

Background Information Document (BID)

Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Operation of the Proposed Crematorium Facility in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region

Environmental Consultant: Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Proponent: Eden Crematorium and Funeral Services (Pty) Ltd

1 INTRODUCTION

Eden Crematorium and Funeral Services (Pty) Ltd (*The Proponent*) intends to operate a crematorium facility in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region. The Proponent proposes to operate on a 1 827 m² crematorium facility with the capacity to cremate ± five (5) bodies a day.

Eden Crematorium and Funeral Services currently operate the facility at 2354 10th Street, Light Industrial Area in Walvis Bay (ECC-APP3573 issued for operations), and plans to relocate the operations to a new site. The proposed project site is located in Erf 3235 (Northern industrial area). The locality map of the site is shown in **Figure 1** below.

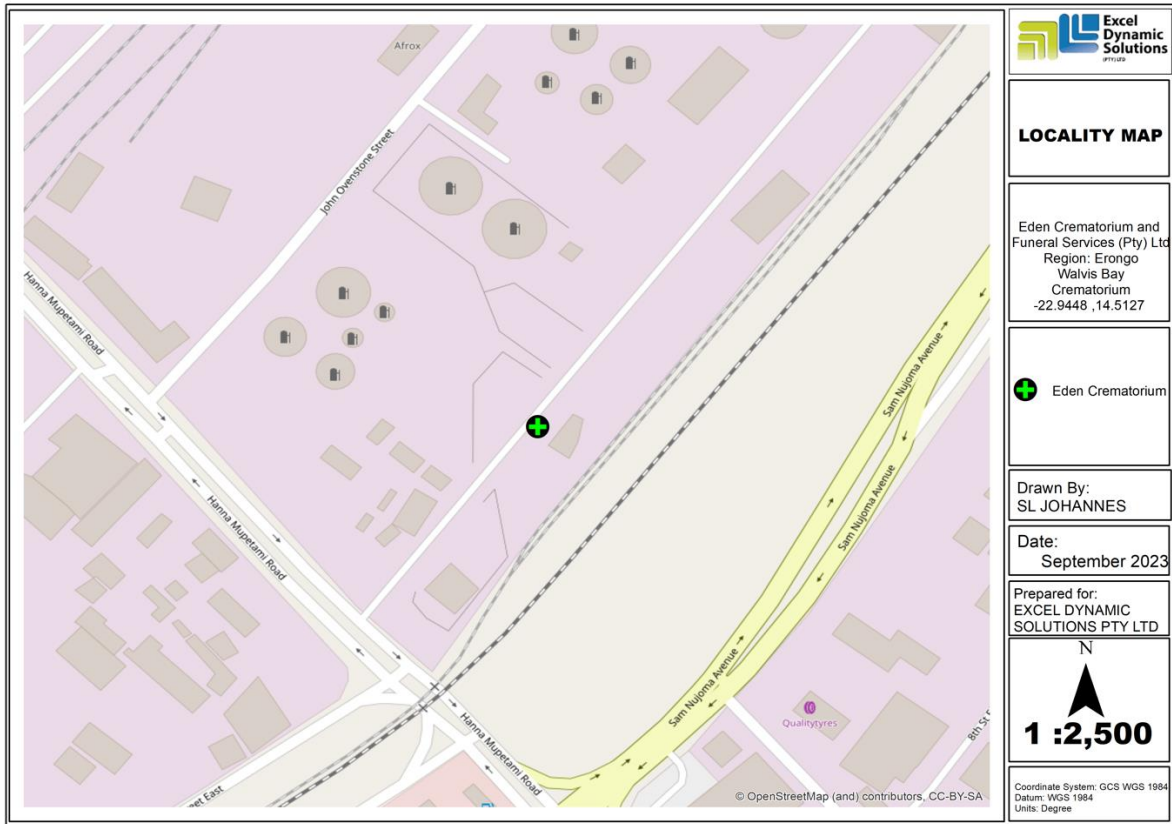


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed crematorium site

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) is non-technical document of the Environmental Assessment, which serve the purpose of sharing information with stakeholders and interested and affected parties (I&APs), providing them with the platform to engage, raise issues and submit comments about the proposed activities. The BID is for informing the project stakeholders as well as interested and affected parties (I&APs) of the following:

- Project Location
- Proposed activities of the project
- Environmental Assessment process to be followed.
- How I&APs can be involved

All stakeholders/I&APs are encouraged to submit their comments/inputs/concerns on the proposed project. The comments and concerns/issues raised will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment Reports / Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for submission to the Environmental Commissioner at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for decision-making on issuance of the environmental clearance certificate (ECC).

