

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CLOSURE AND SUBDIVISION
OF A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, AND REZONING TO UTILITY SERVICES, ON ERF
452, MEERSIG, WALVIS BAY, ERONGO REGION**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Prepared by



Prepared for



January 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

Erongo RED (the Proponent) currently operates an electrical distribution substation located on Erf 452, which is designated as a public open space in Meersig, Walvis Bay, Namibia (Figure 1). To facilitate the acquisition of ownership of the land on which the substation is situated, Erf 452 requires subdivision and rezoning.

The Proponent requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the proposed subdivision and rezoning of Erf 452. The ECC is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). During an initial environmental screening process with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), the MEFT indicated that a public participation process and an environmental management plan (EMP) will be required to apply for the ECC. This document provides background information on the project and outlines details on the environmental process and EMP required for the proposed activity.

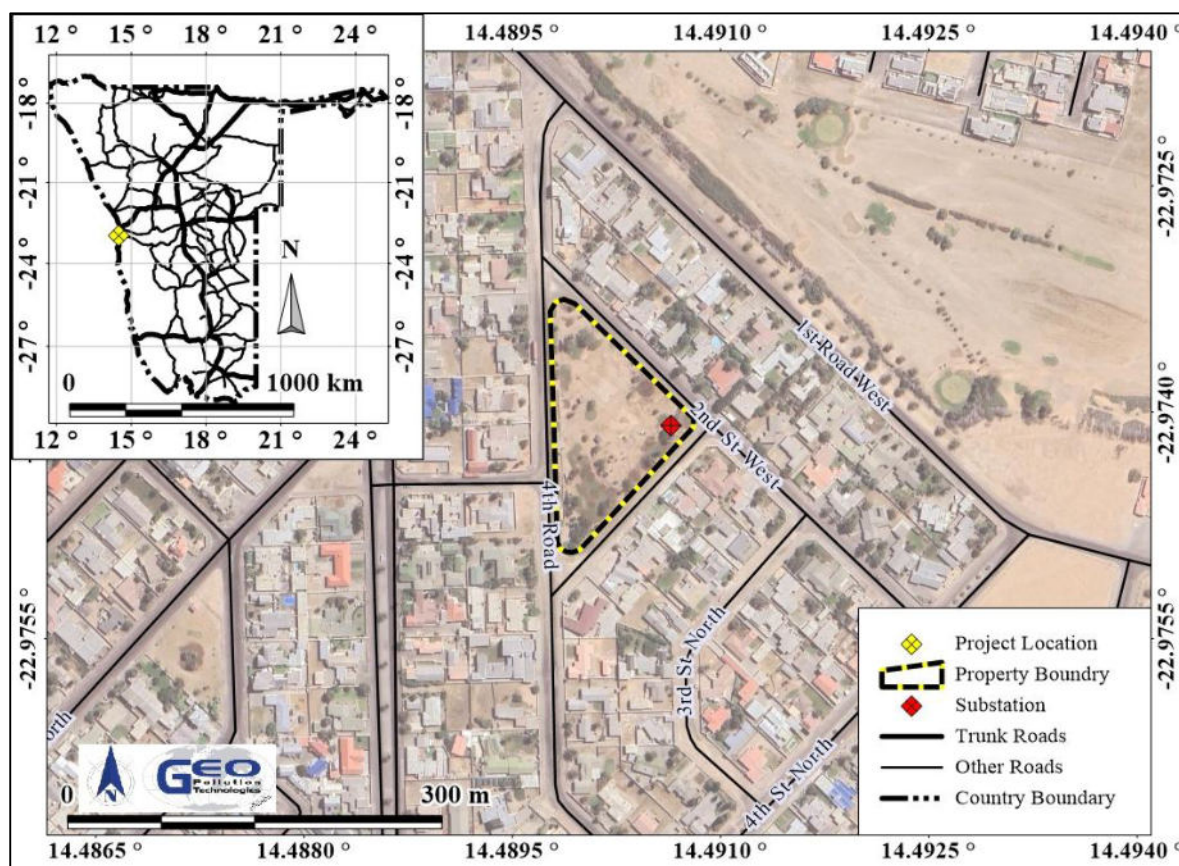


Figure 1 Project location

2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

The purpose of this background information document (BID) is to inform stakeholders, including the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and interested and affected parties (IAPs), about the proposed project. This BID serves to register the ECC application with the DEA and invites IAPs to provide comments and suggestions on the project. Stakeholders are encouraged to register with GPT to receive updates and participate in the review process of the EMP.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project involves the acquisition of ownership of the land on which Erongo RED's electrical distribution substation is located. The scope of the project includes the subdivision of Erf 452, currently designated as public open space, and its subsequent rezoning to align the land use with the operational requirements of the substation. Subdivision will allow the demarcation of the substation's footprint, while rezoning ensures compliance with municipal land-use regulations. These steps are required to secure legal ownership and to enable Erongo RED to manage and operate the site effectively. The proposed changes are designed to optimise the operational sustainability of the substation, ensuring the continued delivery of reliable electrical infrastructure to the surrounding community.

Once an ECC is issued, the appointed town planners will lodge the subdivision request, as well as the closure as open space of the subdivided portion on which the substation is located. A rezoning application from public open space to "utility services" will also be lodged.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

Subdivision and rezoning is a once-off exercise which does not require continued ECC renewals. Since it is a purely administrative exercise, there is no construction and operational activities that need assessment or inclusion in the EMP. Furthermore, the substations being existing facilities within townlands, no threat to biodiversity is presented by the subdivision and closure of part of the public open space. The environmental process to be followed is thus more focused on potential social impacts related to the closure of public open space, even though there will be no apparent change in the status quo of the environment. The main component of the environmental process will thus focus on public and authorities consultation, with presentation of comments or concerns raised, if any, and how such concerns are addressed.

5 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Geo Pollution Technologies invites all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the project. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname
- ◆ Organisation represented or private interest
- ◆ Position in the organisation
- ◆ Contact details
- ◆ Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application

All contributions by IAPs become public knowledge and will be circulated along with the reports as per the EMA requirements. The comments, inputs and suggestions will also be submitted to the DEA along with how any issues have been addressed in the EMP. The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental process. However, all comments and concerns should be provided timeously to ensure incorporation into the final EMP. The deadline for submission of comments will be communicated to all registered IAPs.

For any additional information the project team may be contacted at:



Your Rights as an IAP according to the Environmental Management Act, No7 of 2007, Government Notice No 30 (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations)

Section 23.

- (1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as -*
 - (a) comments are submitted within 7 days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report;*
 - (b) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.*
- (2) Before the applicant submits a report compiled in terms of these regulations to the Environmental Commissioner, the applicant must give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment in writing on the report.*
- (3) Reports referred to in sub regulation (2) include*
 - (a) scoping reports;*
 - (b) scoping reports amended and resubmitted;*
 - (c) assessment reports; and*
 - (d) assessment reports amended and resubmitted.*
- (4) Any written comments received by the applicant from a registered interested or affected party must accompany the report when the report is submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.*
- (5) A registered interested or affected party may comment on any final report that is submitted by a specialist reviewer for the purposes of these regulations where the report contains substantive information which has not previously been made available to a registered interested or affected party.*

Section 24:

The applicant responsible for an application must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of these regulations, and comments by interested and affected parties on a report which is to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner may be attached to the report without recording those comments in the report itself.