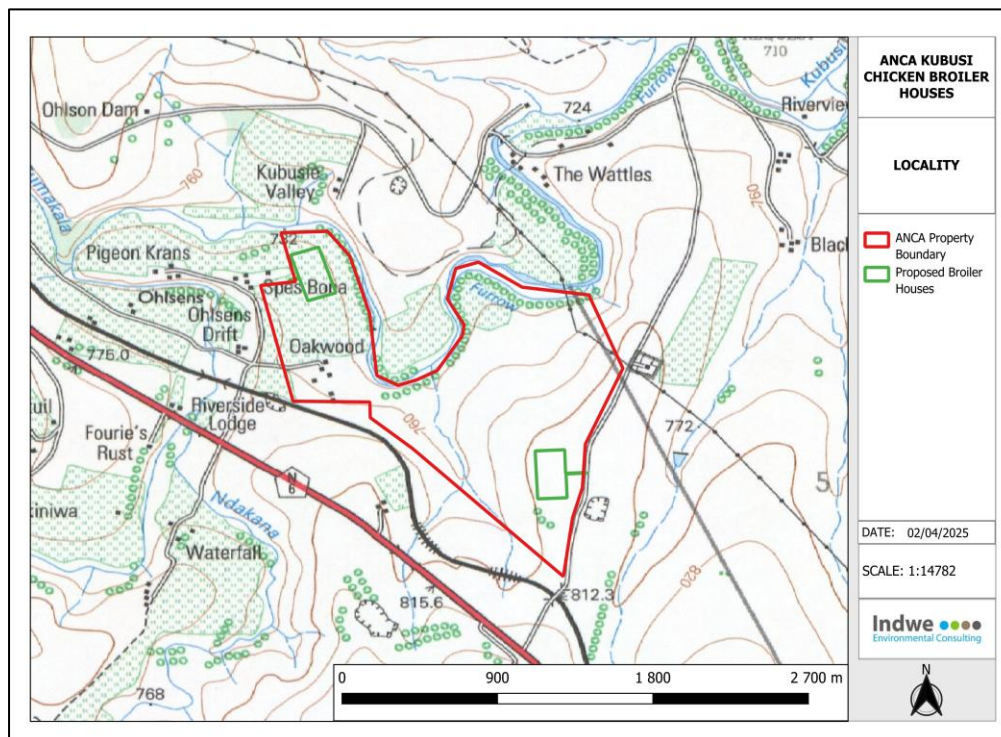


Figure 1: Topographical locality of the proposed chicken broiler houses.

