



EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1022/20
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000753/2020
DATE OF ISSUE: 15 OCTOBER 2020

The Chief Director
Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 80
WORCESTER
6849

Attention: Mr. C. Meintjies

Tel.: (021) 808 7803
Email: ChrisM@elsenburg.com

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED ROAD DIVERSION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ACCESS TRACK AT HOLSLOOT RIVER, RAWSONVILLE

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Ms. N. Ritsch (Lukhozi Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Breede Valley Municipality)
(3) Ms. E. Rossouw (BGCMA)
(4) Ms. P. Huntly (CapeNature)

Email: n.ritsch@lukhozi.co.za
Email: jsteyn@bvm.gov.za
Email: erosouw@bgcma.co.za
Email: phuntly@capenature.co.za



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With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B below with respect to Alternative 1, described in the Bais Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated August 2020.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in Section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Department of Agriculture
% Mr. C. Meintjies
P.O. Box 80
WORCESTER
6849

Tel.: (021) 808 7803
Email: ChrisM@elsenburg.com

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "**the holder**".

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed activities	Activity/Project Description
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014: Activity Number 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.	The proposed diverted road of 400m will be located within an area containing indigenous vegetation and will be more than 4m in width.

<p>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning; ii. Areas outside urban areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation; (bb) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined; or iii. Inside urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas zoned for conservation use; or (bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority. 	
<p>Activity Number 12: 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>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas; iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an 	<p>More than 300m² of endangered indigenous vegetation will be cleared in order to construct the new access track.</p>

<p>Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.</p>	
<p>Activity Number 14: The development of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; <p>where such development occurs—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outside urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (cc) World Heritage Sites; (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ee) Sites or areas listed in terms of an international convention; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves; or (hh) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an 	<p>Both the diverted section of the Stettyns road and the new access track are located within 32m of the Holsloot River, exceeds 10m² and are within the Hawequas Mountain Catchment Area ("MCA"), which is a protected area in terms of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) ("NEMPAA").</p>

estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined.	
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The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "**the listed activities**".

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative:

The proposal entails the following:

- A road diversion: A 400m section of the existing Stettyn gravel road will be reconstructed to allow for the road to go past the new weir and diversion structure's right bank flank (the Environmental Authorisation for the weir was approved on 29 May 2017). This section of the road will be constructed 2m higher than the existing road in order for the construction of the weir to be completed. The existing section of road will be submerged in water as a result of the rising water levels associated with the construction of the weir. The road diversion will have a development footprint of approximately 6 600m².
- A new access track: A short, 3m wide access track will be constructed from the weir's inlet structure, which will tie in with the existing farm tracks on the left bank. The new access will be approximately 80m in length and is required for maintenance purposes. The new access track will have a development footprint of approximately 300m².

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on the Remainder of Farm Dwars Berg No. 794, at the following co-ordinates:

Road diversion:

Start point

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 45' 51.10"	19° 19' 52.20"

Middle point

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 45' 59.46"	19° 19' 53.05"

End point

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 46' 07.88"	19° 19' 53.56"

The SG digit code is: C0850000000079400000

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Development Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Lukhozi Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd
% Ms. N. Ritsch
P. O. Box 23725
CLAREMONT
7735

Cell: (084) 623 1554
Email: n.ritsch@lukhozi.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with, and restricted to, Alternative 1 in the BAR dated August 2020 at the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on site within a period of **five (5) years** from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be concluded within **5 years** from the date of commencement of the first listed activity.
4. 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.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in Section B 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, in order 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.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities. The notice must:
 - 6.1 make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above; and
 - 6.2 include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8 and 12

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–

- 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 7.2 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 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
 - 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
 - 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder;
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder;
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and
 - 7.4.6 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 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).
8. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notifies the registered I&APs of this decision. 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 i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), before commencement of any construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
12. The ECO must conduct fortnightly compliance monitoring inspections during the construction phase. Monthly Environmental Compliance Reports must be compiled and submitted to the Competent Authority for the duration of the construction phase. The final Environmental Compliance Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within six months after construction has been complete.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities.

14. Access to the site referred to in Section C 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.

Auditing

15. The holder must ensure that environmental auditing is undertaken in accordance with Regulation 34 in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr. The Environmental Audit Reports must be submitted to the Competent Authority for the construction phase within 3 months of completion of construction. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within six months after operation commenced.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of an environmental audit report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report immediately available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (where the holder has such a website).

