

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 02 August 2018.
- The information contained in the BAR dated October 2018.
- The comments received from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Protected Areas, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity & Conservation and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated October 2018.
- Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated October 2018 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecological Impact Assessment	Enviro-Niche Consulting	December 2016
Geo-Hydrological Impact Assessment	Eco-Con Environmental	June 2018
Heritage Impact Assessment	L Rossouw	January 2017
Traffic Impact Statement	BVI Consulting Engineers	February 2018
Visual Impact Assessment	Enviroworks	January 2017

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- The Phalaborwa Wildlife Activity Hub will serve as a gathering point from where services will extend into the Town of Phalaborwa, raising the economy of the town.
- The BAR dated October 2018 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated October 2018 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.

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- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated October 2018 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated October 2018 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

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