

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT**

## **FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF A CHICKEN LAYER FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 65 OF THE FARM GROOTVLEI 272 JR, ROOIWAL IN PRETORIA WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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PROPOSED EXPANSION OF A CHICKEN LAYER FACILITY AND  
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***List of Abbreviations***

BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
C&RR	Comments & Response Report
DBAR	Draft Basic Assessment Report
FBAR	Final Basic Assessment Report
DMRE	Department of Minerals, Resource and Energy
I&AP	Interested and or affected Party.
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
WULA	Wate Use License Application

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Public Participation Process is the cornerstone of every Basic Assessment (BA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use License Application (WULA) processes. It forms a fundamental part of these procedures and is one of the most important aspects of the environmental authorisation process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), and the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended, govern the BA and WULA processes, including public participation. These principles emphasise the provision of sufficient and transparent information on an ongoing basis to all stakeholders to allow for meaningful input, and they ensure the inclusion of previously disadvantaged individuals, women, and youth in the process.

The aim of the process is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with clear, accurate, and comprehensive information about the proposed development, its alternatives, and the associated environmental impacts. Furthermore, it ensures that I&APs are given a fair opportunity to express their viewpoints, raise issues, and voice concerns regarding the proposal, its alternatives, and/or the decisions being made.

All inputs from the public and relevant stakeholders are taken into consideration during the project planning and development phase. As a result, a clear recording of all issues raised, and comments made is maintained in the register of comments and responses. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised. The process culminates in the undertaking to present the proposed development to registered I&AP's and to provide them with the opportunity to comment and raise issues and concerns with regards to the proposed development. These issues, concerns and comments as raised by the I&APs are then recorded and considered.

The EIA regulations emphasise the importance of public participation. In terms of the EIA regulations, the public –

- may participate in the application process.
- may comment on any written communication submitted to the competent authority by the applicant or environmental consultant.
- must comment within the timeframes.
- must send a copy of any comments to the applicant if the comments were submitted directly to the competent authority; and
- must disclose any interest that the person has in the application being granted or refused.

Further, in terms of the EIA regulations, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) –

- manages the application process.
- must be independent.
- undertakes the work objectively – even if this results in findings that are not favourable to the applicant.
- discloses information that may influence the decision; and

- conducts a public participation process.

## **2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The overarching aim of the Public Participation Process (PPP) is not only to comply with the relevant legislative requirements, but also to ensure that all potential stakeholders and Interested & Affected Parties are given a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate. Therefore, Viomec Farm approach to this process was to pro-actively identify the relevant I&AP's, inform them of the proposed development and related procedures, involve them by affording them ample opportunity to raise issues and concerns about the proposed development and consolidate all those issues within the planning process.

Based on the above approach, the following methodology was used to ensure that a complete I&AP communication process was achieved:

- Consultation with Landowners, Stakeholders and Organ of State.
- Draft a Background Information Document (BID), including all information and describing the process including a map of the area affected by the proposed development.
- Advertise the project in the prescribed newspapers, put up site notices, identify all authorities and adjacent landowners, and send them a BID (according to the legal requirements).
- As I&AP's respond to the advertisements and notices, register them on a I&AP database.
- Communicate relevant information to all registered I&AP's throughout the process, in order for them to respond.
- List the issues raised in a Comment and Response Report.
- Determine the need for a public meeting and if required, arrange, advertise, and hold public meetings, and record all issues raised; and
- Once the draft Report has been compiled, put the document out for public comment, and systematically inform registered I&AP's of the opportunity to comment.
- This report provides a description of the methodology followed and includes detailed appendices as proof of the procedure followed.

## **3 OVERVIEW OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

The PPP for Basic Assessment was initiated on Thursday, 06 February 2025. The stages that formed part of the public participation process to date are reflected in the figure below:

