

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Ohangwena Regional Council hereinafter referred to as the proponent intends to undertake the following activities:

- **Subdivision of the Remainder of the Farm Omungwelum Townlands No. 993 into Portions A, B, C and the Remainder; and**
- **Layout Approval and Township Establishment on Portion A of the Remainder of the Farm Omungwelum Townlands No. 993 to become known as Omungwelum Extension 2;**
- **Layout Approval and Township Establishment on Portion B of the Remainder of the Farm Omungwelum Townlands No. 993 to become known as Omungwelum Extension 3 and**
- **Layout Approval and Township Establishment on Portion C of the Remainder of the Farm Omungwelum Townlands No. 993 to become known as Omungwelum Extension 4.**

The above development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

As such the proponent appointed Stubenrauch Planning Consultants (SPC) to undertake an independent Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the above activities. The competent authority is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism: Department of Environmental Affairs (MET: DEA).

Project Description

The proponent intends to establish Omungwelum Extension 2, 3 & 4 on Portion A, B & C of the Farm Omungwelum Townlands No. 993, respectively. The proposed development in the northern region has been initiated in response to the growing demand for serviced land, as identified by the Omungwelum Settlement Office. The objective of the development is to provide structured and planned land allocations that not only accommodate sustainable livelihoods but also preserve the agricultural and rural character of the area.

To align with existing land use patterns and support small-scale agricultural activities, the erven in the proposed layout have been designed to exceed 300m², offering residents adequate space for subsistence cultivation and household sustainability.

The township layouts have been developed with a strong emphasis on functionality, long-term viability, and integration. It incorporates a mix of land uses—including general residential, business, and undetermined zones—to promote a balanced, dynamic, and inclusive settlement structure. This mixed-use approach improves access to commercial services and employment opportunities while enhancing the overall liveability and economic resilience of the community.

Importantly, the proposed layouts have been developed with consideration for Omungwelume Extension 3 and 4, ensuring alignment and synergy with neighbouring townships. This coordination fosters a cohesive urban fabric, allowing for shared infrastructure and complementary land uses that enhance connectivity, service delivery, and community integration.

Overall, the proposed township establishment aims to facilitate orderly development, promote sustainable land use, and improve living conditions while maintaining the unique rural identity of the region.

Public Participation

Communication with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development was facilitated through the following means and in this order:

- A Background Information Document (BID) containing descriptive information about the proposed activities was compiled and sent out to all identified and registered I&APs via email on **20 June 2025**;
- Notices were placed in the New Era newspaper and the Namibian Newspaper dated **20 & 27 June 2025**, briefly explaining the activity and its locality, inviting members of the public to register as I&APs (**Appendix B**); and
- A notice was fixed at the project site (see **Appendix A**);
- A public meeting was held on **05 July 2025** at Omungwelume Community Hall.

Public consultation was carried out according to the Environmental Management Act's EIA Regulations. After the initial notification, the I&APs were given two weeks to submit their comments on the project (until **23 July 2025**). The comment period will remain open until the final scoping report is submitted to MET.

The Draft Scoping Report will be circulated from the **15 August 2025 until the 01 September 2025** so that the public could review and comment on it. The overall commentary received from the public on the draft report will be documented in the comments and responses report document of this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations

With reference to **Table 10**, none of the negative construction phase impacts were deemed to have a high significant impact on the environment. The construction impacts were assessed to a **Medium to Low (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

With reference to **Table 10**, none of the negative operational phase impacts were deemed to have a high significance impact on the environment. The operational impacts were assessed to a **Medium (negative)** significance, without mitigation measures. With the implementation of the

recommended mitigation measures in Chapter 7 as well as in the EMP, the significance of the construction phase impacts is likely to be reduced to a **Low (negative)**.

It is recommended that this project be authorised because, should the development not proceed, the subject area will remain in its current undeveloped state, limiting its potential to contribute to the town's structured growth. The local community is expected to benefit significantly from the proposed development through the creation of employment opportunities during the construction phase, as well as through increased investment and activity in the area. The establishment of the new townships are also anticipated to uplift the social well-being of the community by providing access to planned erven and basic services. Given the potential for economic stimulation and improved living conditions, the social impact of the project is considered to be of High (positive) significance.

The "no go" alternative was thus deemed to have a High (negative) impact, as all the benefits resulting from the development would not be realised.

The significance of negative impacts can be reduced with effective and appropriate mitigation provided in this report and the EMP. If authorised, the implementation of the EMP should be included as a condition of approval.