



**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 14/2/4/2/2/B3/28/0013/18

**ENQUIRIES:** Shafeeq Mallick

**REGISTERED MAIL**

The Directors  
Craigmore Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd  
P O Box 189  
KRAAIFONTEIN  
7569

Tel: 021 988 4055  
Fax: 021 988 7012  
Email: joanne@craigmore.co.za

**Attention: Ms Joanne Stofberg**

Dear Madam

**APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24G OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA"): UNLAWFUL EXPANSION OF INTENSIVE FEED FARMING UNITS ON CRAIGMORE POULTRY FARM, PORTION 5 OF FARM 729, PAARL**

With reference to your application dated 04 February 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 dated 04 February 2019.

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation is for the continuation, conducting or undertaking of the listed activities as described in Section C below and is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in Section G. This Environmental Authorisation shall only take effect from the date on which it has been issued.

The Environmental Authorisation does not exempt the holder thereof from compliance with any other applicable legislation.

## B. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Craigmore Poultry Farm Ltd

c/o Ms Joanne Stofberg/Jack Philip Johnson/Philip Alfred Johnson/Estelle Johnson

P O Box 189

**KRAAIFONTEIN**

7569

Tel: (021) 988 4055

Fax: (021) 988 7012

Email: joanne@craigmore.co.za

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

## C. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activities	Activity/Project Description
<p>Government Notice No. R544 of 18 June 2010 –</p> <p><b>Activity Number: 32</b></p> <p>Activity Description: <i>The expansion of facilities for the concentration of poultry, excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by:</i></p> <p><i>i) more than 1 000 poultry where the facility is situated within an urban area; or</i></p>	<p>The expansions included the construction of egg laying rooms labelled A and D; as well as the renovations/upgrades of egg laying rooms labelled B; C; G and M, which lead to an increase in the number of poultry per egg laying room.</p> <p>The construction of the egg laying rooms commenced incrementally in the following years:</p>

<p><i>ii) more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area.</i></p>	<p>Egg laying room B – 2011  Egg laying room C – 2010  Egg laying room G – 2017  Egg laying room M – 2007  Egg laying room A – 2013  Egg laying room D – 2014</p> <p>The capacity was increased from 40 000 to 211076 chickens.</p> <p>The applicant furthermore wishes to renovate and upgrade egg laying room H to a capacity of 40 000 poultry.</p>
<p><i>Government Notice No. R. 983 of 4 December 2014 (GN No. R.327 of 2014)</i>  <b>Activity Number: 40</b>  Activity Description: <i>The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of poultry, excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by –</i>  <i>(i) more than 1 000 poultry where the facility is situated within an urban area; or</i>  <i>(ii) more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area.</i></p>	<p>The expansions included the construction of egg laying rooms labelled A and D; as well as the renovation of previously authorised egg laying rooms labelled B; C; G and M, which lead to an increase in the number of poultry per egg laying room.</p> <p>The construction of the egg laying room commenced in the following years:</p> <p>Egg laying room B – 2011  Egg laying room C – 2010  Egg laying room G – 2017  Egg laying room M – 2007  Egg laying room A – 2013  Egg laying room D – 2014</p> <p>The capacity was increased from 40 000 to 211076 chickens.</p> <p>The applicant furthermore wishes to renovate and upgrade egg laying room H to a capacity of 40 000 poultry.</p>

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



#### D. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities commenced on Portion 5 of Farm 729, Paarl.

The SG digit codes are: C05500000000072900005

The co-ordinates for the property boundary are:

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	33° 50' 13.18" South	18° 45' 28.32" East
2	33° 50' 12.10" South	18° 45' 32.28" East
3	33° 50' 23.06" South	18° 45' 36.83" East
4	33° 50' 24.14" South	18° 45' 32.93" East

The co-ordinates for the site boundary are:

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	33° 50' 13.18" South	18° 45' 28.32" East
2	33° 50' 12.10" South	18° 45' 32.28" East
3	33° 50' 23.06" South	18° 45' 36.83" East
4	33° 50' 24.14" South	18° 45' 32.93" 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")

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants CC (GNEC)

c/o Ms Carina Nel

P.O. Box 2632

PAARL

7620

Tel: (021) 870 1874

Fax: (021) 870 1873  
Email: carina@gnec.co.za / gn@gnec.co.za

## F. DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITY/IES UNDERTAKEN

Craigmore Poultry Farm had initially constructed the first poultry houses back in 1947, prior to the need to any environmental authorisations. However, expansions to the existing egg laying rooms B, C, G, and M at the facility commenced since 2010 and were completed 2017 without prior environmental authorisation. The expansion included the construction of two new additional egg laying rooms, A and D, as well as the upgrading of the four existing egg laying rooms (increasing the egg laying capacity of each room). The applicant also intended to expand on egg laying room H to increase the capacity by 40 000 hens.

