



REFERENCE: 14/1/1/E3/5/2/3/L986/18

ENQUIRIES: D Mouton

BY EMAIL

Mr Bruce Arnett

EMAIL: arnettbruce@gmail.com

PO BOX 359

WILDERNESS

6560

COMPLIANCE NOTICE

Dear Sir

COMPLIANCE NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 31L OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 107 OF 1998

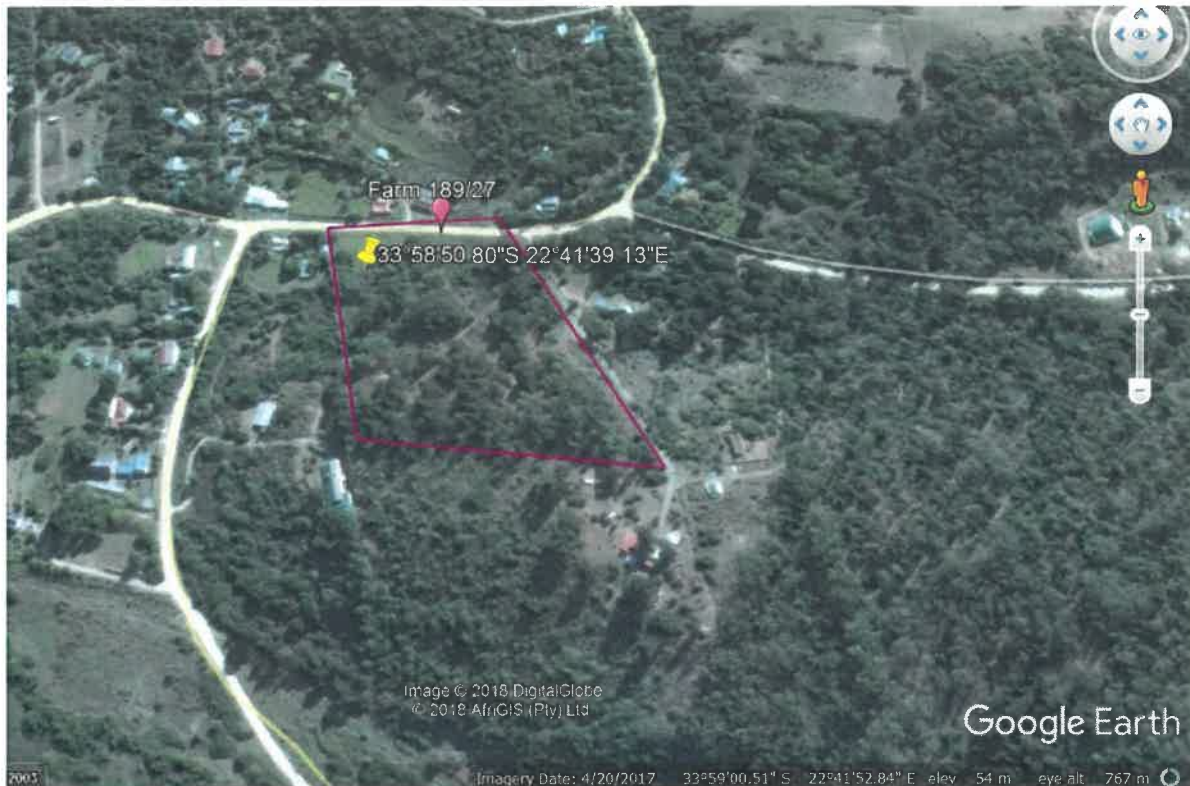
1. The Department's Pre-Compliance Notice dated 18 September 2018, your emails dated 2 October 2018 and 21 October 2018 and the Department's electronic responses dated 2 October 2018 and 17 October 2018 has reference.
2. I, Mr Achmad Bassier, in my capacity as an Environmental Management Inspector Grade 1, hereby issues Mr Bruce Arnett with a Compliance Notice

in terms of section 31L of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 ("NEMA").

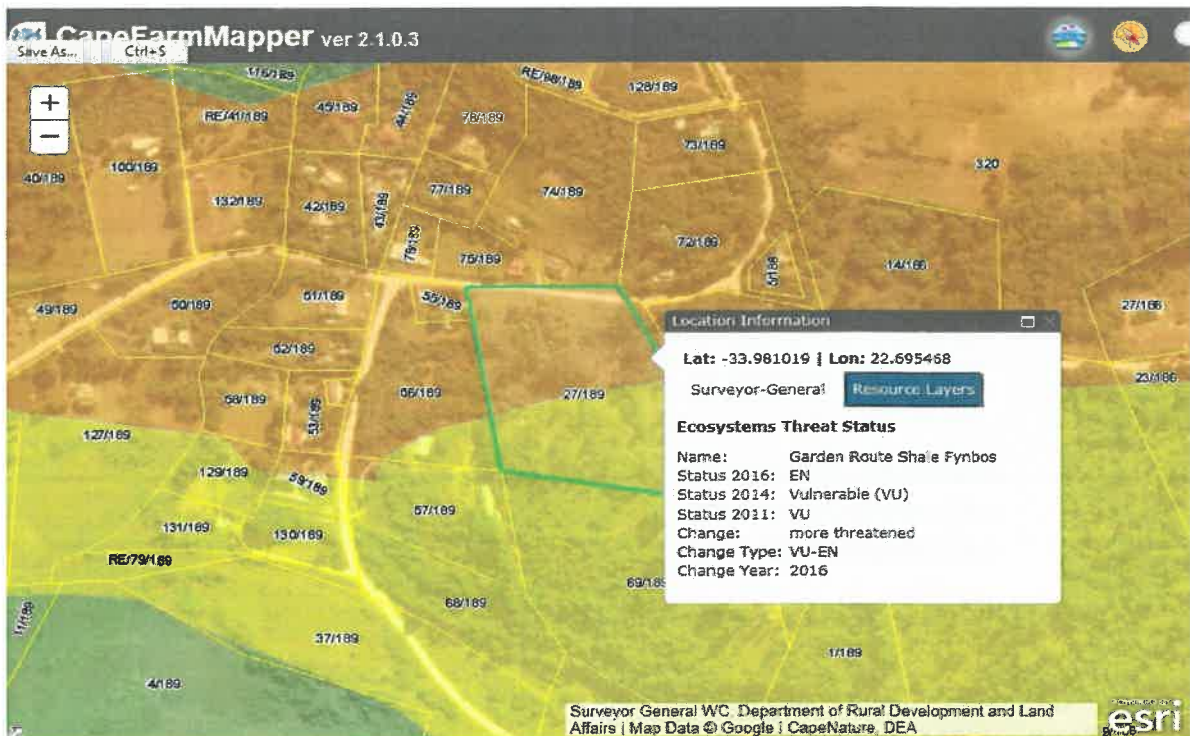
3. This Compliance Notice relates to non-compliance with the provisions of section 24F of the NEMA. No activity listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 may commence without environmental authorisation from the competent authority.

Details of conduct constituting non-compliance

4. During an investigation into allegations of the commencement of a listed activity in contravention of section 24F of the NEMA, a site inspection was conducted at Farm Boven Lange Valley 189/27 Wilderness by an Environmental Management Inspector from the Department's Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement accompanied by a municipal official from the George Municipality and yourself on 5 September 2018 and it was confirmed that you have commenced with vegetation elimination and eradication on the property over an area of more than 300m² for the construction of an earth berm and associated landscaping on the property within an endangered vegetation Ecosystem without obtaining the requisite environmental authorisation.



Map 1: GPS location of occurrence of the alleged illegal vegetation clearing (elimination and eradication with infilling) on the property.



Map 2: Classification of the Endangered Vegetation Ecosystem (Garden Route Shale Fynbos) on the property where the infilling of material and clearing of vegetation is occurring.

Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement
 4th Floor, York Park Building, York Street, George, 6530
 tel: +27 044 8058625 fax: +27 044 8746431

Diana.Mouton@westerncape.gov.za
 Private Bag X6509, George, 6530
 www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp

5. On considering the evidence before me there are reasonable grounds to believe that you have commenced the following activity without environmental authorisation:

EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014

Activity no. 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.

i. Western Cape

- 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.*



1a



1b

Photo 1a: View of vegetation clearing of more than 300m² with the development of a new access road on the property.

Photo 1b: View of the same area prior to development of the access road on the property.

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Photo 2: View of material brought onto the property for the construction of an earth berm, landscaping, etc. - believed that more than 300m² endangered vegetation is eliminated on the property with the infilling.



Photo 3: View towards the gravel road with the amount of infill material visible on the property.

6. You are hereby instructed to:

- 6.1 Immediately cease the above listed activity;
- 6.2 submit to the Department within **30 (thirty) calendar days** of receipt of this Compliance Notice a rehabilitation plan compiled by a suitably qualified and experienced independent environmental assessment practitioner, which must include the following:
 - 6.3 assessment and evaluation of the impact on the environment;
 - identification of proposed remedial and/or mitigation measures
7. Approval of the plan by the Department does not remedy the unlawful commencement of the above activity, which remain unlawful in terms of section 49A(1) (a) and/or (d) of the NEMA.
8. If the above plan is approved by the Department, you will be obliged to take the necessary remedial / mitigation measures at your own cost.
9. If you wish to continue with the listed activity you may apply for environmental authorisation by way of a section 24G application. However, such application does not constitute permission to continue with the listed activity, which remains unlawful unless environmental authorisation is granted.
10. Notwithstanding the section 24G application, the Department may commence criminal proceedings should circumstances so require.

Varying this Compliance Notice

11. If you would like me to vary this Compliance Notice or extend the period to which it relates, you may make representations to me, in writing, to do so.

Failure to comply with this Compliance Notice (section 31N of the NEMA) and related offences in terms of the NEMA

12. In terms of section 49A(1)(a) of the NEMA it is an offence to commence a listed activity without environmental authorisation. A person convicted of such an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

13. Furthermore, failure to comply with a Compliance Notice is an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(k). A person convicted of such an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, and in both instances to both such fine and such imprisonment.

14. Any non-compliance with the Compliance Notice must be reported to the Minister, who may:

- 14.1 revoke any permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice relates; and/or
- 14.2 take any steps necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of the law, permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice relates and recover from you the cost of doing so.

Procedure for lodging an objection to this Compliance Notice (section 31L and 31M of the NEMA)

15. If you wish to lodge an objection to this Compliance Notice, you may do so by making representations, in writing, to the Provincial Minister of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("the Minister") within 30 days of receipt of this Compliance Notice.
16. You may also make representations, in writing, to the Minister to suspend the operation of this Compliance Notice pending finalisation of the objection.
17. The objection must be in writing and forwarded to the Appeal Administrator, Mr Jaap de Villiers at the contact details below and must be accompanied by a statement detailing the grounds of the objection and supporting documentation, if any.

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

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174

By hand: Attention: Mr Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

By email: Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za

18. Irrespective of any representations you may make to me or to the Minister, you must comply with this Compliance Notice within the time period stated in the Compliance Notice, unless the Minister agrees to suspend the operation of this Compliance Notice.



Achmad Bassier

Director: Environmental Law Enforcement

Grade 1 Environmental Management Inspector

Date: 31/10/2018