

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN OTAVI

Registration of a 15m Right of Way Servitude over Portion A, M, N and the Remainder, of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794, Otjozondjupa Region

List of triggered activities identified in the EIA Regulations which apply to the proposed project

Activity 10.1 (b) Infrastructure
The construction of Public roads
(The proposed project includes the construction of roads)

Activity 10.2 (a) Infrastructure
The route determination of roads and design of associated physical infrastructure where – it is a public road; (The proposed project includes the route determination of roads)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to brief Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being undertaken for the proposed development activities in Otavi.

The BID also provides an opportunity for I&APs to register for the EIA process and to submit any initial comments or issues regarding the proposed project.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

La Providence Farming CC, hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Subdivision of the Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 into 14 portions and the Remainder;**
- **Registration of a 15m Right of Way Servitude over Portion A, M, N and the Remainder.**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), the listed activities indicated above were triggered by the proposed project.

The proponent commissioned this EIA and appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake the necessary activities to enable an application for an Environmental Clearance with the Environmental Commissioner as prescribed by the Environmental

Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012). In line with Regulation 21(2) of the mentioned EIA Regulations, this BID is distributed to potential I&APs as part of the public consultation process for this EIA.

This Environmental Assessment will therefore be undertaken to determine the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development activity.

3 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Locality

The Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 falls within the Local Authority jurisdiction area jurisdiction and as such forms part of the Otavi Townlands. The subject portion is situated next to the NamPower line that runs in the southeastern side of Otavi. Please refer to below locality map (**Figure 1**).

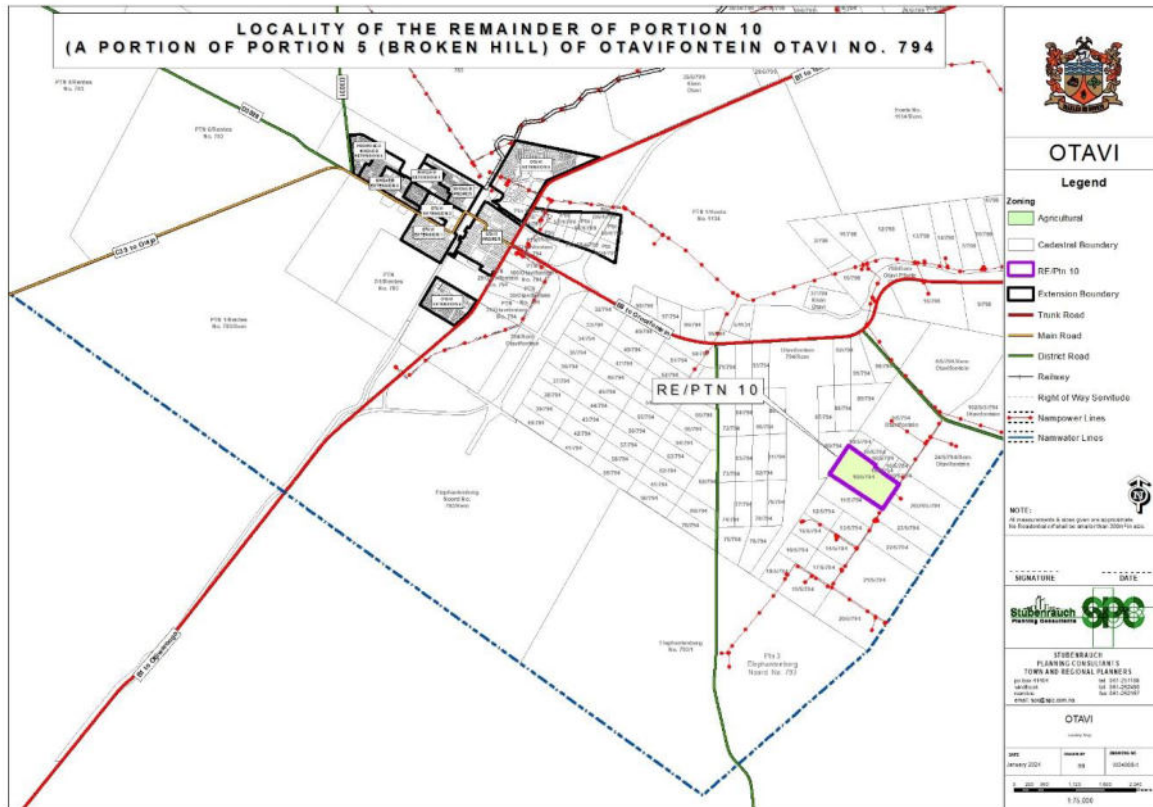


Figure 1: Locality map of Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794