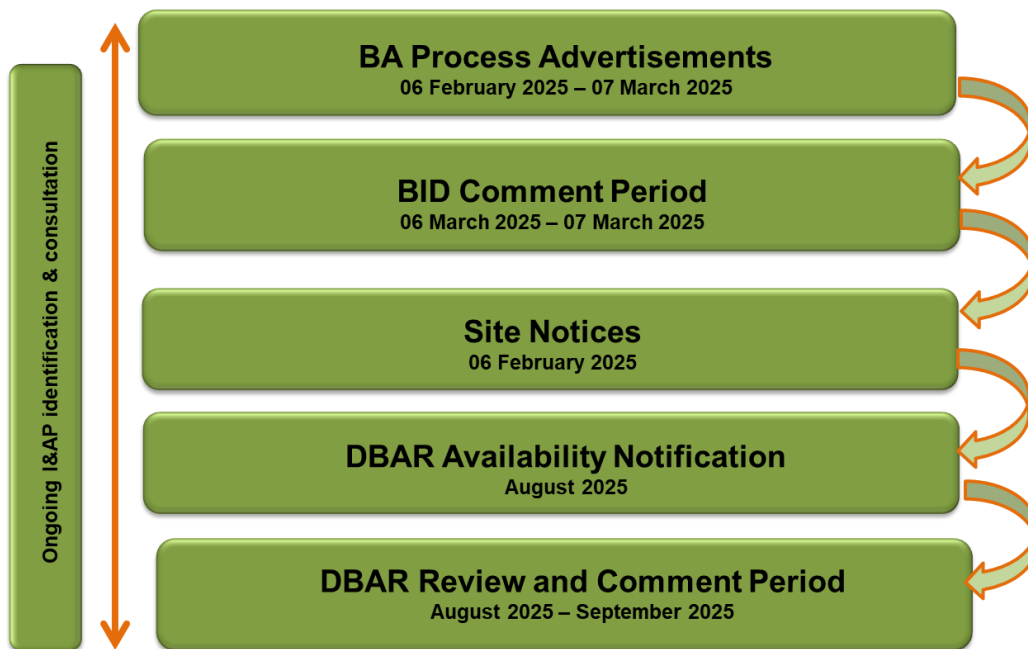


Figure 1: Public Participation Process to date.

Members of the public who wished to be registered on the database as an I&AP were able to do so via telephone, email.

On-going consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, relevant government departments, local businesses etc.) and identified I&APs ensured that I&APs were kept informed regarding the Basic Assessment process and any key changes regarding the project. Networking with I&APs will effectively continue throughout the Basic Assessment phase until the FBAR is submitted to the GDEnv. Where required, stakeholders and I&APs were engaged on an individual basis.

During the environmental studies, consultation was undertaken with individuals, businesses, institutions and organisations, and the following sectors of society have been identified and are afforded an opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and WULA:

- Provincial Authorities (GDEnv, DWS, Public works etc.)
- Community representatives; and
- Adjacent landowners

The figure below indicates the next steps to be undertaken during the continuation of the PP process.

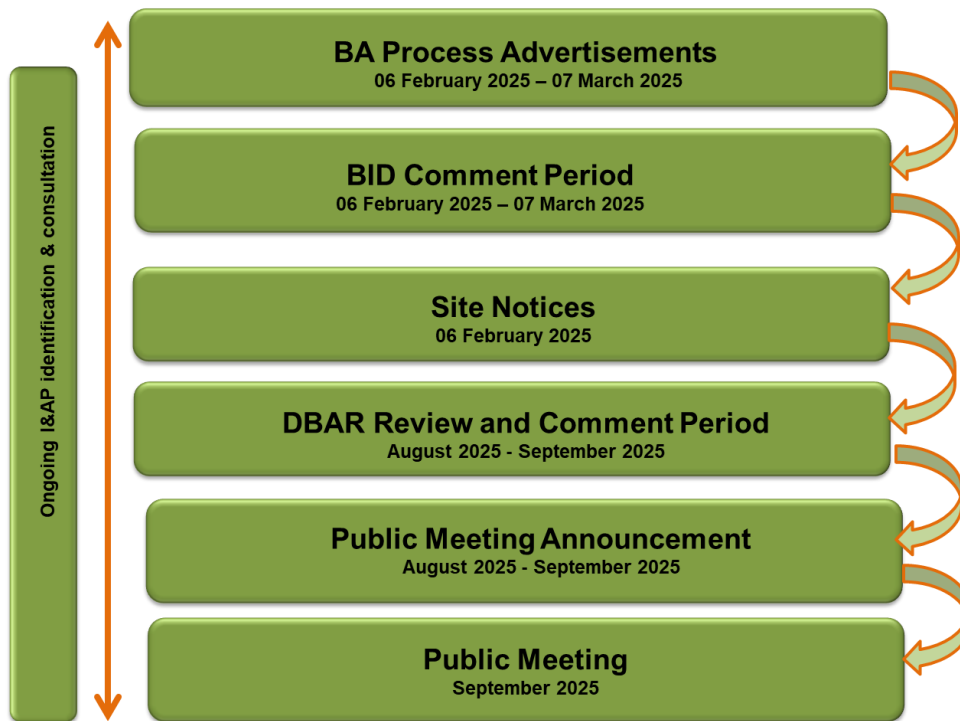


Figure 2: Public Participation going forward

### 3.1 Consultation and Public Involvement

The consultation process is still underway, and it will involve correspondence with both Organs of State and I&APS. A public meeting with the community will be held upon request. All information that will be received at the meeting will be addressed and recorded in the Comments and Response Report (CRR) and included in the Final Basic Assessment.