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No.7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations, the proposed project triggers listed activities that cannot be undertaken without an ECC.

As a waste producing facility, a crematorium and related infrastructure are among listed activities that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007) and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The relevant listed activities as per EIA regulations are:

2.1 The construction of facilities for waste sites, treatment of waste and disposal of waste.

2.2 Any activity entailing a scheduled process referred to in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Ordinance, 1976.

2.3 The import, processing, use and recycling, temporary storage, transit or export of waste.

The Proponent is, therefore, required to obtain an ECC prior to the commencement (implementation) of operations on the site. As such, an environmental clearance application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at MEFT for decision-making before the implementation of the anticipated project. To fulfill the legal requirements, the Proponent has

appointed Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (Environmental Consultants), to conduct the required Environmental Assessment (EA) process and submit the ECC application to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) at the MEFT for evaluation and consideration of the ECC.

4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 Project Plan, Activities, and Resources

Once an ECC is issued and all administrative and technical requirements are completed, the Proponent may begin with the operation on site. There will be some light preparatory works on site (existing facility) for the establishment and installation of (grading/screening machinery) and other necessary infrastructure and structures required for the project activities.

The following service and infrastructure as provided below will be required for the project activities:

- **Human resources:** Around 8 people are employed for the operation.
- **Health and Safety:** Adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to all project personnel. A minimum of four standard first aid kits will be readily available onsite.
- **Potential Accidental Fire Outbreaks:** Fire extinguishers will be readily available within the set-up of the facility.
- **Solid waste:** Sufficient marked waste containers will be made available on-site for domestic waste and operational waste, and store waste until such a time that it is ready for disposal at the nearest approved municipal solid waste facility.
- **Ablution facilities:** Flushing toilets will be available on-site.
- **Machinery and equipment:** Incinerator(s) and cremator(s) will be used at the facility.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The EA and EMP methodology applied for this project takes into account the provisions of the EIA Regulations, 2012, and the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007. The overall objective of the EA is to identify potential negative impacts associated with the proposed project that shall be assessed and provide potential effective mitigation measures for implementation.

The main objectives of this EA are but are not limited to:

- Identification of potential impacts associated with the proposed project.
- Consultation with I&APs and relevant authorities and provide them with an opportunity to

participate throughout the ESA process.

- Assess the significance of issues and concerns raised.
- Compile the ESA report addressing all potential identified issues and impacts.
- Draft an EMP that includes impact management and mitigation measures.

5.1 Potential impacts

The following potential impacts have been identified:

Positive:

- Creation of Employment
- Increasing local capacity of cremation services,
- Serve as an alternative to other existing crematorium facilities within the country.

Negative:

The following potential negative impacts may be anticipated:

- **Air Quality:** Emission of harmful pollutants in the air
- **Health and Safety issues:** Public health impacts due to crematorium emissions.
- **Potential occupational health and safety** risks associated with mishandling of operational equipment.
- **Environmental (water and land) pollution** from improper disposal of waste.

The potential impacts listed above were pre-identified and therefore should not be deemed as final or the only ones. Other potential impacts will be identified as the EA process progresses. All impacts and public concerns/comments will be incorporated and addressed in the Environmental Reporting.

5.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation is an important part of the EA process. During the consultation process, I&APs are allowed to raise any issues or concerns about the project's activities.

To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with Excel Dynamic Solutions (Pty) Ltd (contact details herein) as an I&AP.

For comments and or further information requests, please contact the Environmental

Consultant at the contact details provided below before or on **Friday 06 October:**

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