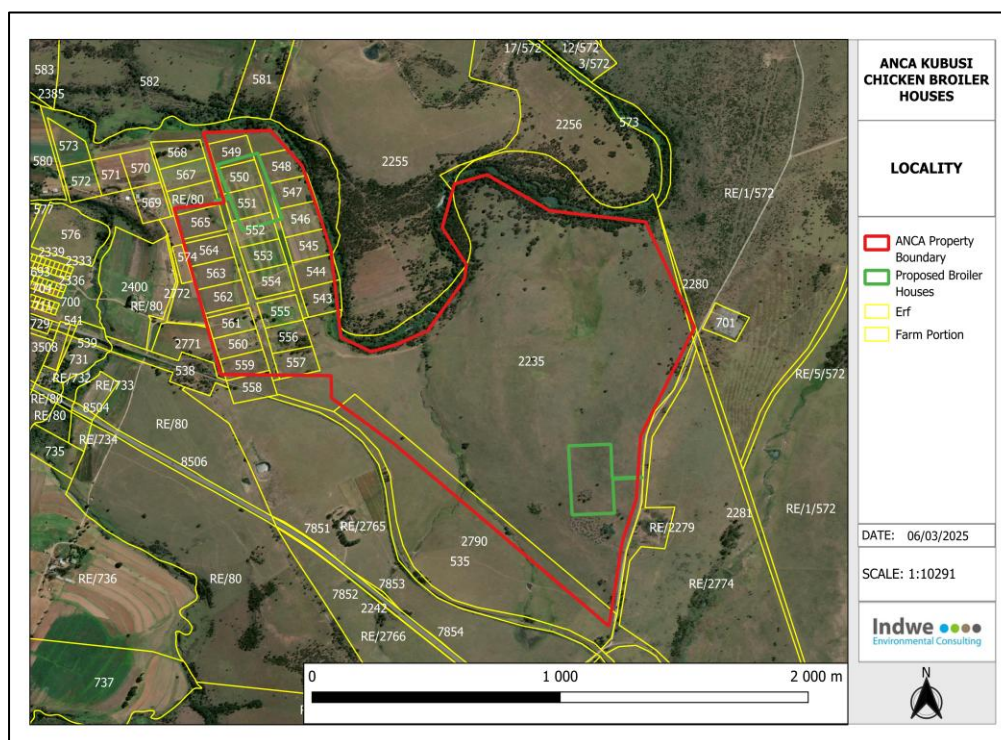


Figure 2: Aerial locality of the proposed chicken broiler houses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ANCA Foods (Pty) Ltd wish to increase their poultry production and thus require construction of new environmentally controlled chicken broiler house facilities. Two sites are proposed, with each site consisting of eight enclosed broiler houses within a separately fenced-in operational area that includes ancillary buildings such as a staff eating and washing area and services (e.g. stormwater, water and sewerage). Each broiler house will be 1800m² and have a maximum capacity of 42 000 chickens per house. The construction of the broiler houses will require the clearance of approximately 12 hectares of agricultural land.

In terms of access to the proposed sites, existing 4m gravel access roads will be utilised, and mitre drains will be installed where necessary. Three-phase electricity is available for the proposed development to tie into.



Figure 3: Example of the design of the proposed chicken broiler houses.

Access

The sites for the proposed chicken broiler houses are accessible from Stutterheim (3.5km) via the N6 and two gravel access roads of 1.4 km and 1.3km each.

EIA REQUIREMENTS

The EIA Regulations promulgated in Gazette No 40772 of 7 April 2017- NEMA Section 24(5) stipulates that “listed activities” require environmental authorisation via a Basic Assessment process should the activities trigger Listing Notices 1 & 3. The following listed activities are assumed to be triggered in relation to this project:

Listing Notice No. and Activity No.	Listed Activity	Development Activity
GN. R. 327 - Listing Notice 1 - Activity 5	<p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of -</p> <p>(ii) more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days;</p> <p>(iv) more than 25 000 chicks younger than 20 days per facility situated outside an urban area.</p>	Each broiler house will be able to house 42 000 birds of ages both younger than 20 days old and older than 20 days old, outside of an urban area. Therefore, it is anticipated that this activity will be triggered.
GN. R. 327 - Listing Notice 1 - Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.	Each broiler house will be 1800 m ² , and therefore the footprint of the houses alone would be 2.9 ha in extent. Additional clearing for ancillary infrastructure will create an overall footprint of 12 ha, thereby triggering this activity.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment process will involve the following project phases:

- Pre-Application:** This phase includes consultation with Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Amathole Region, regarding the proposed development, potential triggers, outcome of the National Web Based Screening Tool Report for the site and the way forward in terms of the applicable EIA process.
- Application:** An Application for Environmental Authorisation form will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Amathole Region.
- Draft Basic Assessment Phase:** The Basic Assessment process is followed which includes the undertaking of a public participation process including consultation with key stakeholders, detailed site investigations, planning and reporting. Specialist input will be sought for this phase of the project. This phase will culminate in the production of a Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will be submitted to DEDEAT and then circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders for a 30-day comment period.
- Final Basic Assessment Phase:** Following the receipt of comments, the Basic Assessment Report will be finalised and submitted to DEDEAT for their assessment and issuing of an authorisation decision.
- Appeal Period:** After receipt of the Environmental Authorisation all registered I&APs and key stakeholders will be notified of its availability and provided with the opportunity and details for submitting an appeal to the decision if required.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process is defined under Regulation No 41 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended in 2017.

- Advertising in the local newspaper.
- Fixing a notice board at the site.
- Giving written notice to: the occupiers of the site, the owner/ person in control of the site, adjacent landowners via BID drop, the municipal ward councillor and rate payers, the relevant municipality and any organ of state that has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.
- Maintaining an Interested and Affected Party Register.
- Uploading pertinent documentation on the Indwe website.
- Collecting comment on the project, in particular the draft Basic Assessment Report.

Registered Interested and Affected Parties will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report over a 30-day period. All comments raised by I&APs will be included and responded to in the final reports which will be submitted to the competent authority (DEDEAT) to enable them to make an informed decision with regard to the development proposal.

