



## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)** **Atmospheric Emissions Licence Renewal and Variation**

### ***Rheebok Bricks***

**May 2026**

#### **Introduction & Background**

**Rheebok Brick Holdings (Pty) Ltd** trading as Rheebok Bricks have submitted an application for the renewal of their existing atmospheric emissions licence to the licensing authority, Garden District Municipality. In addition to the renewal, the applicant has also requested for the variation of their licence in terms of Section 47(d) of the NEM:AQA. This variation will allow for the capturing of the process changes associated with the new proposed Rotary Kiln. The licensing authority has requested an Air Quality Impact Assessment in terms of section 46(4)(d) of the Act. This Air Quality Impact Assessment has been prepared by an external specialist Lethabo Air Quality Specialists and is appended to this Background Information Document.

The purpose of this public participation process is to allow potential registered and Affected parties an opportunity to review and provide comment on the Air Quality Impact Assessment and the proposed variation of the licence.



**Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac)** have been appointed, as independent environmental assessment practitioners (EAP), to facilitate the legally required public participation process.

#### **What is the purpose of this document?**

The main purpose of this **Background Information Document (BID)** is to:

- Provide potential “Interested and Affected Parties” (I&APs) with information regarding the existing facility;
- Provide potential I&AP’s with information regarding the proposed changes to the facility
- Describe the process being undertaken;
- Provide I&APs with the opportunity to raise issues or concerns regarding the variation of this licence;
- Provide information on the way-forward for the remainder of the process.

#### **Description of the site & surrounding environment**

The site falls within the **Mossel Bay** municipal area of the Western Cape Province of South Africa.

The site is situated North West of Grootbrak along Sorgfontein Road.

The surrounding land use consists of

- Agriculture (both intensive and extensive agricultural practices adjacent to study site);
- Small Holdings;
- Natural Areas
- Medium Density Residential Areas to the North and East.

A location map showing the facility as well as the surrounding land-use is attached.

### **What is being proposed?**

The has applied to renew their existing atmospheric emissions licence. The maximum allowable emission limits will remain unchanged.

### **Brick Manufacturing Process**

The process entails the manufacture of clay bricks using a rotary kiln. In addition to the renewal, the applicant has also requested for the variation of their licence in terms of Section 47(d) of the NEM:AQA. This variation will allow for the capturing of the process changes associated with the new proposed Rotary Kiln. The Rotary Kiln, similarly to the Existing Habla Kilns is a continuous manufacture process (i.e. 24h / day)

This brick manufacturing process entails:

- Mining of aggregate (clay)
- Crushing & screening of aggregate
- Blending and mixing of aggregate
- Shaping of "green" bricks (extrusion)

The green bricks are then packed mechanically in a circular basis which is under cover.

A kiln that provides the energy for vitrification moves over the circular packed bricks thus drying, firing and cooling bricks in a single operation.

Fired, or "red" bricks are removed mechanically from the kiln area after completion of the process.

The whole process is carried out under roof, thus preventing negative impacts on the process due to inclement weather.

Flue gases generated in the process are extracted continuously by fans and vented to atmosphere via a dedicated wet scrubber to remove particulate matter and gaseous pollutants. Effluent from the scrubber is collected in a multi-stage pit where it is clarified and recycled to the blending and mixing stage of the process. The image below shows the approximate location of the proposed Rotary Kiln in relation to the existing brick manufacture facility.



Please also see the attached Air Quality Impact Assessment.

The annual emissions discussed and modelled in the Air Quality Impact Assessment were based on the official emission limits for ceramic processes, as stipulated by GN R.533. It is accepted that this approach is essential in air quality management applications as authorities need to be aware of the potential impact of emissions at maximum allowable emission limits.

In reality, measured emissions from similar installations show that actual emissions from rotating brick kilns are low and, in Rheebock Bricks case, lower than from the existing zigzag kilns.

The resulting lower mass emission rates and substantially higher stack implies that the estimated ground-level concentrations will be substantially lower than is currently experienced in the area surrounding Rheebock's operations. The Air Quality Specialist is, therefore, of the opinion that the

new process will not result in any serious threat to air quality in the area surrounding Rheebook Bricks site.

**What legislation applies?**

This application process is undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004)

In terms of the above Act, the following listed activities are applicable:

**Subcategory 5.9: Ceramic Production**

Description	The production of tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, stoneware or porcelain ware by firing, excluding clamp kilns		
Application	All installations producing 100 ton per annum or more		
Substance or mixture of substances		Plant status	mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> under normal conditions of 273 Kelvin and 101.3 kPa
Particulate matter	N/A	New	50
Sulphur dioxide	SO <sub>2</sub>	New	400
Total fluorides measured as HF	F as HF	New	50

This activity is relevant to all facilities where bricks are fired using methods other than clamp kilns.

**Why and how should I get involved?**

In the event that you have an **interest** in the project, or feel that you **may be affected** by the issuing of this licence, you are invited to provide comment / objection to the issuing of this licence.

All comments must be submitted in Cape EAPrac in writing by email or post by no later than **08 June 2026**.

**What does the remainder of the process entail?**

Cape EAPrac will formally respond to all comments received during the comment period. Where necessary, specialist input will be sought to inform responses.

On completion of the public participation process, Cape EAPrac will submit a comment and response report for submission to Garden Route District Municipality.

Based on all available information, Garden Route District Municipality will take a decision on whether or not to vary the licence.

If Garden Route District Municipality do decide to grant the licence, this decision will be communicated to all parties that provided comment or objection during this public participation process.

The varied licence if issued will contain conditions for emissions monitoring to ensure that the minimum emissions standards are complied with. Any necessary improvements required to address air quality issues will also form part of the licence conditions.

**ONLY THOSE PARTIES THAT FORMALLY REGISTER WITH CAPE EAPrac or SUBMIT COMMENT / OBJECTION WILL BE KEPT INFORMED (RECEIVE PROJECT RELATED INFORMATION) THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PROCESS.**

***Please make sure to send any comments /  
objections, in writing, to:***

*Cape EAPrac*

**ATT: Dale Holder**

PO Box 2070, George, 6530

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**Website:** [www.cape-eaprac.co.za](http://www.cape-eaprac.co.za)

Comments / Objections must reach this office no later  
than:

**08 June 2026**

