

Notice of the Intention to De-Proclaim Various Portions of the Southern Section of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve

Purpose of this document:

- Provide Background Information regarding the project.
- Provide an outline of the process being followed in conducting the public participation for the de-proclamation.
- Inform members of the public of their rights and responsibilities regarding their participation.
- Assist the public to formulate their comments in a manner that will ensure that they can be afforded due attention.

Kindly complete the attached form and return it to the relevant representative before 18 March 2010:

Samantha Bush

Nemai Consulting

PO Box 1673, Sunninghill, 2157
Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel : (011) 781 1730
Fax : (011) 781 1731
E-mail : samanthab@nemai.co.za

Project Background

Proponent and Project Background

It is the intention of the City of Joburg Property Company (JPC) to establish a Township on the Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR, the Remaining Extent of Portion 5 of the Farm Diepsloot, 388-JR, the Remaining Extent of Portion 6 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rietfontein 532-JQ. These Farm Portions form part of the southern section of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve. This proposed new township would consist of a mixed income housing development, commercial and business developments, as well as various social amenities. In order for JPC to establish a township on these properties, certain portions of the southern section of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve need to be de-proclaimed.

Application for De-Proclamation

Square Town Planning was appointed as the consulting town planning firm to assist the JPC with the de-proclamation of sections of the Nature Reserve and to undertake an application for Township Establishment on these sections. An application to have sections of the Nature Reserve De-Proclaimed was submitted to then Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE), now known as the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), by Square Town Planning on the 03 December 2007. GDARD issued a letter on 18 December 2008 regarding the de-proclamation application. This letter indicated that the Diepsloot

Nature Reserve is important from both a biodiversity and social perspective and that the reserve forms a critical part in terms of the conservation targets for the Gauteng Province and therefore indicated that Gauteng Nature Conservation will not support any full de-proclamation of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve. The letter further indicated that a full public participation exercise will have to be undertaken before GDARD will consider the de-proclamation application which was submitted. GDARD further requested in their letter that a full sensitivity map be compiled using the GDARD C-Plan data as part of the de-proclamation application.

Nemai Consulting was appointed by Kagiso Urban Management (KUM) to undertake the Environmental Authorisation Process for the proposed Township Establishment. KUM requested Nemai Consulting to undertake the Public Participation Phase for the De-Proclamation of the Nature Reserve as requested by GDARD.

Background Information

Diepsloot Nature Reserve (Background)

The Diepsloot Nature Reserve is located to the north and south of the N14/R28 freeway, in close proximity to the existing Diepsloot Township in Johannesburg (Refer to the attached locality map). The proposed Township would not be established on the section to the north of the N14, therefore this

application does not consider de-proclamation of the northern section.

The properties on which the Nature Reserve is located are owned by Johannesburg Water and form part of the buffer zone around the Northern Waste Water Works. This buffer zone was proclaimed as a Nature Reserve in 1954.

The reserve has a broad mix of highveld habitats. It includes grassland areas; heavily impacted by cattle grazing, mixed reed and grassland areas and agricultural fields. The wetland habitat has the usual farm dams, aqueducts or outlet areas with extensive reedbeds and riverine vegetation. There are extensive stands of exotic poplar trees throughout the reserve.

Johannesburg Water has made land available on the northern section of the reserve for various recreational activities. A large part of the southern section is developed with the wastewater works and includes the Porcupine Conservation Area.

What does this De-Proclamation Entail?

As been mentioned above, The JCP would like to obtain the rights for the development of a Township on the southern section of the Nature Reserve. This Township would include a mix of low, medium and high income residences, i.e. from RDP houses to private residences, retail and businesses and social, public and recreational facilities.

In December 2007, Square Town Planning submitted an application to de-proclaim the southern section of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve on behalf of the JPC. This application was submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD).

Before the GDARD can consider the application it requires that public participation be undertaken.

Public Participation

During public participation stakeholder engagement activities will occur. This will include the compilation of Background Information Documents (BID's), advertisements and site notices.

During this phase the following will be consulted with:

- Relevant Authorities at various levels;
- The owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site and within 100m of the boundary of the proposed de-proclamation area;

- The municipal councillor of the ward in which the Diepsloot Nature Reserve is located and any ratepayers association that represents the community in the area;
- The municipality which has jurisdiction in the area; and
- Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity.

The issues raised during this phase will be collated into a stakeholder database and an issues report will be generated. This issues report will be submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) to assist in their decision making process.

Relevant Authorities

The authority responsible for the approval of the de-proclamation is the GDARD.

