

**APPENDIX F4: BACKGROUND  
INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
**WIJNBERG FARM TRUST  
ENLARGEMENT OF DAM 2 ON HUGOSDALE FARM (RE/141),  
NEAR GREYTON IN THE WESTERN CAPE.**



**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT  
&  
INVITATION TO COMMENT AND REGISTER  
AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY**

Return address for comments:  
EOH Coastal & Environmental Services  
Michael Johnson  
The Point, Suite 408,  
4th Floor, 76 Regent Road, Sea Point,  
Cape Town, 8005.  
Tel: 021 045 0900  
Email: [m.johnson@cesnet.co.za](mailto:m.johnson@cesnet.co.za)



## AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to ensure that people interested in or affected by the proposed project are provided with information about the proposed project and the process being followed and are provided with an opportunity to be involved in the environmental assessment process.

Registering as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) allows individuals, or groups, the opportunity to contribute ideas, issues, and concerns regarding the project. I&APs also have an opportunity to review all reports and submit comments on those reports. All comments received are included in the reports submitted to the Competent Authority.

EOH Coastal and Environmental Services has been appointed by the Wijnberg Farm Trust to conduct the required Basic Assessment for the proposed project.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

**EOH COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (EOH CES)** was established in 1990 and now has offices in Cape Town, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, East London and Johannesburg (South Africa). EOH CES specialises in impact assessments and environmental management, and environmental and social advisory services in South Africa as well as many African countries. Their principal area of expertise is in assessing the impacts of development on the natural, social and economic environments through the environmental impact assessment

process, and in so doing contribute towards sustainable development.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wijnberg Farm Trust proposes to enlarge Dam 2 on Hugosdale Farm (RE/141), near Greyton in the Western Cape.

The expansion of the dam will be done by constructing a new dam wall (>5m) that will inundate the existing dam and will therefore require a Basic Assessment.

The purpose of the proposed development is to increase the water availability on the farm for the irrigation of new deciduous fruit tree and cattle feed grass as well as reduce electricity consumption by increasing gravity feed irrigation.

The proposed Dam 2 expansion will increase the:

- Total farm capacity from 56 965 m<sup>3</sup> to 500 000 m<sup>3</sup> i.e. increase of 443 035 m<sup>3</sup>
- Surface area of Dam 2 from approximately 5 500m<sup>2</sup> to 65 500 m<sup>2</sup> i.e. increase of 60 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Dam wall height to 20 m i.e. an increase of 15 m

The following infrastructure will be required as part of the proposed activity:

- Dam wall
- Spillway
- Laydown area

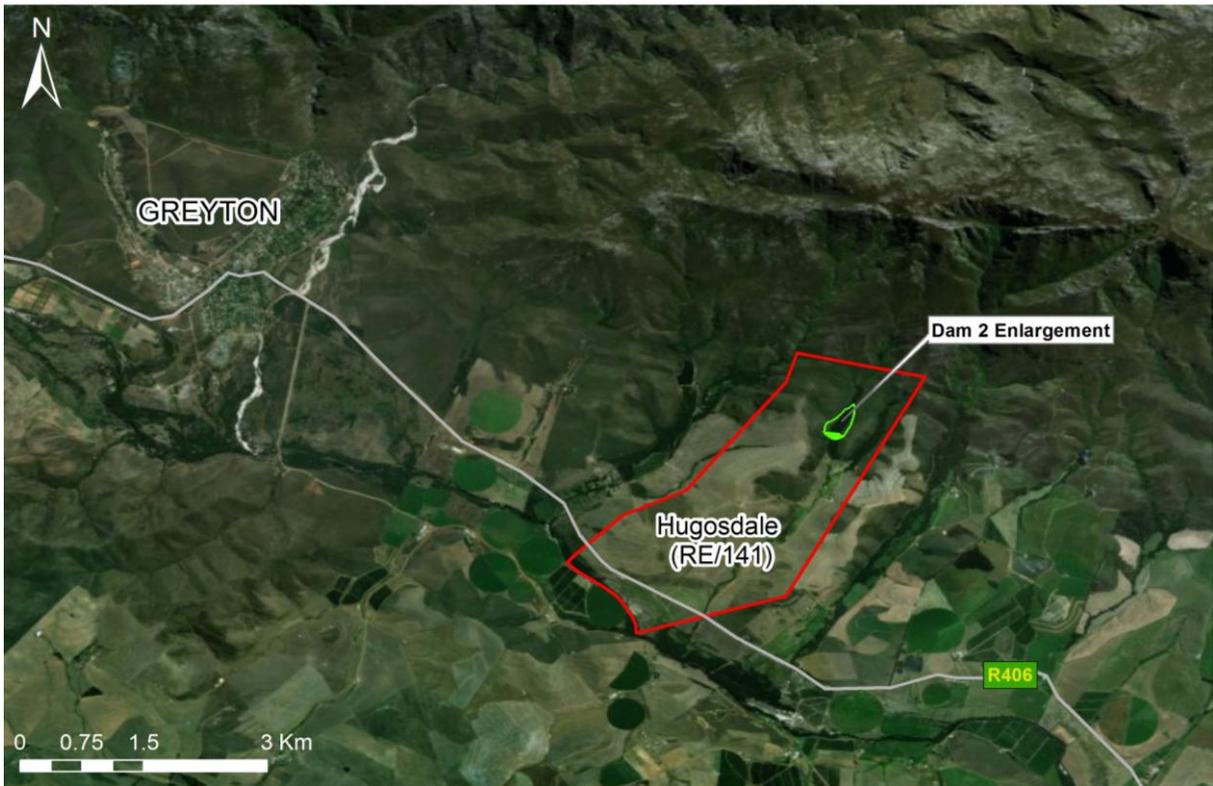


Figure 1. Location of Hugosdale farm (RE/141)

