



REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/2/4/2/2/B1/15/0028/19

ENQUIRIES: Shafeeq Mallick

The Owner
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REGISTERED MAIL

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Attention: Mr HJ Uys

Dear Sir

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24G OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA"): UNLAWFUL COMMENCEMENT OF A LISTED ACTIVITY: UNLAWFUL CLEARANCE OF VEGETATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WOODEN DWELLING ON PORTION 3 OF INHOEK FARM 493, SWELLENDAM

With reference to your application dated 03 December 2019 in terms of section 24G of the NEMA for the consequences of unlawful commencement of listed activities identified in terms of the NEMA, find below the decision in respect of your application.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

A. DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred by section 24G of the NEMA and the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014* ("EIA Regulations, 2014") (as amended), the competent authority herewith **grants environmental authorisation** to the applicant to continue with the listed activities specified in Section C below in accordance with Alternative 1 as described in the application and environmental assessment dated 03 December 2019.

(e) buildings of 50 square metres or more; or (f) infrastructure with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more."	
<p>Government Notice No. 985 of 4 December 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 12</p> <p>Activity Description: "The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>Western Cape</p> <p>i. All areas outside urban areas, mining areas or industrial complexes."</p>	<p>Clearance of 850m² vegetation in a critically endangered ecosystem, in a critical biodiversity area and within 100m of the high-water mark of an estuary (in 2016). Clearance of an additional 90m² vegetation in 2017.</p>

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "the listed activities".

D. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities commenced on Portion 3, Inhoek Farm 493, Swellendam.

The SG digit code is: C07300000000049300003

The co-ordinates for the property boundary are:

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	34° 18' 26.62" South	20° 37' 13.22" East
2	34° 17' 38.35" South	20° 38' 21.92" East
3	34° 17' 58.95" South	20° 38' 45.95" East
3	34° 18' 59.64" South	20° 37' 43.08" East
3	34° 19' 5.03" South	20° 37' 17.73" East
6	34° 18' 50.55" South	20° 37' 22.73" East

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Plan and Annexure 2: Site Plan.
Herein-after referred to as "the site".

E. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

PBPS T/A Environmental and Water Consultants
c/o Mr Pieter Badenhorst & Ms Bianca Hagen
P.O. Box 1058
WELLINGTON
7654

Cell: (072) 089 5750
Email: bianca@pbps.co.za

F. DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITY/IES UNDERTAKEN

The development entails the unlawful clearance of vegetation and the construction of a wooden dwelling on Portion 3 of Inhoek Farm 493, Swellendam.

The development took place on the owner's farm which is surrounded by agricultural landscapes. Prior to its development, an old caravan was parked at the site that was used by the workers of the farm. The development site, inclusive of the low-land areas east of the site, were utilized for grazing for many years. Cattle used the specific site to access the river for drinking purposes and to sleep and rest in the shade of trees within this area. As a result, the site and access towards the river were heavily impacted by trampling and grazing. The owner built a wooden cottage on this portion of his farm, which also serves to prevent further degradation as cattle are no longer graze in this area.

A cottage of 100m² was built in 2016 and is located on the eastern bank of the Breede River, 34.8m away from the high-water mark of the estuary and on average 5m above sea level. In terms of services needed at the cottage, a conservancy tank was installed for sewage which is pumped as required; water is supplied by a 5000L rainwater tank, and Eskom electricity is used as power supply. Access to the cottage is via an existing road.

G. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

The following are conditions of authorisation that are set and must be implemented for this Environmental Authorisation.

PART I

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity/ies specified in Section C above in accordance with and restricted to Alternative 1 described in the application and assessment report dated 03 December 2019 on the site as described in Section D above.
2. The Environmental Authorisation is valid for a period of **five years** from the date of the decision.
3. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
4. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in Section F above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the competent authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the competent authority may request information to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

PART II

Written notice to the competent authority

5. Seven (7) calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before continuation of activities.
 - 5.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and 24G Reference number given above.