3.2 Proposed Development

The Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 accommodates the main farmhouse of the owners and two outbuildings, while the majority of the portion lies vacant. It is the intention of the Proponent to subdivide the Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 into 14 smaller agricultural plots and the remainder. The proposed subdivision will enable the Proponent to sell the newly created agricultural portions to prospective buyers who wish to venture into small scale farming and agricultural activities.

The owner thus wishes to subdivide Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 to ensure the effective use of prime agricultural land.

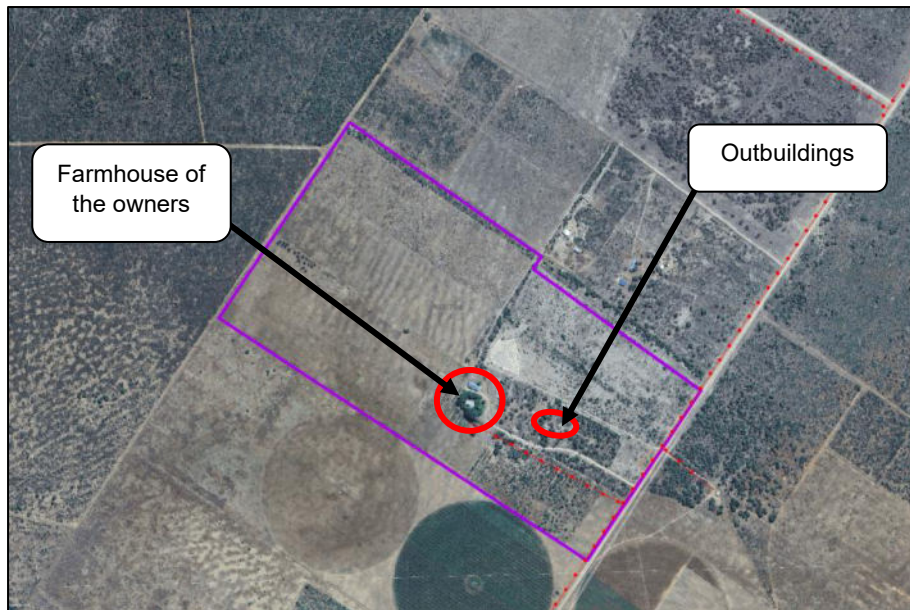


Figure 2: Aerial image

3.2.1 Subdivision of Remainder of Portion 10

The proposed subdivision into smaller portions will allow for the creation of smaller plots that can be effectively used for small scale agricultural and farming activities

Table 2: Subdivision of Remainder of Portion 10

Portion No	Zoning	± Area (m ²)
A	Agricultural	3,1193
B	Agricultural	3,0170
C	Agricultural	3,0425
D	Agricultural	3,0323
E	Agricultural	3,0355
F	Agricultural	3,0754
G	Agricultural	3,2056
H	Agricultural	3,3143
I	Agricultural	3,2067
J	Agricultural	3,2126
K	Agricultural	3,2671
L	Agricultural	3,3245
M	Agricultural	9,3043
N	Agricultural	9,1449
10/Rem	Agricultural	13,0259
Total		69,3279

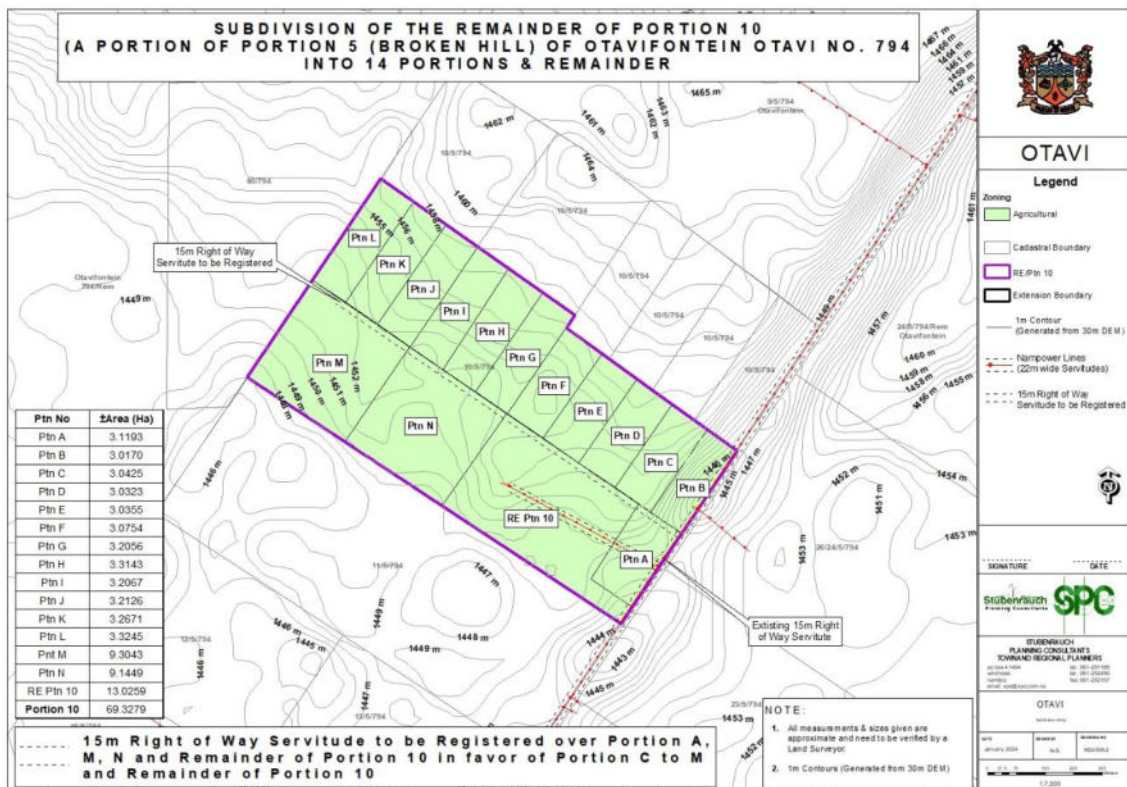


Figure 3: Subdivision of Remainder of Portion 10

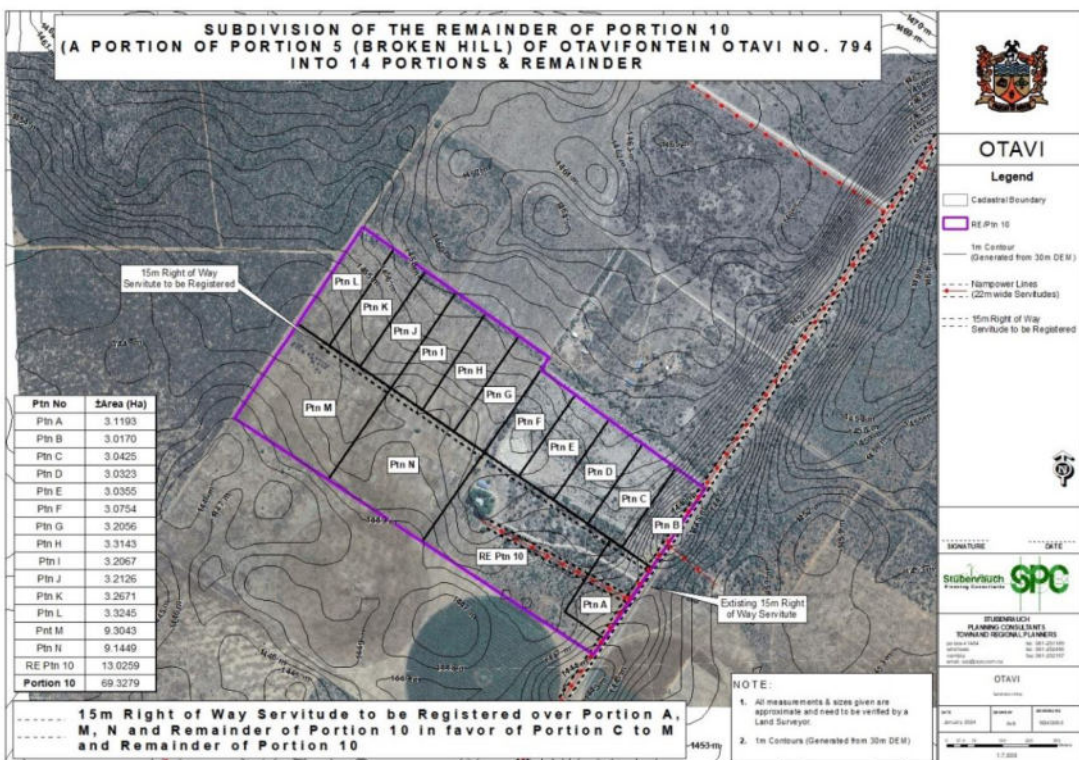


Figure 4: Aerial image of the subdivision of Remainder of Portion 10

3.3 Engineering services and Access Provision

Water

It is the responsibility of the new owners of the subdivided portions (Portions A-N and Remainder) to self-supply water by installing boreholes (if the said persons obtained a permit from the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in accordance with the Water Resources Management Act, 2004), and in accordance with the Engineering Department of the Otavi Town Council.

Electricity

The owners of the newly created portions will have the option to connect their portions to the Cenored electrical supply network or make use of solar power for electricity.

Sewer

Given the distance of the proposed newly created portions to the existing municipal connection for sewer, it will be expensive to connect each plot to the municipal sewer system. The new owners will have to install on site waste water treatment plants.

This is usually in the form of a 3 chamber system that can be installed underground. The semi purified water can be stored in water tanks for the purpose of watering gardens.

Access

There currently is a 15m Right of Way Servitude registered over the Remainder of Portion 10 (a portion of Portion 5 (Broken Hill)) of the Farm Otavifontein No. 794 on the eastern boundary, that provides access to the surrounding farms as well as the subject portion. This right of way servitude is respected within the subdivision layout.