Once an Environmental Authorisation is received, it will be distributed to registered I&APs who may appeal to the Minister or MEC of Environmental Affairs in opposition to the decision.

KEY ISSUES AND TYPICAL IMPACTS

Key issues and typical environmental impacts associated with the project identified to date include:

- Increase in poultry production, thereby increasing food security.
- Employment to local community during the construction and operation period, contributing significantly towards poverty eradication and social upliftment.
- Dust, noise, odour and other emissions during construction and operation.
- Potential proliferation of alien vegetation.
- Generation and management of waste, including effluent.
- Impacts on surface and groundwater quality, flow and water availability.
- Stormwater management, soil compaction and erosion.

WATER USE APPLICATION PROCESS

In terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) an application for a Water Use License will be submitted to DWS for the following water uses: Section 21 (a), (b), (c), (i) and (g) to develop and construct the proposed Oakwood Chicken Broiler Houses within Amahlathi Local Municipality, Amathole District, Eastern Cape.

The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) in terms of Section 21 includes:

- Section 21 (a) – Taking water from a water resource
- Section 21 (b) – Storing water
- Section 21 (c) and (i) – Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse / and altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse
- Section 21 (g) – Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource

This document and Public Participation Process aims to do the following:

- Present stakeholders and I&APs with an overview of the perceived biophysical and social impacts that have been identified up to date.
- To obtain issues and concerns from I&AP's regarding the Water Use License application process and proposed activity, which will be addressed for the planning, establishment and operational phase of the proposed operations.
- To give all potential interested and affected parties the opportunity to register and be placed on the register of I&APs in order for them to voice their opinions and concerns.

Potential interested and affected parties include:

- Occupants of the site, and where the occupants are not the owners, also to the owners of the site, or the owner of any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken.
- Owners, persons in control of land or occupants of adjacent properties
- Municipal councillor and municipality
- Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of the activity
- Any other party as required by the competent authority

Comments

Kindly submit the attached Comment Sheet, to register as an Interested and Affected Party, with possible issues and concerns relating to the proposed upgrades, as well as any additional I&APs that you would like to be involved in the process, to the contact details listed below. The Registration and Comment Sheet should reach us no later than 30 days after date of this notice. Draft documents will be made available for review to registered I&APs via direct mail link and a hard copy will be placed at Stutterheim Library. The draft documents will be available for 60-day comment period to registered I&APs.

Indwe Environmental Consulting CC is a registered environmental consultancy that specialises in all facets of environmental management. Our focus is on project based environmental studies. Broadly the services offered are Basic Assessments, Full Environmental Impact Assessments, Rectification of Non-Compliance Activities and Applications, Strategic Environmental studies (State of the Environment Reporting, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Management Frameworks) and integrated waste management planning.

The Indwe Environmental Consulting team is headed up and overseen by Brendon Steytler and Megan Hugo. Together they have a vast amount of experience in the environmental consulting industry of South Africa. Brendon Steytler was the founding member of Indwe Environmental Consulting in 2010 and has been instrumental in growing the company into the trusted and quality driven organisation that it is today.

Designated Project Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Megan Hugo - Megan started working as an Environmental Consultant in February 2015 following the completion of her Honours degree in Environmental Science at Rhodes University in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown). Prior to this she completed a Bachelor of Science degree, also at Rhodes University, with Zoology and Environmental Science as her majors. Megan has completed accredited courses in environmental impact assessments and ISO 14001.

Megan joined Indwe Environmental Consulting in September 2017 and was made a main member of the company in April 2018. Megan is a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) (Reg. No 2019/1530). She is also registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Reg. No. 118810) and an active paid-up member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) South Africa.

Megan is responsible for all company related operations and financial management as well as acquiring new projects at Indwe Environmental Consulting. Megan has gained experience in all aspects of Integrated Environmental Management (Full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessments, Basic Assessments, Mining Permitting, Auditing, Strategic Environmental Planning), Ecological Reporting, Water Use related approvals through DWS, and General Project Management. Additionally, Megan is well versed in permitting requirements relating to ToPS, PNCO and NFA legislation. Example of fields in which Megan was the project manager and lead report writer include large public infrastructure projects (e.g. Regional Water Supply Schemes, Overhead Powerlines, National Road upgrades), private commercial and residential developments, small and large agricultural projects, mixed use developments, renewable energy projects, large scale public and private in stream and off stream storage dams and rehabilitation of coastal and terrestrial related environments.