Specific Conditions

16. 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.

17. 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.

F. 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 of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

3. If the holder does not commence with the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, 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 in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
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 (as amended) 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 (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2. submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organs of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organs 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. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority 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 Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 2659, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, 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.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

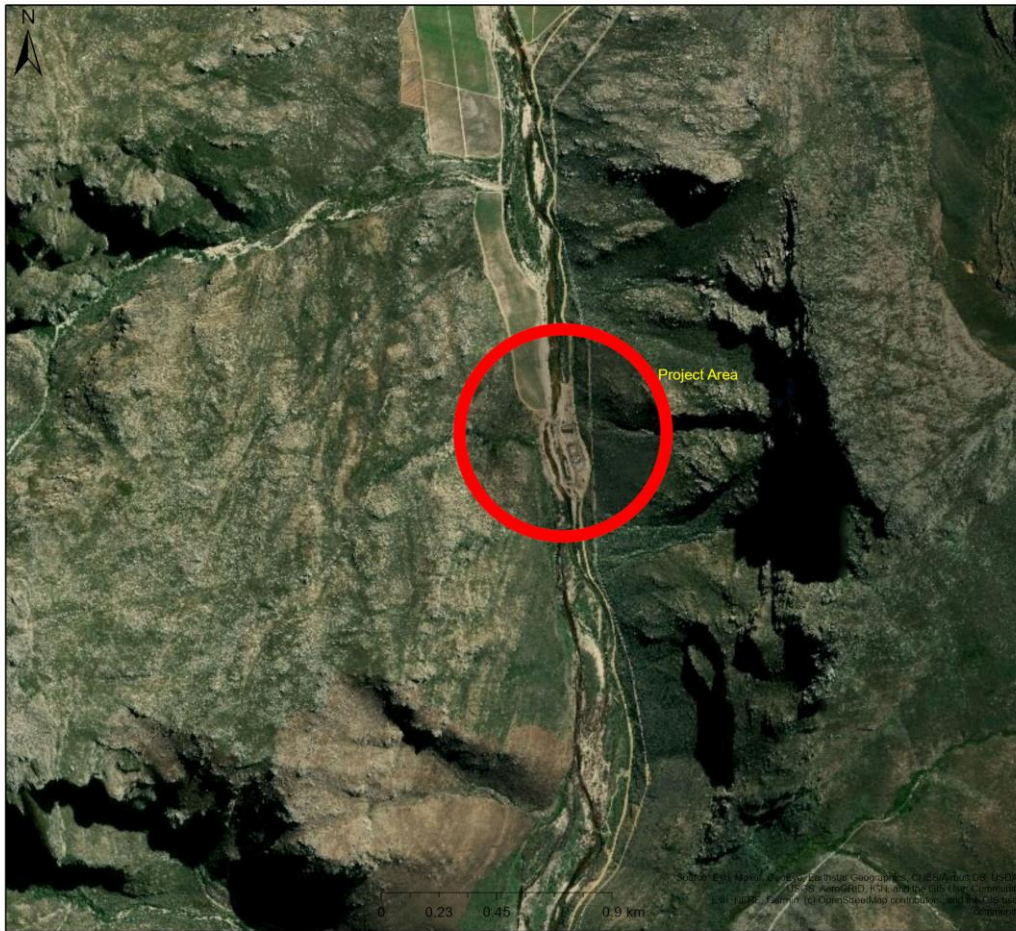
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE OF DECISION: 15 OCTOBER 2020

CC: (1) Ms. N. Ritsch (Lukhozi Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Breede Valley Municipality)
(3) Ms. E. Rossouw (BGCMA)
(4) Ms. P. Huntly (CapeNature)

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Email: erossouw@bgcma.co.za
Email: phuntly@capenature.co.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



**Holsloot Road
Diversion locality**
Legend

Scale: 1:18 056
Date created: September 30, 2020

Compiled with CapeFarmMapper



**Western Cape
Government**
Agriculture

Figure 1: Location of the proposed development.