5.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following condition:
Condition 6

PART III

Notification and administration of an appeal

6. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 6.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 6.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 6.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the *National Appeals Regulations, 2014* detailed in Section I below.
 - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision.
 - 6.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder;
 - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder;
 - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and
 - 6.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the *National Appeal Regulations, 2014*.
7. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not continue with commencement within 34 (thirty-four) calendar days from the date of issue of this Environmental

Authorisation. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided.

PART IV

Management of the activity/development

8. The draft Construction and Operational Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") of November 2019 compiled by PBPS T/A Environmental and Water Consultants and submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
9. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

PART V

Monitoring

10. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer ("ECO") before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
11. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request.
12. Access to the site referred to in Section D must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the competent authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

PART VI

Auditing

13. In terms of regulation 34 of the *EIA Regulations, 2014* the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the competent authority upon receiving such request in writing from the competent

authority. The Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must consider all the information required in Appendix 7 of the *EIA Regulations, 2014*.

PART VII

Activity/ Development Specific Conditions

14. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or paleontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artefacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

15. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.
16. The conservancy tank must be moved to a previously disturbed area outside of the 32m buffer of the small drainage line north of the site.

H. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition or term of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

3. If the holder does not continue, conduct or undertake listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 2 of Section G, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity or activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment must be made on condition that the environmental authorisation is valid on the date of receipt of such amendment application.

Note that:

(1) In terms of regulation 28(1A) of the *EIA Regulations, 2014* the competent authority shall not accept or process an application for amendment of an environmental authorisation if such environmental authorisation is not valid on the day of receipt of such amendment application, but may consider an application for environmental authorisation for the same development.

(2) In terms of regulation 28(1B) of the *EIA Regulations, 2014* an environmental authorisation which is the subject of an amendment application remains valid pending the finalisation of the amendment application.

(3) It is an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(a) of the NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity if the competent authority has not granted an environmental authorisation for the undertaking of the activity.

4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the competent authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the *EIA Regulations, 2014* must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the competent authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:

Amendments to the EMPr, must be done in accordance with regulations 35 to 37 of the *EIA Regulations, 2014* or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

I. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the *National Appeal Regulations, 2014*.

1. An appellant (if the holder) must –

1.1 submit an appeal in accordance with regulation 4 *National Appeal Regulations, 2014* to the Appeal Administrator and a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision maker within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder was notified by the competent authority of this decision.

2. An appellant (if NOT the holder) must –

2.1 submit an appeal in accordance with regulation 4 *National Appeal Regulations, 2014* to the Appeal Administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the holder, any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision maker within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder notified the registered I&APs of this decision.

3. The holder (if not the appellant), the decision-maker, I&APs and Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the Appeal Authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.

4. This appeal and responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Attention: Marius Venter
Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs &
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186, Cape Town, 8000; or

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021-483 3721)
Room 809, 8th floor Utilitas Building
1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8000; or

By e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za

Note: You are also requested to submit an electronic copy (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal and any supporting documents to the Appeal Administrator to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form, as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the office of the appeal authority/ at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

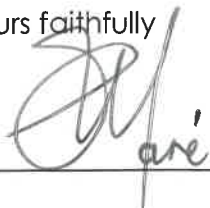
J. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS

Non-compliance with a condition or term of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may result in suspension or withdrawal of this Environmental Authorisation and may render the holder liable for criminal prosecution.

K. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Municipality, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Yours faithfully