Megan's key skills include her knowledge and experience in South African policy and legislation relating to development, particularly in the Eastern Cape province. Her 10-year presence in the industry has provided much insight and experience into project, technical and financial management.

Megan will act as the designated and Registered EAP for the project and the various application processes.

Technical Team

Michaela Manthe - Michaela joined Indwe Environmental Consulting in February 2024 and holds the position of Junior Environmental Assessment Practitioner at the company. Michaela has completed her Honours degree in Life Sciences through UNISA in 2023. Prior to this she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences majoring in Zoology and Botany in 2022. Michaela is registered as a Candidate Natural Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Cand. Sci. Nat 161580) and as a Candidate EAP (Reg. No. 2022/5666) with EAPASA. Michaela is also an active paid-up member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) South Africa. To date, Michaela has assisted in environmental impact assessment processes relating to public infrastructure, retail and agricultural projects as well as acted as the Environmental Control Officer for bulk water and sewerage construction projects. In addition, she has undertaken compliance auditing on a range of operational activities within the manufacturing and mining industries. **Michaela will act as part of the project team.**

Kevin Bickell - Kevin joined Indwe Environmental Consulting in April 2022 following the completion of his undergraduate degree in Environmental Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA). Kevin has completed his Honours Degree in Environmental Management and is currently studying towards his master's in environmental management through UNISA. Kevin has strong GIS and writing skills and assists the other team members with GIS mapping and analysis, public participation, technical report writing and administration. Kevin is also responsible as acting as an Environmental Control Officer on the current construction sites where Indwe is appointed to monitor compliance with the various environmental approvals relating to a project. Kevin has gained experience in projects relating to bulk infrastructure, residential developments, mixed use developments and rehabilitation related projects. Kevin is registered as a Candidate EAP (EAPASA): Reg. No 2022/5288. **Kevin will act as part of the project team.**

Nicola Monks - Nicola joined Indwe Environmental Consulting as a Junior Environmental Consultant in March 2019 following the completion of her Master of Science Degree in Geography (Environmental Wetland Management) from Nelson Mandela University. Nicola became a member of the Golden Key International Honorary Society in 2015 and was awarded the Nelson Mandela University Honours and Masters Postgraduate Research Scholarship as well as the Masters National Research Foundation Scholarship. During Nicola's studies at Nelson Mandela University, Nicola worked part time for a well-known construction company formulating and completing Environmental Management Plans, Waste Management Plans, environmental work instructions, Health, Safety and Environment Risk Assessments and the like.

Nicola has completed various courses in water quality management, Environmental Law and GIS mapping and analysis. Nicola is a Candidate Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) (Reg. No 2019/743) and is also registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Cand. Sci. Nat 121556) and an active paid-up member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) South Africa.

Nicola has strong GIS skills, and a sound knowledge of ecological processes associated with aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Nicola has gained experience in bulk infrastructure projects, mixed use developments, residential developments and agricultural projects. Her sound knowledge in all spheres of environmental legislation and environmental management systems has contributed to her role in the company as the responsible consultant in implementing operational audits and legal register formulation and updates of Clients that operate in the industrial sector. **Nicola will act as part of the project team.**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed development, please feel free to register as an I&AP by sending us your written comments. Please submit your name, contact information and written comments to the contact person below. A written comments form is supplied at the back end of this notice for your convenience.

Contact

Michaela Manthe
Indwe Environmental Consulting
2 Ayr Place
Bonnie Doon
East London
5241

Tel: 043 555 0656
E-mail: michaela@indwecon.co.za

Indwe ●●●●
Environmental Consulting

Tel: 043 555 0656 • Email: michaela@indwecon.co.za •

Your details:

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone Number	
Physical Address	
Postal Address	
Fax Number	
Email Address	

Comments:[illegible]

***** From 1 July 2021, the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) came into full effect. The law is designed to protect how your data is used, stored and processed. Indwe Environmental Consulting is fully committed to ensuring that it meets all of the requirements of POPIA, which outlines the procedures to be followed in which organisations that hold and process the personal data of persons and organisations. Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected, you consent that your**

personal data will be stored, used and processed. You consent that your details, where applicable, will be visible to the public through the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended process as part of this project.