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Stakeholder

Registered stakeholders have the right to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The rights of stakeholders are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

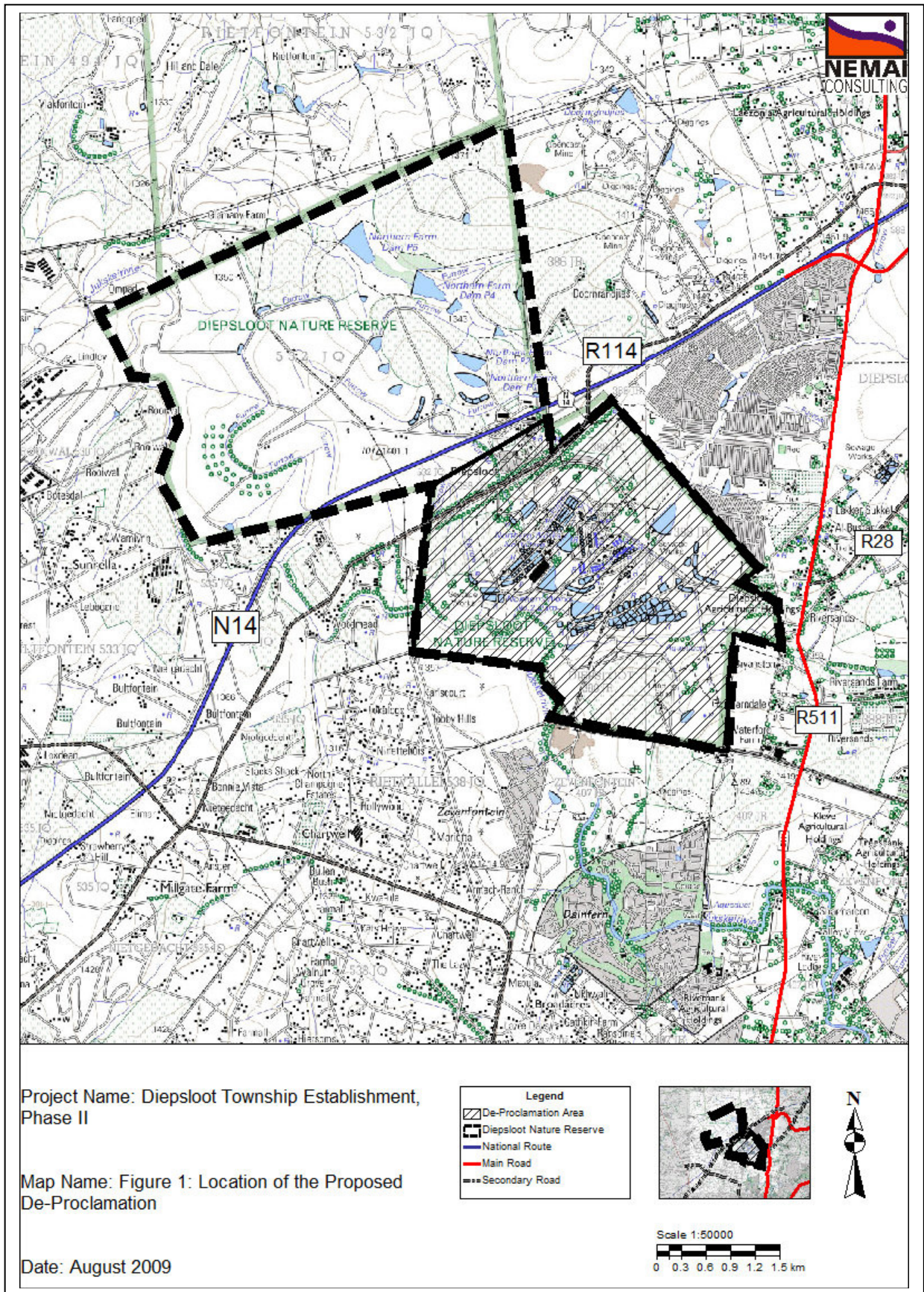
- Stakeholders must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved by the GDARD, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed by the applicant or Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP);
- A copy of comments submitted directly to the competent authority must be served on the applicant or EAP; and
- Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application must be disclosed.

The roles of stakeholders in a public participation process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated;
- Assisting in or commenting on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contributing information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contributing local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

In order to participate effectively, stakeholders should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible;
- Register as a stakeholder;
- Advise the EAP of other stakeholders who should be consulted;
- Contribute towards the design of the public participation process (including timeframes) to ensure that it is acceptable to all stakeholders;
- Follow the process once it has been accepted;
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved;
- Give timeous responses to correspondence;
- Be respectful and courteous towards other stakeholders;
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements; and
- Recognise that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.





ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND OHS CONSULTANTS

P.O. BOX 1673
SUNNINGHILL
2157

147 Bram Fischer Drive
FERNDALE
2194

Phone: (011) 781 1730
Fax:(011) 781 17311
Email:samanthab@nemai.co.za

**Reply Form:
De-Proclamation of Sections of the Diepsloot Nature Reserve**

(Complete and return to/Voltooi en stuur aan: Samantha Bush (before 18 March 2010))

Date/Datum				Official use			
Name of organisation/ Naam van organisasie						Date received:	
Name of Interested and Affected Party/ Naam van Belangstellende Party						Our reference:	
Address/ Adres	Postal/ Pos:	Physical/Fisies:				Status	
Tel No							
Fax/Faks No:							
Email/Epos:							
Registration as an I&AP/ Registrasie as 'n Belangstellende Party				<table border="1"> <tr> <td align="center">YES/ JA</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">NO/NEE</td> </tr> </table>		YES/ JA	NO/NEE
YES/ JA							
NO/NEE							
Comments/Opmmerkings:							