

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTIFICATION FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 70M³ LPG VESSEL, AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, AS WELL AS THE STORAGE OF 9- 48KG LPG CYLINDERS AND OTHER GASSES ON ERF 5875 AND ERF 5876, SAMUEL WALTERS STREET, WORCESTER INDUSTRIAL ZONE, WORCESTER, WESTERN CAPE.

Dear Interested and Affected Party

The Applicant, Gasfit (Pty) Ltd proposes to expand their existing and operational gas storage depot by installing a 70m³ LPG vessel as well as the storage of 9-48kg gas cylinders on the site located in the Worcester Industrial Zone.

Location of the Site

The location of the site is shown in the figure below.

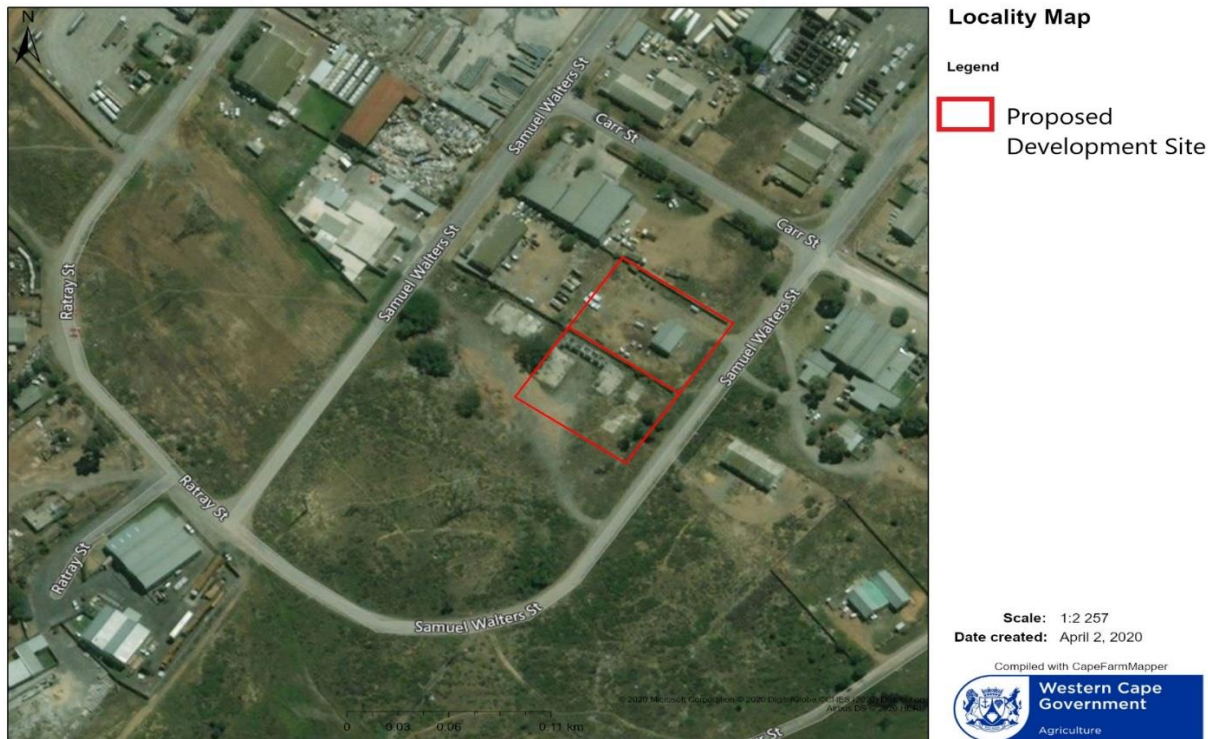


Figure 1: Locality map showing proposed Site (Source: Cape Farm Mapper)

Summary Description of Proposed Development

Gasfit (Pty) Ltd is an agent of African Oxygen (Pty) Ltd (Afrox). The site is situated adjacent to Samuel Walters Street, within the Industrial Area of Worcester. The site is owned and operated by Gasfit management. Currently the site is storing and distributing filled LPG cylinders (of various sizes) filled by Afrox Epping branch in Cape Town and transported to Worcester by road transport. Site also distributes other air gases and gas products in limited quantities.