ANNEXURE 2: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

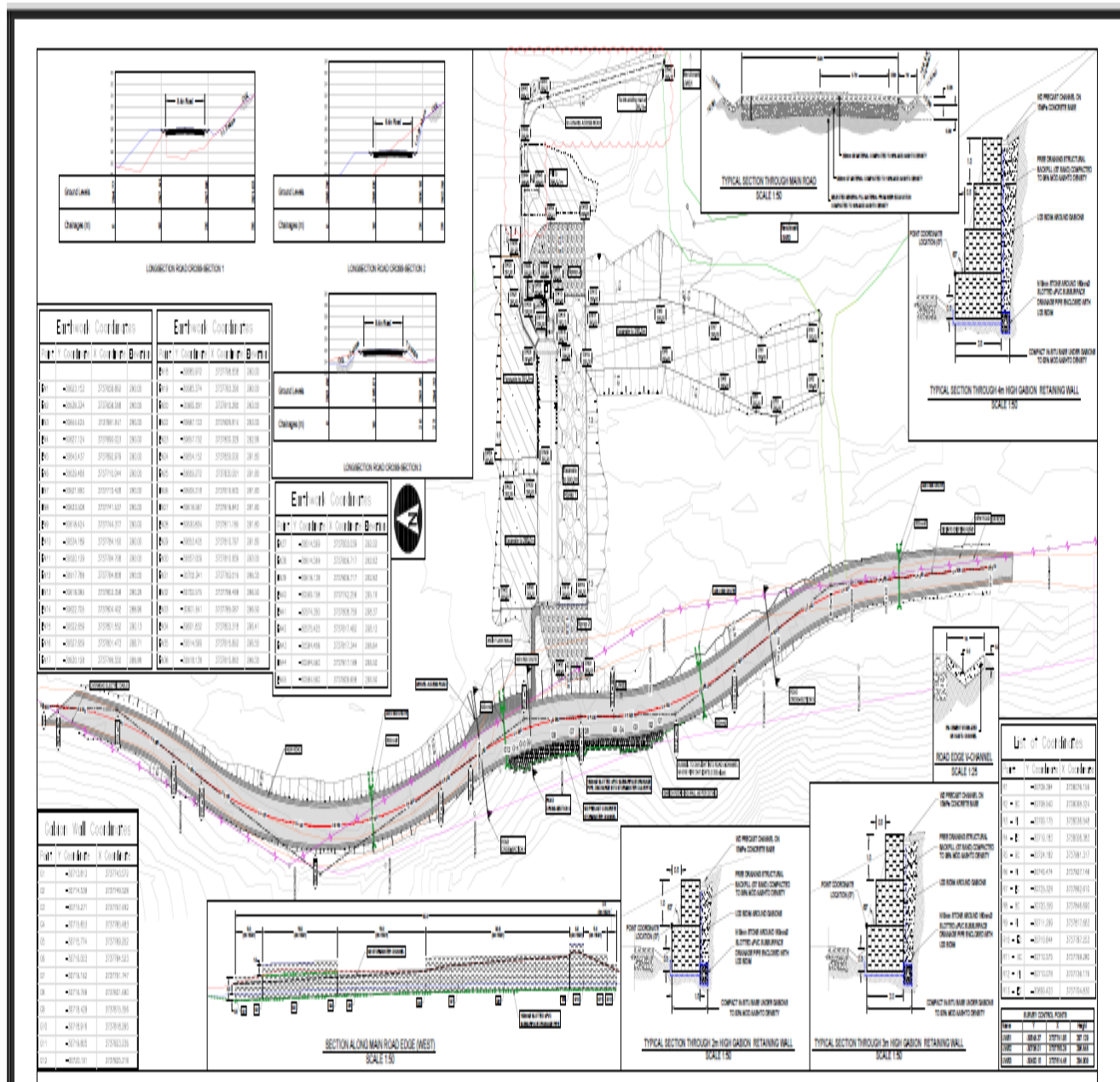


Figure 2: Road diversion.

ANNEXURE 2: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, amongst others, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 6 June 2020, the final BAR dated August 2020 and the EMPr submitted together with the final BAR;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of NEMA;
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated August 2020; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

The Competent Authority visited the site on the 14th October 2020.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account during the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Worcester Standard' on 1 November 2019;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities, on 21 November 2019 and 9 July 2020;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken on 21 November 2019; and
- making the pre-application draft BAR available to I&APs for public review from 21 November 2019 and the in-process draft BAR from 9 July 2020.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and all the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

On 29 May 2017 an Environmental Authorisation (referenced 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1047/16) was obtained for the development of a weir, diversion works and pipeline within the Holsloot River. During the design phase of the weir, it was confirmed that the weir's flank wall will affect the layout of the existing gravel road between Stettynskloof dam and Louwshoek Voorsorg Road. Since the best option would be to divert the affected section and due to the road diversion and new access track being linked to an

existing EA, i.e. Holsloot weir and diversion structure (reference number 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1047/16), no alternatives have been investigated. Therefore, only the preferred alternative and the “no-go” alternative are discussed below.