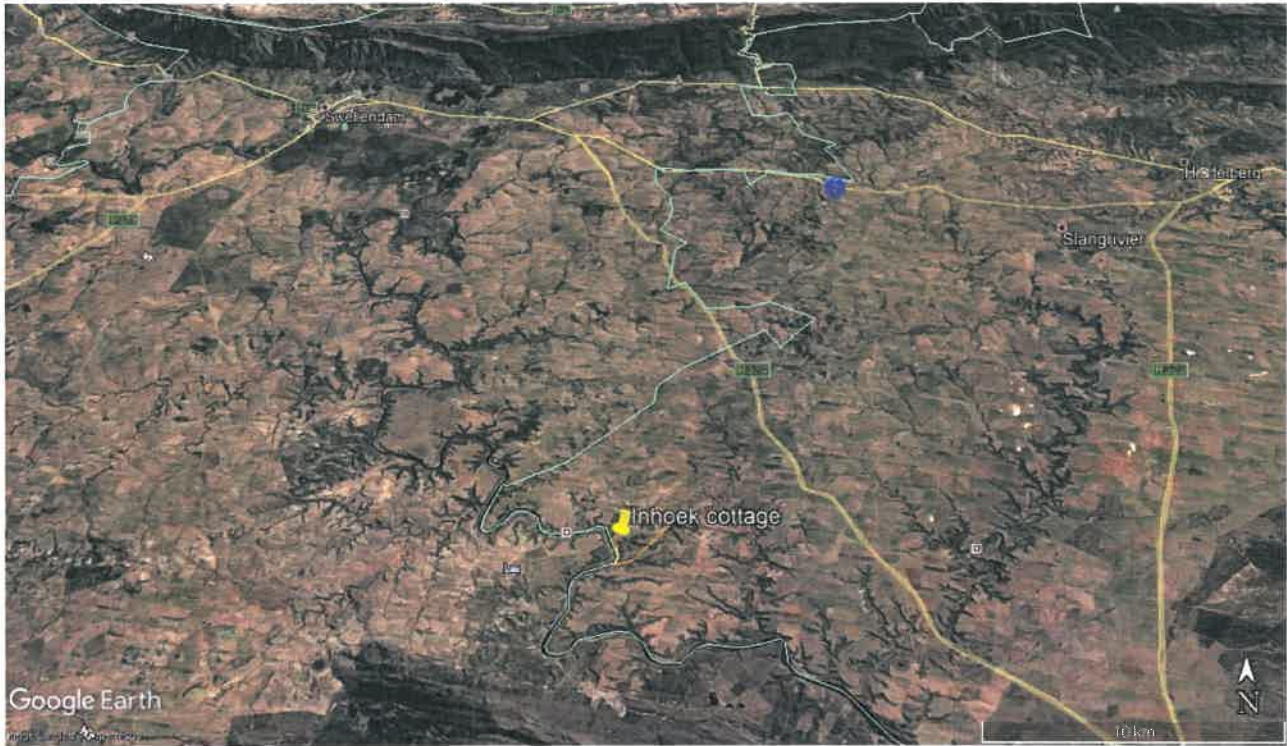


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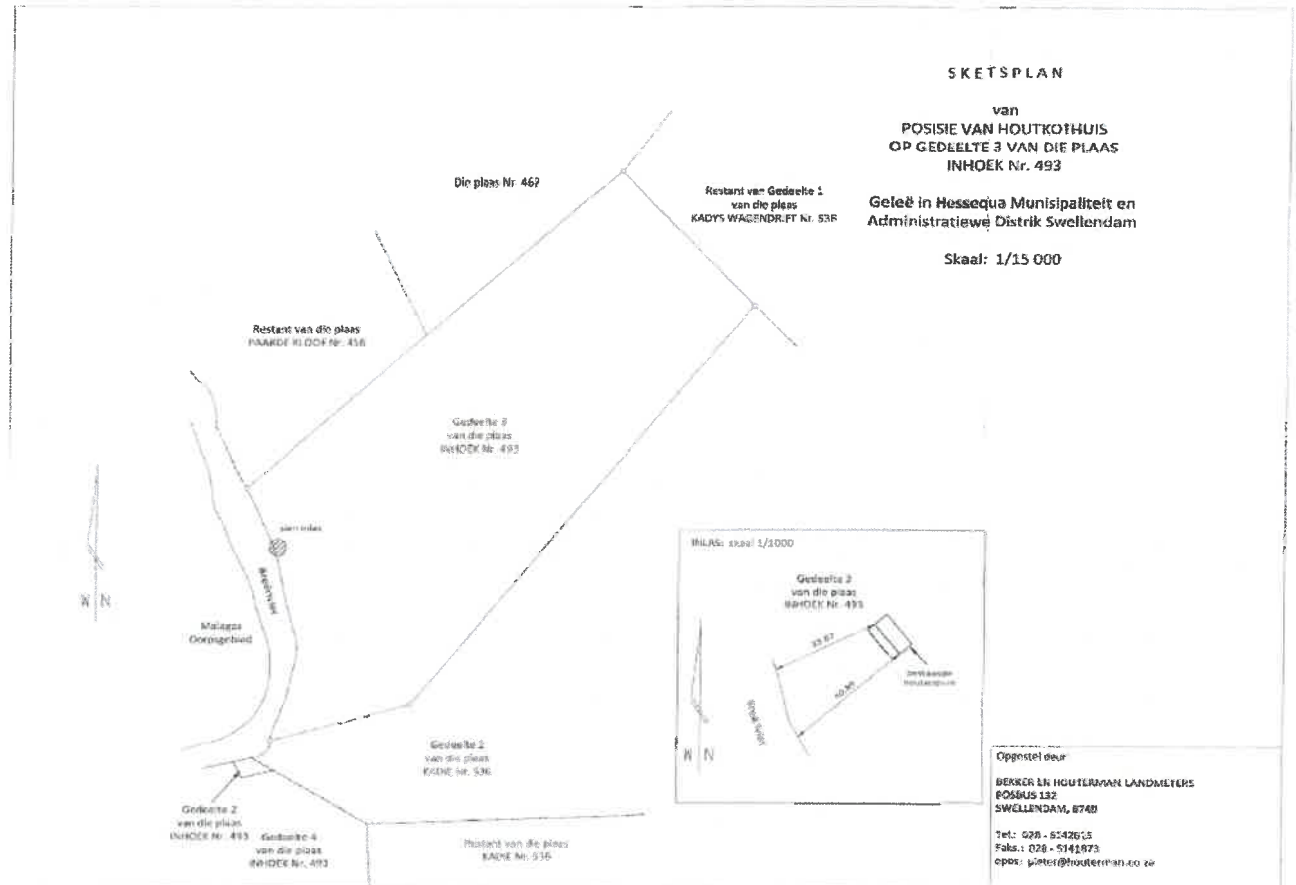
DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

DATE OF DECISION: 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

S24G REFERENCE:

14/2/4/2/2/B1/15/0028/19

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This Environmental Authorisation is in respect of the consequences of commencement of the afore-mentioned illegal activities. An Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") was appointed to submit a section 24G Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") to the Department to obtain this Environmental Authorisation. The EIA was considered adequate for informed decision-making. In addition, the holder paid an administrative fine of R10 000 (Ten thousand Rand) to meet the requirements of section 24G of the *National Environmental Management Act, 1998* ("NEMA").

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, *inter alia*, considered the following:

- a) The information contained in the application form dated 03 December 2019 and the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") of November 2019 submitted together with the application.
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including, the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives.
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the NEMA.
- d) The comments received from Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") and the responses provided thereto.
- e) The sense of balance of the negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.
- f) The site visit conducted on 30 January 2020 attended by officials of this Department.

All information presented to the competent authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for environmental authorisation. A summary of the issues which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation Process

In terms of section 24G(1)(vii)(dd) of the NEMA, "...a description of the public participation process followed during the course of compiling the report, including all comments received from interested and affected parties and an indication of how the issues raised have been addressed ...", is required.

The public participation process conducted by the EAP comprised of the following:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs.
- fixing a notice board at the site where the listed activities unlawfully commenced.
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities were undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 20 September 2019.
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the **Langeberg Bulletin** on 23 May 2019.

Consultation with organs of state in terms of section 24O of the NEMA

The following organs of state provided comment on the application:

- This Department's Waste Management (WM), Air Quality Management (AQM) & Pollution and Chemicals Management (PCM) directorates;
- Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA); and
- Heritage Western Cape (HWC)

The WM directorate indicated that the waste management on the site has been addressed in the application. The activity generated a small amount of waste during the construction and operation phase and was taken to the municipal dump site by the developer. The 24G application indicated that the municipality confirmed that enough capacity exists for treating or disposing waste to be generated by the activity; however, a written confirmation from the relevant authority must be provided.