The applicant, Gasfit, has projected that in the near future the growth in LPG sales will result in volumes that trading in filled cylinders trunked in from Cape Town will:

- a) Be unable to sustain the market demand due to the number of cylinders that will have to be in stock
- b) Result in reduced efficiencies due to the large volume of cylinders that need to be managed, especially return of empty cylinders to send to Cape Town for refilling
- c) Increased risks due to the high volumes of cylinders that need to be transported between Cape Town and Worcester on a daily basis

In order to be able to sustain future projected volumes, Gasfit intends to install a bulk storage tank on site together with necessary filling equipment so that cylinders can be filled on site in Worcester rather than trunk filled cylinders from Cape Town.

The proposal consists of the installation of a 70m³ LPG bulk storage tank, as well as provision of an on-site storage area for 9 to 48kg LPG cylinders. In addition to the LPG tank and pump, four cylinder-filling scales and a new road decant point for LPG tanker off-loading will be installed. In line with safety requirements, a fire detection and suppression system, including a deluge system at the road tanker point, will also be installed.

The proposed mode of operation for the new facility is for bulk LPG to be brought to the site via 20-ton (40 m³) road tankers. The LPG will then be decanted into the new on-site bulk storage vessel from the road tanker, while the road tanker is parked under the deluge (sprinkler) system at the road decant point. There will be an overflow protection indicator to stop road tanker decanting so as to prevent overfilling of the vessel. Empty gas cylinders will be brought to the facility on trucks, where they will be off-loaded for refilling on site. Filling of cylinders from the proposed on-site LPG vessel will be carried out on the cylinder-filling scales, which will be programmed to determine residual return gas in the cylinders and calculate the exact amount of gas required for each cylinder.

Sillito Environmental Consulting ("SEC") has been appointed by the Applicant to undertake an application for an Environmental Authorisation for the proposed upgrade development. The proposed upgrade triggers the following activity which is listed in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, published under the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), and therefore requires an application for Environmental Authorisation and a Basic Assessment EIA Process:

- ***Listing Notice 1 (GN No. 327 of April 2017), Activity 67.***

The application process for Environmental Authorisation is a Basic Assessment process (Environmental Impact Assessment Process) as defined in the 2017 NEMA EIA Regulations contained in *Government Notice No. 326 of 2017*.

Public consultation is a component of the Basic Assessment process. As such, you are hereby notified of the public participation process and of the availability of the **Basic Assessment Report** for your review and comment.

Please note that due to COVID-19 and the Directions issued by DEFF on the 05th of June 2020, all correspondence must preferably be provided electronically as signed letters (sent via email). If you would like to register as an I&AP, or comment on the Basic Assessment Report, please provide your correspondence **in letter format that contains your signature**, to Eugene Marais at SEC, giving your name and contact details as well as an indication of your interest in this matter and of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in relation to this proposal. Please quote the SEC Project Number, **019097**, in all correspondence. The report is available electronically for review and download on the SEC website: www.environmentalconsultants.co.za.

If you do not have internet access to view the report please contact SEC (contact details given below) who will make alternative arrangements to provide the I&AP with a hardcopy of the report or an electronic copy, depending on accessibility. Furthermore, please note a summarized version of the BAR, as a data saving alternative, is available at the website link given above.

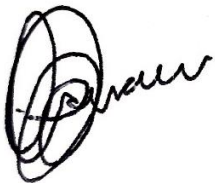
Please note that the commenting period is from the 10th of July 2020 to the 10th of August 2020.

Registering as an I&AP should please be undertaken in electronic letter format (**with signature provided**) and sent via email, with correspondence addressed to:

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Please be advised that any comments should be received by SEC no later than **the 10th of August 2020**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Marais', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Eugene Marais
SILLITO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING