PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed 3000 Inmate “New-Generation” Correctional Centre next to the existing Allandale Correctional Centre in Paarl.

Inputs and comments from the public and stakeholders with regard to the potential impacts associated with the development are welcomed.

To comment on this project please use the attached Registration Form, attend the planned public meeting and/or submit written comment to Boland Environmental Consultants.

Once registered as an I&AP, you will have an opportunity to contribute to the process. You will also be able to ensure that your comments were considered and included in the draft and final assessments.

Please note that only registered I&APs will be captured onto the database and will receive regular project information and updates.

You are welcome to circulate this document to other persons and organizations that may be interested.

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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Department of Public Works (DPW) on behalf of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is proposing to construct a 3000 Inmate “New-Generation” Correctional Centre. The new prison is to be located on Portions 32 and 35 of Farm 527, adjacent to the existing Allandale prison complex near the north-eastern outskirts of Paarl, Western Cape (see Figure 1 – Locality Map). The suburbs of Groenheuwel and Fairyland border to the proposed development to the north (see Figure 2). The proposed site is currently undeveloped and used for cultivation of vegetables for use by the Allandale Correctional Centre.

The proposed project is part of a national programme implemented to address the issue of overcrowding in South African prisons. Overcrowding of prisons is a primary challenge currently facing the Department of Correctional Services. The “New-Generation” Correctional Centre was proposed to help solve this problem, drawing on international best practice, whilst taking cognisance of specifics of South Africa as a developing country.

Boland Environmental Consultants are appointed to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated Public Participation Process for the proposed development. The first phase of the EIA will identify all potential environmental impacts (bio-physical, social and economic) identified through a Scoping Process, which includes input from stakeholders, interested or affected parties (I&APs). The second phase of the EIA will assess the identified potential impacts, and together with specialists, propose suitable mitigation actions to reduce the impacts. Registered I&APs will be kept informed at each step of the Scoping and EIA phase.

Figure 1: Locality map of the area surrounding Portions 32 and 35 of Farm 527, Paarl (originally sourced from 1:250 000 Government Topo-Cadastral Survey Maps 3318 and 3319).
Figure 2: Annotated Google Earth satellite image (acquired in 2010) looking towards the south. The image indicates the location of the existing Allandale Correctional Centre on various portions of Farm 527 (red outline) and the Portions 32 and 35 of Farm 527 (yellow outline) on which the New Generation Correctional Centre is proposed for construction. Proximity to the Paarl Central Business District (CBD), neighbouring suburbs and main roads are indicated.

Figure 3: Schematic representation of a proposed New Generation Correctional Centre on the existing Allandale Correctional Centre. The red areas are modular prison zones, the blue area is the functional and admin service core, facilities for sporting and recreational opportunities for inmates are planned. Letters A and B indicate alternative entrance options.
The National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, makes provision for the identification and assessment of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment and which require authorization from the relevant authorities, based on the findings of an assessment. In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of the NEMA, the DPW requires authorization on behalf of the DCS from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the undertaking of the proposed project. In order to obtain authorization for such activities a comprehensive independent environmental study must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

The proposed development is expected to entail the following activities:

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<td><strong>Government Notice Regulation 544 (June 2010)</strong> – Activities that trigger a Basic Assessment Process</td>
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| 13 | The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.  
*Description:* The proposed development will require the storage of petrol / diesel and oil for emergency generators in the case of power outages. |
| 18 | The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from an i. watercourse;  
*Description:* The Applicant intends to decommission an existing dam on the property. |
| 38 | The expansion of facilities for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.  
*Description:* Existing electricity distribution network will be upgraded to accommodate the proposed development. |

*Government Notice Regulation 545 (June 2010)* – triggering a full Scoping - EIA process

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| 15 | Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more.  
*Description:* An area of approximately 39 ha, currently used for the cultivation of vegetables by the Allandale Correctional Facility, will be transformed by the construction of a new 3000 inmate correctional facility and associated infrastructure, including internal roads, parking areas, sporting and recreational facilities, office and administrative buildings. |

*Government Notice Regulation 546 (June 2010)* – Activities that trigger a Basic Assessment Process

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| 3 | The construction of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast:  
(a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose, and  
(b) will exceed 15 metres in height, but excluding attachments to existing buildings and mast on rooftops.  
*Western Cape:*  
   iii. Areas inside urban areas but outside commercial and industrial areas.  
*Description:* The development may require the installation of telecommunication masts. |

Other relevant legislation, in addition to the NEMA (No. 107 of 1998), may include the following:

- Section 38 of National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) – Archaeological, Heritage and Visual Impact Assessment;
- Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) (No. 15 of 1985) - rezoning application running concurrently with the EIA process;
The environmental study is following a three-phased approach consisting of the following phases:

- **Phase 1**: Application (completed)
- **Phase 2**: Environmental Scoping Study (currently underway)
- **Phase 3**: Environmental Impact Assessment (once the Scoping Report and Plan of Study is accepted by the Department of Environmental Affairs)

### GETTING INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public consultation is a crucial part of the EIA process. It is therefore important that relevant stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the Public Participation Process (PPP) from the outset of the proposed project. This process offers you the opportunity to learn about the project, raise issues and concerns and provide input for enhanced project benefits. The inputs received from I&APs form an integral part of the EIA process and will assist the relevant authorities with their decision-making process.

Please note that updates and further documentation regarding the project will only be distributed to registered I&APs.

To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

- **STEP 1**: Advertise the EIA process during various stages of the process, in the main body of the Paarl Post.
- **STEP 2**: Posting of registered letters including background information and distributing pamphlets to neighbouring landowners and persons living close to the proposed development;
- **STEP 3**: Erecting site notices on the terrain of the proposed site and at public places in the local community;
- **STEP 4**: Register I&APs and key stakeholders (ongoing);
- **STEP 5**: Consultation with, and sharing of information with I&APs through consultations, a public meeting, focus group meetings and key stakeholder workshops;
- **STEP 6**: Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft and final Scoping and EIA reports;
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE**

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW-GENERATION CORRECTIONAL CENTRE (PRISON) AT THE ALLANDALE PRISON, PAARL, WESTERN CAPE**

**DEA REF. NO: 12/12/20/2190**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM**

**APRIL 2011**

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**PARTICULARS OF THE INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY**

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**PLEASE STATE YOUR INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT**

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**PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS HERE**

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**NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PAGES:**

**WILL YOU ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING?**

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**Please return completed form to:**

**Ms. Marizanne Vos**

**Boland Environmental Consultants**

**PO Box 250, Worcester, 6849**

**Tel: 023 347 0336**

**Fax: 023 347 5336**

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