This was included in the final report.

The applicant must ensure that the conservancy tank contents must be emptied regularly when the wastewater occupy 2/3 of the tank's capacity and the resultant

content be disposed at an approved facility. The applicant must ensure that the integrity of the conservancy tank and related infrastructure is routinely monitored.

The AQM directorate noted that the applicant has unlawfully erected a wooden cottage on the above-mentioned farm. The AQM commented that no current air quality impacts are likely.

The PCM recommended the re-location of the conservancy tank to an area outside of the 32m buffer of the small drainage line; to the north of the site.

BGCMA has no objections to the proposed rectification of unlawful vegetation clearance for the construction of the dwelling. It is noted that the source of water for the cottage is rainwater which is collected through a rainwater tank system and sewage management is managed by a conservancy tank. All general guides and regulations must be followed.

HWC indicated that, since there is no reason to believe that the proposed residential development on Farm Inhoek 493, Swellendam, will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the *National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)* is required.

However, should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and paleontological material be discovered during the execution of the activities above, all works must be stopped immediately, and Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay.

This letter of comment does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining any necessary approval from any other applicable statutory authority.

2. Alternatives

2.1 Location and Site Alternatives

Alternative 1 (Preferred - Herewith authorized)

Alternative one entails building of a cottage in an existing degraded area on Portion 3, Inhoek Farm 493. Developments on site include a conservancy tank for solid waste, existing power supply from Eskom, and a rainwater tank for water supply to the cottage. The cottage was built at this location to minimize the impact caused by the cattle and to prevent any further environmental degradation.

This is the preferred site alternative for the following reasons:

- The property is owned by the applicant;
- The farm has been in use prior to 1998; and
- The cottage was built in an existing degraded area to limit and prevent further degradation of the surrounding environment. Situating the cottage on another area will lead to further degradation of the area which is considered a Critical Biodiversity Area.

Alternative 2

Building of a cottage in a pristine area on Inhoek Farm 493, portion 3.

This alternative is not preferred for the following reasons:

- The area is pristine which will lead to further degradation of vegetation in a Critical Biodiversity Area; and
- Moving the cottage will result in the further loss of critically endangered vegetation.

It is therefore clear that Preferred Alternative P1 is the only preferred and reasonable alternative. No other site alternatives will thus be considered.

2.1 Activity, Design and Layout Alternatives

Alternative 1 (Herewith authorized)

Alternative 1 describes the existing site conditions, with the unlawful construction of the wooden cottage. Developments on site, include a conservancy tank for solid waste, existing power supply from Eskom, and a rainwater tank for water supply to the cottage.

This is the preferred alternative for the following reasons:

- The cottage is situated on a property that has been extensively farmed since 1998 and the area is therefore degraded and transformed,
- The location of the development will result in the minimal impact as little to no additional municipality service is required,
- The material used to build the cottage is wood and was built on stilts to limit the impact on the receiving environment.

- The conservancy tank also reduces the need for the installation of sewage pipelines and a sewage pump station, which could lead to further environmental disturbance and possibly degradation. Upon recommendation from the Botanical Specialist, the conservancy tank will be moved outside of the 32m buffer from the river;
- An Eskom line is also near the development site, thereby making it easy to connect to existing supply and reducing the need for additional natural areas to be cleared for the installation of the solar PV system;
- This alternative also has a rainwater tank installed, which reduces the dependency on municipal supply and prevents the use of the water from the river/ estuary;
- As per specialist input, it was reported that *"The cottage was developed 32 m away from th[e] drainage line,"* and *"Areas within the immediate vicinity of the cottage predominantly consist of thicket vegetation. The cottage is located outside the riverine areas and does not constitute wetland vegetation"*, and
- *"Subsequent to the construction of the cottage the development area and surroundings have not been utilised by cattle. Since 2016 natural vegetation re-established significantly within cleared areas. By comparing 2015 and 2018 satellite imagery, it is evident that there was a significant improvement in habitat condition within the surrounding areas that were previously disturbed and impacted by trampling and grazing by cattle. A significant portion of the 2016 cleared areas recovered back to natural vegetation with only a limited area that remains open and disturbed. The remaining extent of the cleared area is estimated to be ± 250 m² from the 2018 Google Earth Image and will even be less if 2019 satellite imagery were available."* Therefore, as the wooden cottage (100 m²) is smaller than Alternative 2 (300 m²), the botanical impact is much smaller, which allows for a larger area where the vegetation can naturally re-establish.

