

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT

<u>Proposed Development of Erven 984 and 1134, Parsonsvlei, for</u> Storage, Warehousing, and Related Facilities

Introduction

A Basic Assessment (BA) process has commenced to assist Lurco Trading 128 (Pty) Ltd in determining the environmental and social impacts of the intended development of Erven 984 and 1134, Parsonsvlei, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT). The applicant, Lurco Trading 128 (Pty) Ltd, is the registered owner of both properties, which are currently vacant.

The applicant intends to develop Erf 984 Parsons Vlei, which is approximately 7.29 Ha, in line with its zoning permitted uses, which are Special Purpose Zone and Transport Zone 2. Erf 984 is subdivided into five land units. In conjunction with this approval, the applicant proposes to construct internal roads and four Special Purposes sites, which will be mainly warehousing and storage facilities. Erf 1134 Parsons Vlei, which is 3.31 Ha, will be developed in line with Business Zone 1, Open Space Zone 2, and Transport Zone 2. Erf 1134 is subdivided into eight land units. In conjunction with this approval, the applicant proposes to construct internal roads, three Business Zone 2 sites, and Open Space Zone 2 & 3 sites.



Figure 1. Aerial map of Erf 984



Figure 2. Aerial map of Erf 1134

Background

The two erven are situated approximately 600 meters apart, where Erf 984 is along Reserve Road and Erf 1134 can be accessed via Romulus Crescent, neither has direct access via Cape Road. They are located in the southwestern corner of the Parsonsvlei Allotment Area, north of Hunters Retreat. Parsonsvlei is part of the Western Suburbs of Port Elizabeth, and the subject sites are situated south of Cape Road, approximately 15 km away from Port Elizabeth City Centre but well within the Urban Growth boundary (NMBM, 2011). In the local context in relation to the surrounding Allotment Areas, Hunters Retreat is located to the southeast, Greenbushes is located to the west of the site, and the Farms PE Allotment Area is located to the southwest. Erf 984 is along Reserve Road, and Erf 1134 can be accessed via Romulus Crescent, as indicated below, but neither has direct access via Cape Road.

Development in Erf 984, Parsonsvlei

On February 5th 2025, the rezoning Erf 984, Parsons Vlei from Industrial Zone 2 to Special Purpose Zone and Transport Zone 2 was approved by NMBM Council in terms of Section 24(2) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-Law 2023, and Section 42 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013. According to the approval, the development parameters applicable to the Special Purpose Zone include Depot and Warehouse as primary uses. Additionally, Erf 984 was subdivided into five land units. In conjunction with this approval, the applicant proposes to construct internal roads and four Special Purposes sites, which will be mainly warehousing and storage facilities.

The proposed site Erf 984 is a vacant, relatively flat erf and does not slope towards any prominent direction. This is most likely a result of historical agricultural practices on the property, and the surrounding properties are also relatively flat. An on-site investigation concluded that the site has alien invasives scattered throughout the site at varying densities, which are likely to have affected the natural seed bank and ecology. No areas of high sensitivity were identified in the Biodiversity Specialist Report, and no areas have been recommended to be retained, but a section of medium sensitivity vegetation was identified within the southernmost portion of the site.

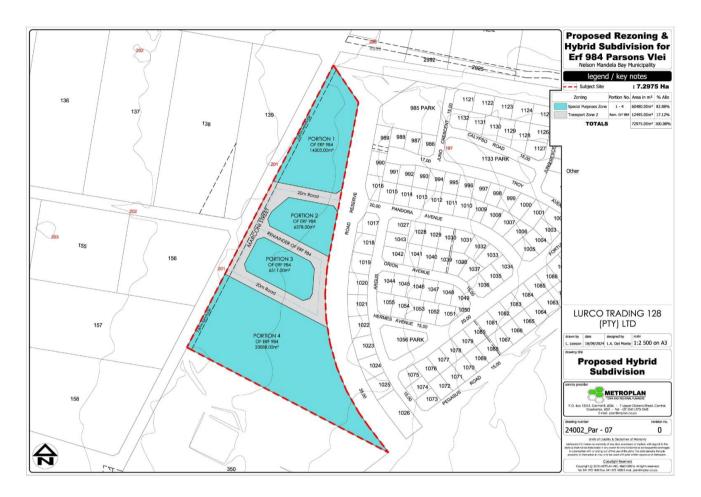


Figure 3. Zoning and hybrid subdivision for Erf 985, Parsons Vlei

Development in Erf 984, Parsonsvlei

On January 23rd 2025, the rezoning Erf 1134, Parsons Vlei from Business Zone 1 to Business Zone 1, Open Space Zone 2, Open Space Zone 3 and Transport Zone 2 was approved by NMBM Council in terms of Section 24(2) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-Law 2023, and Section 42 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013. Additionally, Erf 1134 was subdivided into eight land units. In conjunction with this approval, the applicant proposes to construct internal roads, three Business Zone 2 sites, and Open Space Zone 2 & 3 sites. The south western part of Erf 1134 will be retained as Open Space Zone 3 since that section is within a CBA according to the NMBM Bioregional Plan Status (2015).

Erf 1134 is bounded by residential properties along Deon Street to the south and to the west along Romulus Crescent. Light industries such as storage facilities, transport warehouses etc., are located further west and north west within the Greenbushes allotment area.