An additional 15m Right of Way Servitude to be registered over proposed Portion A, M, N and the remainder in favor of proposed portions C to M and the Remainder, while Portion A and B will continue to gain access through the existing 15 Right of Way servitude as surveyed and depicted on the attached diagram.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Establishing environmental risks of the intended project
- Establishing mitigation protocol
- Preparing the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public reviewing of Draft EAR and EMP
- Preparing the final EAR & EMP and submitting to MET
- Awaiting decision from Authorities
- Communicating decision to Interested & Affected Parties
- Availing opportunities to Appeal.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

4.1 Overview

The environmental and social setting of the proposed project area is briefly described in this section. The detailed description of these environmental features will be fully presented in the environmental scoping report.

4.2 Biophysical Environment

4.2.1 Climate

The Otjozondjupa Region is largely semi-arid with rainfall ranging from 300-600mm increasing from south-west to north-east. Otavi receives summer rainfall ranging from 325 – 350mm per year. The area is characterised by sporadic and erratic rainfall season and droughts are considered common (Strohbach, et al., 2004). Daily average temperatures for summer are approximately 32°C (maximum) and 17°C (minimum) (Strohbach, et al., 2004). Minimum temperatures during the coldest months range between 4 – 6°C (Mendelsohn, et al., 2009).

4.2.2 Fauna and Flora

Generally, the Region is known to have grassy dwarf shrubland comprising numerous growth forms, the most common perennial forms being tufted grasses, non-succulent dwarf shrubs, succulent dwarf shrubs, stoloniferous grasses and geophytes. The eastern two-thirds of the region are dominated by savannas characteristic of Kalahari Sands, with more broad-leaf deciduous trees in the north and more thorny species in the south. The western parts are covered in thorny species growing on more rocky, shallow soils. These areas are the most degraded in the country as a result of bush encroachment

Otavi falls within the broader Tree-and-Shrub Savanna biome and forms part of the Acacia Tree-and-shrub Savanna sub-biome. The Acacia Tree-and-shrub Savanna sub-biome is characterized by large, open expanses of grasslands dotted with Acacia trees (Mendelsohn et al., 2002). The trees within this biome are tallest in the east where they grow in deeper sands and become more shrub-like to the west where they grow in shallower soils. The vegetation type of Otavi is classified as Karstveld with the dominant soils being Mollic Leptosols. The structure in the area is dominated by mixed woodlands (Mendelsohn et al., 2002).

4.2.3 Topography, Geology and soils

The topography of the Otjozondjupa Region lies on the western edge of a vast basin of sand, and it is this sand that determines much about the vegetation, wildlife, farming and mineral potential of the region. In this region, floodplains occur between the Klein Omatako Omuramba and the Omuramba Omatako and stretch up to Okanguindi village south-east of Okakarara. They are subject to repeated seasonal flooding as a result of relatively low relief.

The soils in Otjozondjupa Region are Dolomites and limestones these rocks were originally deposited during the Neoproterozoic Damara Orogen, in an ocean formed during successive periods of intracontinental rifting spreading and the formation of passive margins. The thick succession of these rocks (Dolomites and limestones) of the Otavi Group today crop out in fold structures between Grootfontein and Opuwo.

The geology of Otavi belongs to the Damara Supergroup and Gariep Complex. The subject area consists of quaternary and tertiary deposits of the Kalahari Group (Tk), which includes sand, gravel and/or calcrete (Mendelsohn, Jarvis, Roberts & Roberston, 2002).

4.2.4 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Namibia is an arid country with low rainfall and high evapotranspiration. The only permanent rivers are along the northern and southern borders. Across the country, surface waters are ephemeral after seasonal rainfall, with many of them dammed. Groundwater in this Region is available throughout the year and the quality is generally good.

4.3 Social Environment

The population of the Otjozondjupa region is reported to be 220 811 people with Otavi being approximately 10 756 people (NSA, 2023).

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts have been identified so far should the subject portion become developed:

- **Environmental Degradation:** may result due to the clearance of vegetation for construction of the proposed development.
- **Waste:** During construction, waste may be generated on site which would have to be disposed of at an approved landfill site.
- **Ground and surface water impacts:** May be experienced due to the use of machinery and chemicals during construction.
- **Employment Creation:** During construction temporary jobs may be created for the construction of the associated services.

More potential impacts of the proposed activity will be identified upon consultations with the public and further research on the area.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment process involves interaction with people who are interested in, or who could be affected by the proposed development and/or operational activities of the proposed Otavi development. As part of this process communication will be sent out to various potential I&APs and Line Ministries in addition to the public notices to be placed in the newspapers, on the site and around the subject area to obtain comments on the proposed developments.

7 ALL STAKEHOLDER/INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)

Public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Obtain information about the proposed project
- Raise any environmental issues relating to the project

How can you be involved?

- By responding to the invitation advertised in the newspapers
- By registering as an I&AP, for your name to be added to our register list
- Submitting your comments or requests in writing.

We are inviting the public to participate by contributing issues and suggestions regarding the proposed projects on or before **09 May 2025**. For further information, or concerns, I&APs can complete the register below:

8 REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS

Participant Name:	Organization/Affiliations:
Position:	Telephone:
Fax:	E-Mail:

Postal Address:
Comments/Suggestions and Questions:

Please fill in particulars and return completed document to be registered as an Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) to:

Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) Tel: 061 25 11 89 E-Mail: bronwynn@spc.com.na
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