## 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

### 4.1 Project Announcement

The opportunity to participate in the Basic Assessment Process was announced in **February 2025** in the following ways:

- Distribution of flyers inviting I&APs to become involved, accompanied by a Background Information Document, including maps of the project location and a Registration Form (Appendix F).
- A Newspaper Advertisement was placed in the **Pretoria North Rekord** on Friday, **07 February 2025** inviting I&APs to register and submit their comments to Selahle Consultancy & Projects (SCP) (Appendix B).

- Site Notices informing the surrounding communities and immediately adjacent landowners of the proposed development were placed within the boundaries of the study area on **Thursday, 06 February 2025**. Please refer to Appendix C.
- The I&APs Database is included in Appendix G.

On-going consultation with key stakeholders (e.g., local authorities, relevant government departments, local business etc.) and identified I&APs ensured that I&APs will be kept informed regarding the Basic Assessment process and any key changes regarding the project. Networking with I&APs will effectively continue throughout the Basic Assessment phase until the FBAR is submitted to the GDEnv. Stakeholders, Organs of State, and I&AP that were consulted are via email:

- **Provincial Authority:**
  - Gauteng Department of Environment (GDEnv)
- **Organs of State:**
  - Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
  - Department of Water and Sanitation
  - Department of Public works
  - City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
  - Department of Transport
  - Department of Defence Force
- **Registered Interested and Affected Parties:**
  - Rooiwal Community Members

## 4.2 Review of Draft Basic Assessment Report and Public Comments

The DBAR will be made available for public review for a 30-day comment period as stipulated in the EIA Regulations, 2014(as amended). The comment period commenced is anticipated to be from **August 2025 to September 2025**. Registered I&APs will be sent written notification of the availability of the DBAR through emails.

The DBAR will be made available at the following venues:

Table 1: Venues of where the DBAR will be available

Venue	Address and Contact Details	Working Hours
Viomec Farm	Plot 65, Kremetart Street , Grootvlei 272 JR, Pretoria  Cell: 082 455 4941	09h30-17h00

The DBAR will also be made available on USB upon written request during the review period, furthermore, all identified Organs of State will also be offered an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft BAR. A hard copy and soft copy (email) of the DBAR will be submitted to all the above-mentioned Organs of State for review and comment.

### **4.3 Public Meetings**

One (1) public meeting will be scheduled upon request by the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) or the competent authority during the review and comment period of the DBAR. This will take place two (2) weeks from the date the DBAR will be released for public review.

The aim of the public meeting is to provide I&APs with information regarding the proposed development and invite I&APs to raise any comments and/or concerns that they may have. All comments and concerns made during the public meeting will be recorded and appended to FBAR. A Comment and Response Report (CRR) which includes all issues raised and corresponding responses will also be appended to the FBAR and submitted to the competent Authority.

## **5 COMMENT AND ISSUE RESPONSE REPORT**

A Comment and Issue Response Report (CRR) would be developed during the Draft Basic Assessment Report public review period. All comments, issues, and concerns that would be raised by the I&APs will be recorded and duly responded to by the EAP and project managers should the queries be too technical. The I&APs will also be afforded to review these comments during the Final Basic Assessment (FBAR).

## **6 CONCLUSION**

Public Participation Process for a Basic Assessment process is usually done in four (04) phases, namely:

- i. Project Announcement – in accordance with Regulation 41
  - a) Erection of Site Notices
  - b) Publication of Newspaper Advert
  - c) Distribution of Background Information Document (BID)
- ii. Draft Basic Assessment Public Review – in accordance with Regulation 43
  - a) All registered and identified Interested and Affected Parties, Organs of State, Stakeholders and communities are afforded an opportunity to review, comment and raise concerns about the project
  - b) Public Meetings and Focus Group Meeting are usually held during this phase.
- iii. Final Basic Assessment Report submission announcement – in accordance with Regulation 44
  - a) This is done to just inform all I&APs, Organs of State, Stakeholders and Communities of the submission of the Final Basic Assessment to the Competent Authority.

- iv. Environmental Authorisation Decision from the Competent Authority - in accordance with Regulation 4
  - a) All registered and identified Interested and Affected Parties, Organs of State, Stakeholders and communities get notified about the decision and are further granted 14 days to appeal the decision directly to the Competent Authority.

Selahle Consultancy and Projects Pty Ltd has duly completed phase 1 of the public participation process and will be commencing with the second phase in August 2025. All registered and identified Interested and Affected Parties, Organs of State, Stakeholders and communities will be contacted and afforded an opportunity to review and comment.

The project database will be kept active until the end of the project life cycle.