NOTICE

NOTICE OF SCOPING, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER COERNEY BALANCING DAM, SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, that the Department of Water and Sanitation is proposing to construct the Lower Coerney Balancing Dam in the Sundays River Valley Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The existing Scheepersvlakte Balancing Dam is a balancing facility for water supply to the Lower Sundays River Water User Association and for emergency supply to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The need for a new balancing dam on the Scheepersvlakte Farm is due to the inadequate smaller capacity of the existing Scheepersvlakte Dam to provide a water supply to Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality during an emergency situation. The main purpose of the proposed new balancing dam is to eliminate the operational and balancing storage limitations imposed by Scheepersvlakte Dam.

The development of Lower Coerney Dam is proposed on Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98, Farm 713, and Farm Enon Mission 574 (Remaining Extent of Farm 40). The coordinates of the centre point of the dam are 33°26'29.77"S and 25°37'23.68"E (**Figure 1**). The footprint of the proposed Coerney Dam, which is approximately 77.1 hectares, overlaps with portions of the planned future Scheepersvlakte Farms. The area of the proposed future citrus orchards that may be impacted by the proposed dam is approximately 36 hectares. The proposed dam is a Homogeneous Earth fill Embankment Dam (gravity), with a storage capacity of approximately 4.69 million m³, which will be supplied by the Kirkwood Primary Canal via a new pipeline. The development of Coerney Dam and its associated infrastructure will result in the clearance of indigenous vegetation, which will have a direct impact on the nearby drainage line that is regarded as a watercourse. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended, a Scoping and EIA Process is required for the project based on the following Listed Activities:

- GNR 983 Listing Notice 1 (Activities 9, 12, 19, 30, 56 and 63);
- GNR 984 Listing Notice 2 (Activities 11, 15 and 16), and
- GNR 985 Listing Notice 3 (Activities 4a (cc) (ee), 12 a i, ii, 14 (i) (ii) (a) (c) a i (dd)(ff), 18 a i (aa) (bb) (cc)(ee) (ii)(kk) and 23 (i) (ii) (a) (b) (c) a i (cc) (ee).

These activities pertain to the development footprint of the dam and associated infrastructure, infilling or deposition of material from a watercourse and the clearance of indigenous vegetation of more than 20 hectares respectively. A Water Use Authorisation (WUA) will be required in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). The applicable **Section 21 activities** are:

21(b) storing of water;

21(c) impeding or diverting the flow in a watercourse;

21(d) engaging in a stream flow reduction activity, and

21(i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.





Figure 1: Locality Map of the Lower Coerney Balancing Dam

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) must be provided with an opportunity to participate in the Scoping and EIA Process for the proposed dam. All parties who wish to participate in the process should do so by commenting and registering as I&APs. To obtain more information on the proposed project, I&APs may contact **Johan Nortje** on: **Tel:** 011 312 2537, **Cell:** 083 284 1556, **Fax:** 011 805 1950, **E-mail:** johann@gaenvironment.com and environment@gaenvironment.com or **Post**: P.O. Box 6723, Halfway House 1685.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT BY NO LATER THAN 21st JANUARY 2022

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