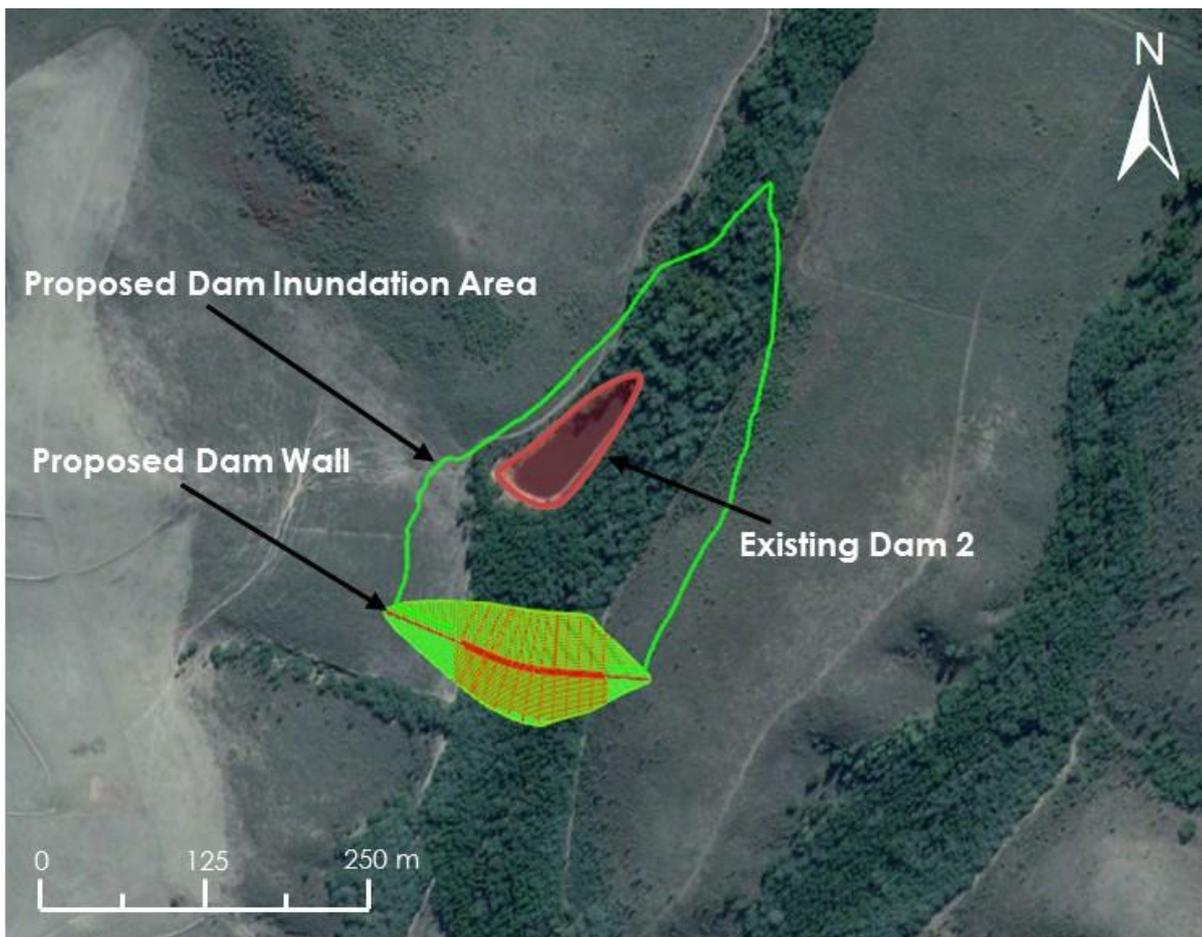


Figure 2. Existing dam 2 and the proposed expanded inundation area

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION

In terms of Regulation 41 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as amended (2017), under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998), as amended, various listed activities are provided for the determination of the magnitude of impacts, and consequently the environmental authorisation process to be followed. The triggered activities are listed under Listing Notices 1 and 3 only, and as such, the proposed development requires a Basic Assessment Process, in terms of the NEMA and EIA regulations, as amended, to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) for environmental authorisation of the dam expansion.

### LISTED ACTIVITIES AS TRIGGERED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Activity Number	Activity Description	
<b>EIA Regulations 2017, Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327)</b>		
GN R. 327- No. 19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from- (i) a watercourse;	
GN R. 327-: No. 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20ha of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	
GN R. 327-: No. 48	The expansion of— (iv) dams, where the dam, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more in size;	
GN R. 327-: No. 66	The expansion of a dam where— (i) the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, was originally 5 metres or higher and where the height of the wall is increased by 2,5 metres or more; or (ii) where the high-water mark of the dam will be increased with 10 hectares or more.	
<b>EIA Regulations 2017, Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324)</b>		
GN R. 324- Listing Notice 3. No. 12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	i. Western Cape (ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;
GN R. 324- Listing Notice 3. No. 14	The development of- (i) dams, where the dam, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such a development occurs- (a) within a watercourse;	i. Western Cape  (i) outside urban areas:  (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service area as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

<p>GN R. 324- Listing Notice 3. No. 23</p>	<p>The expansion of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) dams, where the dam, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</li> <li>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</li> </ul> <p>where such a development occurs-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) within a watercourse;</li> </ul>	<p>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) outside urban areas:</li> <li>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service area as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</li> </ul>
--	--	--

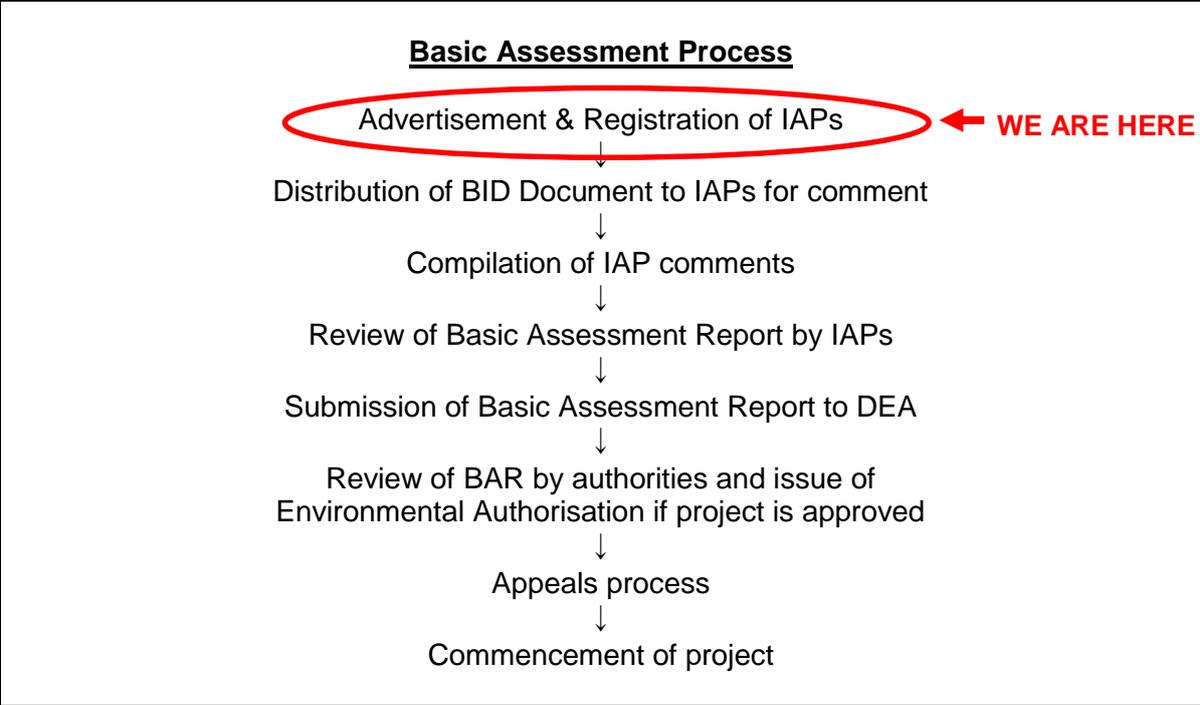
## APPROACH TO THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT

The BA for the proposed project is presently in the planning phase (Figure 1.3). This phase serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to determine any impacts. These impacts will then be addressed during the specialist assessment studies. Only after the full Basic Assessment Report has been submitted will the relevant authorities make a decision.

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) will be compiled which will comprehensively describe the activities and impacts that the project may have on the receiving environment, including specialist reports and details from the PPP process. The dBAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be published for a 30 day public comment period.

Subsequent to the review and commenting period, a Final BAR will be compiled for submission to Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). This will include all public comments and response to issues raised by I&APs.

Should the authorities grant approval via an environmental authorisation, all registered I&APs will be notified accordingly and given the opportunity to appeal against the decision, should they so wish.



**FIGURE 3: Proposed Basic Assessment Process Including Public Participation.**

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

Site-specific assessments will be undertaken to confirm the environmental feasibility of the proposed development, and to delineate any areas of environmental sensitivity within the study area.

To assess environmental impacts and benefits associated with the proposed project, the following specialist studies will be conducted as part of the EIA:

- Ecological Impact Assessment;
- Freshwater Impact Assessment
- Heritage Screener

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the BAR. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by, the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- Advertisements in the local newspapers;
- Notice Boards on site;
- Circulation of the BID (this document) to all I&APs and stakeholders;
- Registration of all I&APs and stakeholders;
- Review of all comments by registered I&APs and stakeholders.

If you consider yourself an interested and/or affected person/party, **it is important that you become and remain involved in the public participation process**. To do so please follow the steps below in order to ensure that you are continually informed of the project developments and will ensure your opportunity to raise issues and concerns pertaining to the project.

**STEP 1:** Please **register** by responding to our notification and invitation, with your name and contact details (details provided on cover page and below). As a registered I&AP you will be informed of all meetings, report reviews and project developments throughout the process.

**STEP 2:** Please send us any comments, concerns or queries you may have in relation to the proposed dam enlargement.

EOH CES is required to engage with all private and public parties that may be interested and/or affected by the proposed project, in order to distribute information for review and comment in a transparent manner.

In the same light, it is important for I&APs to note the following:

1. In order for EOH CES to continue engaging with you, please **ENSURE** that you register on our database by contacting the person below.
2. As the BAR process is regulated by specific review and comment timeframes, it is your responsibility to submit your comments within these timeframes.

**I hereby wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the  
Wijnberg Farm Trust dam enlargement process**

Name:

---

Organization:

---

Postal address:

---

Email:

---

Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline #: \_\_\_\_\_

My initial comments, issues or concerns are:

---

---

---

Other individuals, stakeholders, organisations or entities that should be registered are:

Name:

---

Organization:

---

Postal address:

---

Email:

---

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return details to: Michael Johnson: The Point, Suite 408, 4th Floor, 76 Regent  
Road, Sea Point, Cape Town, 8005.

Tel: (021) 045 0900 | Fax: (046) 622 6564 | Email: [m.johnson@cesnet.co.za](mailto:m.johnson@cesnet.co.za)