Alternative 1 (Herewith Authorised):

This alternative entails the following:

- A road diversion: A 400m section of the existing Stettyn gravel road will be reconstructed to allow for the road to go past the new weir and diversion structure's right bank flank (the Environmental Authorisation for the weir was approved on 29 May 2017). This section of the road will be constructed 2m higher than the existing road in order for the construction of the weir to be completed. The existing section of road will be submerged in water as a result of the rising water levels associated with the construction of the weir. The road diversion will have a development footprint of approximately 6 600m².
- A new access track: A short 3m wide access track will be constructed from the inlet structure, which will tie in with the existing farm tracks on the left bank. The new access will be approximately 80m in length and is required for maintenance purposes. The new access track will have a development footprint of approximately 300m².

This alternative is preferred because it will divert the road to avoid rising water levels associated with the weir structure, thereby reducing the risk of flooding in this section of the road. The access track is required to provide direct access to the weir structure for maintenance purposes.

“No-Go” Alternative

The “no-go” option was considered and is not preferred because the weir would not be able to function effectively and the risk of flooding would be increased, which may prevent/disrupt access to the Stettynskloof Dam further upstream from the site.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

Currently, the Holsloot weir is being constructed (Environmental Authorisation granted on 29 May 2017; referenced 16/3/3/1/B2/21/1047/16) within the vicinity of the Stettyns access road. The Stettyns access road provides access to the Stettynskloof Dam, various farms, as well as residents residing at the Stettynskloof Dam. During the design of the approved weir it was found that the right flank wall of the weir will flood the area in the vicinity of the Stettyns access road and therefore the need to divert and raise the access road by 2m was identified. The raising of the access road will ensure that there will be continued access to Stettynskloof Dam and the various farms as it will not be affected by rising water levels caused by the weir and diversion structure. The proposed new access track will provide direct access to the weir for maintenance purposes.

3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

According to the Botanical Assessment dated 13 November 2019, compiled by Ms. J. Krige, the vegetation within the area comprises Hawequas Sandstone Fynbos and Breede Alluvium Fynbos, ecosystems listed as vulnerable and endangered (respectively) in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (“NEMBA”). The vegetation on site was classified locally and at a finer scale as Brandvlei Waboomveld along the foothills east of the Holsloot River and as Du Toitdskloof Sandstone Fynbos west of the Holsloot River. Breede Alluvium Fynbos occurs from the weir and further down-stream within alluvial areas along the Holsloot River. It is evident that the road diversion will impact on the Brandvlei Waboomveld and the new access track, most likely on the Breede Alluvium Fynbos.

There are wetlands, along the Holsloot River, which have been mapped as high importance in terms of the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area ("NFEPA"). Nevertheless, it should be noted that neither the road diversion nor the access track will be constructed within any wetlands. A small drainage line runs towards the road from the east. It appears that its lower portion is already modified by the Stettyns-Worcester pipeline and existing Stettyns road. The overall condition of the vegetation with the road diversion is in a good condition except for the first 80m section which is severely infested with alien black wattle. A significant portion of this new track footprint area is already transformed, most likely as a result of the current weir construction activities. It is highly unlikely that the development will have a significant impact on the functioning of the Hawequas Mountain Catchment Area, in which the development is located and/ or on other ecological processes in the area. In general, the development can be considered as low-impact. Additionally, through the implementation of the specialist recommendations and the EMPr (Accepted in Condition 9), the impacts on vegetation will be mitigated.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- The proposed development will have an impact on indigenous vegetation, however, adequate mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr to mitigate impacts associated with the development.

Positive impacts:

- The diverted section of the road will be able to provide uninterrupted access to Stettynskloof Dam and for the farmers residing in the area.
- The flood risk to the Stettyns road will be lowered.
- The new access track will provide direct access to the weir for future maintenance purposes.
- The weir will be able to function more efficiently.
- Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The NEMA 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.

5. Conclusion

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 proposed 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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