The facility upgrades of the existing egg laying rooms B, C, G, and M increased the total capacity from 40 000 to 138 564 poultry. The additional two new egg laying rooms, A and D, increased the total capacity to 211 076 poultry. Although the capacity of the chicken houses B, C, G, and M increased, the footprint remained unchanged. The pack station was enlarged by transforming a previous egg laying room and including the floor size area to the existing store room.

## 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 activities specified in Section C above in accordance with and restricted to Alternative 1 described in the application dated 04 February 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 expansion activities must be concluded within two years from the date of continuation of commencement.
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 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**

6. Seven (7) calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of continuation of expansion activities.

6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and 24G Reference number given above.

6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following condition  
7.

## **PART III**

### **Notification and administration of an 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* detailed in Section I below.
- 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision.
- 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 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*.
8. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not commence 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**

9. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") (including the waste, water use and electricity consumption minimization and management plan) dated 04 February 2018 ("EMPr") compiled by Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants and 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.

## **PART V**

### **Monitoring**

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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**

14. 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 annually and 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**

15. 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.

16. 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.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za) or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.



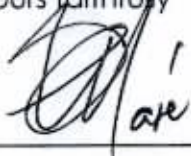
## J. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS

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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**ADV. CHARMAINE MARÉ**

**DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

DATE OF DECISION: 24 July 2019

Copied to:

CC: (1) Carina Nel (EAP)

Fax: (021) 870 1873

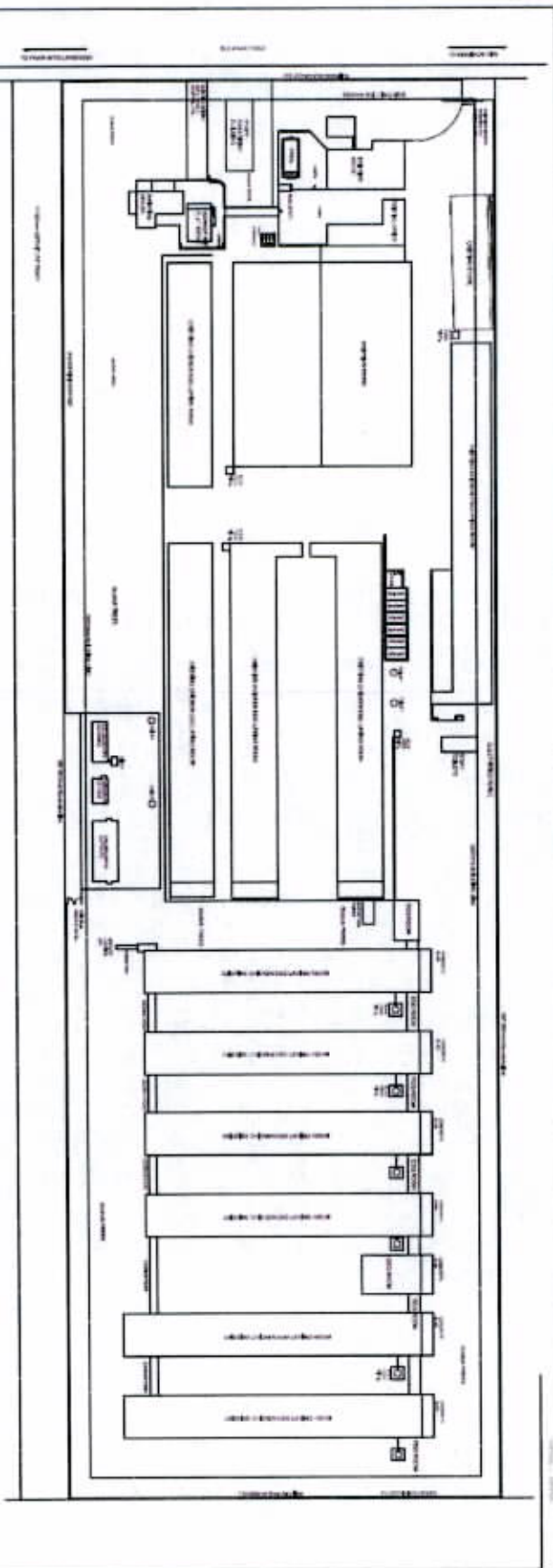
Email: [carina@gnec.co.za](mailto:carina@gnec.co.za)

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



**ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN**

**SITE LAYOUT**  
1:1,000



NOTES:

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.
2. THE SITE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.
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NO.	DATE	REVISIONS



**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

**S24G REFERENCE:**

**14/2/4/2/2/B3/28/0013/18**

**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 R25 000 (Twenty-five 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 final 24G application and assessment report dated 04 February 2019 and received by the competent authority on the same day, including the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") dated 04 February 2018 submitted for the 24G 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 13 November 2018  
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 07 November 2018.
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the **Tygerburger** on 06 June 2018 and 07 November 2018, respectively.

Ninette Tarlton, a concerned registered I&AP, highlighted the cruelty of battery hen farms and the concerns surrounding the chicken farming industry as a whole. It was suggested that the operation of a battery hen farm is in contravention of the *Animals Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962)*.

The EAP responded, noting that Craigmere Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd. ("the applicant") is a member of the South Africa Poultry Association (SAPA) and is compliant with the SAPA Code of Practice (COP). It was mentioned by SAPA that "*The COP is the industry standard and the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) are well aware of it and it is being used by NSPCA as the basis to draft the new SABS 1758 standards. COP is in the public domain and we have it on our website as well.*"

Vredesville Farm (Pty) Ltd highlighted various concerns with the operation of the poultry farm, namely:

- Craigmere Poultry Farm has reached its capacity of chickens per square meter and is not conducive to erect more egg laying rooms on such property.
- The visual impact of the farm is at such a state that your natural view has been obstructed by these buildings which causes loss of privacy.
- The recent outbreak of Listeriosis and Avian flu on Craigmere Poultry farm has placed our health at risk and caused my family to become ill more frequently.



- Due to the bad smell of the bi-hazardous material/ waste of this poultry farm causes severe respiratory health issues and allergies. It also attracts unwanted insects, causing health risks to my family.
- The broiler rooms run 24/7 with machinery and fans which results in a disturbance or loss of sleep.
- Currently the illegal buildings are too close proximity to the neighbouring farms and the property has already been overdeveloped.
- The illegal sale of chickens to the public causes unnecessary congestion on the roads and has a safety risk to neighbouring farmers, including ourselves.
- Craigmere Poultry farm is not an exclusive poultry farm it's also been used as a residential rental estate which is a health and safety risk as such individuals can attract diseases from the chickens.

The following response was provided by the EAP regarding the above concerns:

- Craigmere Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd. proposed to only restore egg laying room H as part of further on-site development activities. Egg laying room H was previously used as an egg laying room and the applicant proposes to restore the egg laying room in order to equip the egg laying room with new technology equipment. Up-to-date equipment has proved to be more resource efficient and is therefore supported from an environmental point of view.
- The on-site activities have been in operation for a long time, with the first egg laying rooms being constructed during the year 1947. Additionally, the egg laying rooms are situated on a property which is earmarked for agricultural use with consent use for intensive feed farming and therefore the on-site activities are supported from a land use point of view. The on-site buildings are furthermore used to house the hens for egg production and hence the construction of the buildings cannot lead to a loss of privacy (operations run as closed houses, i.e. no hens or humans can see out).
- It should be noted that the recent disease outbreak on the farm was not a Listeriosis infection, but only the Avian Influenza virus. The Western Cape Government: Health Department distributed a pamphlet regarding Avian Influenza and the possible risks involved for humans. The Government Department has confirmed the "the risk for human infection is very low. Avian influenza viruses are rarely spread from person to person." Furthermore, it was also confirmed by the Department that only people working on poultry, ostrich or duck farms are at



risk of getting infected with the Avian Influenza virus. It is therefore clear that neighbouring property owners do not hold any risk of getting infected with the virus. Furthermore, the facility have been subject to four rounds of sterilisation and no traces of the virus have been found on the property. A screenshot of the Department's pamphlet is included in the below section.

- The chicken manure is removed from the sheds by automatic belts and elevators twice weekly. The manure is immediately removed from the site, which significantly reduces any related smells. The frequent removal of manure interrupts the 7 – 10 day lifecycle of a fly and therefore does not attract flies. Neighbouring farms also have livestock including cattle and sheep which can attract and breed flies.
- Fans are located at the furthest point away from the homestead on Vredesville farm. Furthermore, the fans are only run for 24-hour periods on the very hottest days of the year. The noise levels of the mentioned fans are therefore not regarded to have a significant impact resulting in a loss of sleep.
- The on-site buildings are surrounded with a buffer area of at least 8 metres from the boundaries of the property. Additionally, the current application is not for buildings to be constructed on new development footprints. The proposed restoration of egg laying room H (which is an existing egg laying room) is applied for.
- The sale of chickens is not illegal. Additionally, the sales occur once a week between 06:00 and 07:00. Therefore, traffic congestion is not a result of the chicken sales taking place.
- Four small houses on the property are rented out. Residents do not have access to the poultry farm and have no contact with the hens as the residents and farming activities are separated by a wall. Additionally, there have been no complaints of allergies or illness from the renters.