Alternative 2

This alternative consists of the development of a cottage made of bricks with a development footprint of 300 m². A conservancy tank and rainwater tank will also be installed but will include the installation of a solar panel instead of Eskom electricity supply.

This alternative is not preferred for the following reasons:

- The material used to build the cottage is brick, which has a larger carbon footprint than wood, thereby having a larger environmental impact;
- The building of a brick house will require a solid concrete foundation which also requires the area to be excavated for the proper installation of the concrete foundation;
- The impact on the critically endangered vegetation would be much higher for this alternative;
- This alternative could have a larger impact on the indigenous vegetation as it is not located in an area that was previously degraded; and
- The installation of a solar PV system is not preferred as the solar panels are a financially costly alternative and would potentially require additional natural vegetation to be cleared for its installation.

2.2 The option of not implementing or continuing with the activity ("No-Go" Alternative)

This alternative would entail not building the cottage and/or demolishing the cottage and rehabilitating the site.

This alternative has been considered but is not a viable option for the following reasons:

- The area was previously degraded due to the grazing of cattle. According to the botanical specialist, some of the cleared and degraded vegetation has already begun re-establishing. If the cottage is to be demolished, it could negatively impact this vegetation.
- The applicant will have additional costs in rehabilitating the estuary and preventing its degradation;
- No job security for existing workers and future workers; and
- The rehabilitation of the site may not be successful.

Based on the above this alternative is not deemed preferred.

3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Mitigation Measures

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, considered the following in respect of the EIA and mitigation measures:

3.1. Activity Need and Desirability

The activity has not given rise to any negative socio-economic impacts but has however led to positive impacts. This include creating temporary job opportunities during construction activities as well as permanent job opportunities during the operational phase.

3.2. Biodiversity Impacts

The most significant constraints associated with the development relates to the location of the cottage within an aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA), a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) floodplain wetland area and within a critically endangered ecosystem. It is, however, of the specialist's opinion that the development of the cottage did not result in significant loss of biodiversity.

- The wooden cottage was built on stilts to limit the physical impact on the environment.
- The cottage was built outside of riverine areas (greater than 32m away from the high-water mark of the Breede River and greater than 32m away from the drainage line north of the site).
- The cottage is for personal use by the landowner.
- The cottage was built within a previously disturbed site.
- The development resulted in the direct loss of about 940m² of natural vegetation within a critically endangered ecosystem. This habitat loss was however short term.
- A significant portion of the cleared areas recovered back to natural habitat which comprises the same elements as the immediately surrounding areas. The remaining extent of the cleared areas is currently < 300m².
- It is likely that the cleared areas will convert completely back into natural habitat if natural vegetation can re-establish within the areas surrounding the cottage.
- Due to its location (outside riverine areas), limited extent and purpose of personal use, it is unlikely that the cottage will impact on the functioning of the Breede River Estuary and ecological processes associated with the area.

3.3. Visual / Sense of Place

The cottage was designed to be in line with the sense of place. Due to the agricultural activities taking place since 1998, it is highly unlikely that any heritage resources would've been affected.

3.4. Pollution Impacts

The activity has not given rise to pollution. The cottage was designed as a wooden cottage on stilts, to minimize the carbon footprint and have as little an impact possible on the surroundings.

4. **NEMA Principles**

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA), which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the competent authority is satisfied that the listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the NEMA and

that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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