Figure 4. Zoning and hybrid subdivision for Erf 1134, Parsons Vlei

Project Information

Lurco Trading 128 (Pty) Ltd is the registered owner of both properties. The construction activities will include, inter alia:

- ✓ Clearing of vegetation from the proposed sites for development
- ✓ Levelling and landscaping the sites for roads, buildings and on-site parking
- ✓ Construction of roads to provide access to the plots
- \checkmark A 5m building line shall be observed along Old Cape Road on Erf 1134
- ✓ Construction of services and integration into the present network
- ✓ Construction of facilities in line with the permitted uses for each site.
- ✓ Construction of a guardhouse/s to assist with access control
- ✓ Construction and installation of fencing and walls to separate plots and assist with the implementation of safety measures
- ✓ Establishment of open space south-west boundary of Erf 1134

SPECIALIST INPUT

All specialist input to be facilitated:

- Traffic Impact Assessment Report completed
- **Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment** The specialist report is available; however, it will be required to undergo a review.
- Archaeological Assessment The specialist has completed an archaeological assessment of the site, and no full Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment was deemed necessary on the two sites.

Summary of Previously Granted Environmental Authorisations

An Environmental Authorisation was previously granted by the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), dated 26 September 2008, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 and the EIA Regulations, 2006 for the proposed development of Erf 984 for the purposes of establishing an industrial park and Erf 1134 rezoning from Undetermined to Business 1 and Industrial 2. The DEDEAT Ref: EC,1/386/M/07-128. The following activities were approved under the 2006 EIA Regulations: R386 Activity (1k), (12), (15), (16), and (18). The Environmental Authorisation lapsed as the activities were not completed within the stipulated timeframes as indicated in the Environmental Authorisation.

Additionally, an Environmental Authorisation was previously granted by the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), dated 13 June 2022, in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 to undertake a listed activity as scheduled in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, for the proposed development of Erf 1134 and 984, Parsonsvlei, within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The DEDEAT Ref is ECm1/C/LN1&3/M/61-2021. The following activities were approved under the 2014 EIA Regulations: GN R.327 Activity (27) and GN R.324 Activity (12). The Environmental Authorisation lapsed as the activities on the site did not commence within the stipulated timeframes as indicated in the Environmental Authorisation. Hence, the new Basic Assessment Application.

Public Consultation

The aim of this background Information Document is to provide stakeholders with information about this project, the process being followed, and to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the environmental assessment process. Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) may raise issues of concern. Environmental, social and economic impacts will be examined in the Basic Assessment Process.

Results of the Basic Assessment process will be submitted to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism for Environmental Authorisation and the draft Basic Assessment Report will be made publicly available for 30 days for public review. All registered I&APs will receive a notification once this report is available for review. Additional project Information will be available on the

following website: www.easemp.co.za as well as a link to register as an Interested and Affected Party and provide comment.

Registration as an IAP

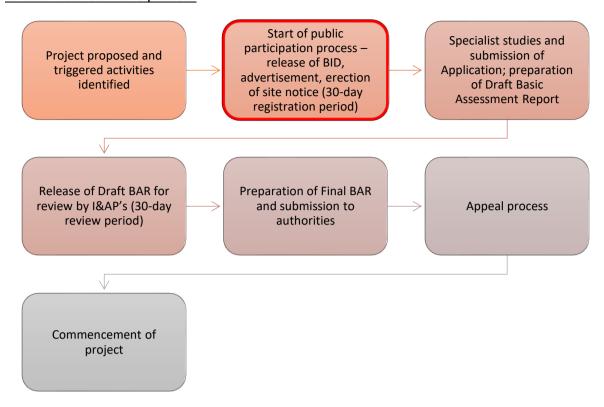
To register, please use the website or send your contact information to the contact details below.

Engineering Advice and Services:

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Where we area in the process



Legal Requirements

In terms of the NEMA EIA regulations, 2014: GN R 982, 983, 984, 985 as amended in 2017: GN R 326, 327, 325, and 324 published in Government Gazette No. 40772 on 7 April 2017 promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended), the proposed development requires a Basic Assessment as it is anticipated that the following listed activities (amongst others) will be triggered:

Listing Notice 1 Activities: NEMA EIA Regulations, 2017, GN R 327 requiring Basic Assessment

Activity	Activity Description	Project Activity
No		
24	The development of a road—	The applicant proposes to
	(i) for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route	establish internal roads on
	determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of	both erven. However,
	2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or	both erven are situated
	(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists	within an urban area,
	where the road is wider than 8 metres;	which should exclude this
		listed activity from the
	but excluding a road—	proposed project.
	(a) which identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014; or	
	(b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or	
	(c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.	
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of	More than 1 hectare of
	indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation	indigenous vegetation will
	is required for—	be cleared on Erven 1134
	(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or	and 984
	(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a	
	maintenance management plan.	

Listing Notice 3 Activities: NEMA EIA Regulations, 2017, GN R 324 requiring Basic Assessment

Activity	Activity Description	Project Activity
No		
	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous	More than 300 m2 of
	vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required	indigenous vegetation will
	for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance	be cleared. The subject site
	management plan.	is located within an area
	(a) Eastern Cape	indicating the presence of
	i. Within any <u>critically endangered or endangered ecosystem</u> listed in terms	the Algoa Sandstone
	of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within	Fynbos vegetation type,
	an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National	which is listed as a critically
	Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;	endangered ecosystem.
12	ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;	
	iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water	The sites are both located
	mark of the sea, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such	within CBA 2 according to
	removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban	ECBCA (2009).
	areas;	
	iv. Outside urban areas, within 100 metres inland from an estuarine functional	
	zone; or	
	$\boldsymbol{v}.\;$ On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or	
	thereafter, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an	
	equivalent zoning.	