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

The following organs of state provided comment on the application:

- CapeNature (CN)
- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
- Heritage Western Cape (HWC)
- Department of Agriculture (DA)

CN was concerned about the management of the waste on site, specifically with regards to waste, run-off and associated potential pollution of surface water and groundwater.

However, the EAP indicated that the system is a closed one, and that all waste is produced in the chicken houses, stored in the shed and effectively removed via an internal conveyor system loaded into vehicles for removal weekly. No water is produced and manure is dried before removing from site.

## **2. Alternatives**

### **2.1 Location / Site Alternatives**

Craigmore Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd. is the registered owner of Portion 5 of Farm 729, and as such no property alternatives were considered. Due to the high property prices and the available space for development on the property, it was deemed more appropriate to increase the concentration of chickens on the property, maximising the usage of the available space.

Therefore, the concentration of chickens in egg laying rooms B, C, G and M were increased on the same development footprint of the existing buildings. It was therefore deemed adequate that the available space was utilised to its fullest potential.

### **2.2 Activity Alternatives**

The activity alternative for the area where egg laying rooms A and D were constructed, was to retain the guava orchard that was present in the area. However, due to the relative small size of the orchard, it was not deemed to be economically viable.

### **2.3 Design / Layout Alternatives**

The concentration of egg laying rooms B, C, G and M were increased. However, the egg laying rooms were existing buildings and hence the footprint of the buildings did not increase. The increase in the concentration of chickens can be regarded as an upgrade to the existing facility.

Additionally, due to the orientation of egg laying rooms I, J, K and L, it was not deemed possible for the orientation of the egg laying rooms to be altered. The orientation of the egg laying rooms from East to West is preferred opposed to a North to South orientation, due to the room surface gaining more direct sunlight.



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

Craigmore Poultry Farm (Pty) Ltd. had invested large amount of money in order to improve and upgrade the facility over a period of years. The facility has also been committed to ensuring that the newest technology be implemented in order to reduce wastages and adverse impacts such as odour.

Therefore, the facility will have a huge financial setback should the on-site operations be ceased (permanently). The facility is still in the process of having to repay financial debt and therefore operation of the facility is a necessity in order to do so. Furthermore, this will result in a number of people losing their jobs and being unemployed.

### 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. Biophysical Impacts

The previous expansion activities have not resulted in any pollution to the surrounding environment. The construction was appropriately conducted, with the waste being adequately disposed of. The applicant has thus far ensured that the on-site operations did not result in any adverse environmental impacts.

#### 3.2. Biodiversity Impacts

The entirety of the property has been previously disturbed by agricultural practices. Therefore, the illegal expansion and increase in capacity did not have an adverse impact on any biodiversity aspects. No natural vegetation was removed during the construction activities, and there are no freshwater sources located on, or in close proximity to the property.

#### 3.3. Visual / Sense of Place

The site has been running as a chicken farm since the 1940's, and the expansions fall within the existing footprint of the site. These expansions are also for chicken farming purposes.

#### 3.4. Socio-economic Impacts

In 2017, Craigmore poultry farm suffered huge losses to an outbreak of avian influenza. The outbreak resulted in the facility having to vacate 274 262 hens,

which has a monetary value of approximately R 17 278 506.00. Furthermore, as a result of the outbreak, the facility has not been able to generate an income for the last 16 months (as per the date of the 24G application) and is currently selling eggs at a loss in order to get back into the market after the AI outbreak.

Due to the above-mentioned drop in income, a number of employees were retrenched. A total of 36 employees were retrenched, with 29 persons being retrenched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2017 and a further 7 persons retrenched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

#### **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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## Shafeeq Mallick

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**From:** Shafeeq Mallick  
**Sent:** 24 July 2019 02:43 PM  
**To:** joanne@craigmore.co.za  
**Cc:** Carina Nel  
**Subject:** Environmental Authorisation: Craigmore Poultry Farm  
**Attachments:** Env\_A\_Craigmore\_Poultry.pdf

Good afternoon Joanne

Please see attached Environmental Authorisation for the 24G application relating to the illegal expansion of intensive feed farming units on Craigmore Poultry Farm, Portion 5 Of Farm 729, Paarl.

Thank you,

Shafeeq Mallick

Specialised Environmental Officer  
Sub- Directorate: Rectification  
Directorate: Environmental Governance  
Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

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