

Directorate: Development Management (Region 1)

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**EIA REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/E1/14/1037/21 **NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000935/2021 **DATE OF ISSUE:** 04 February 2022

The Municipal Manager Cape Agulhas Municipality P.O. Box 51 BREDASDORP 7280

**Attention: Mr E Phillips** 

Dear Sir

E-mail: <u>ebenp@capeagulhas.gov.za</u>

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): THE EXPANSION OF THE STRUISBAAI-NORTH CARAVAN PARK ON ERF NO. 856, STRUISBAAI

- 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) Mr J Rose (Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd)

E-mail: jeremy@infinityenv.co.za

(2) Ms S Nel (Cape Agulhas Municipality) E-mail: <a href="mailto:suneln@capeagulhas.gov.za">suneln@capeagulhas.gov.za</a>
(3) Ms C Rampartab (CapeNature) E-mail: <a href="mailto:crampartab@capenature.co.za">crampartab@capenature.co.za</a>

(4) Mr R Le Roux (Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency) E-mail: rleroux@bgcma.co.za



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## **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

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): THE EXPANSION OF THE STRUISBAAI-NORTH CARAVAN PARK ON ERF NO. 856, STRUISBAAI

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 Layout Alternative 2, described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated September 2021.

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

# DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Municipal Manager Cape Agulhas Municipality % Mr E Phillips P.O. Box 51 **BREDASDORP** 

7280

E-mail: ebenp@capeagulhas.gov.za

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

### B. ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014:	The expansion of the caravan park requires the
Activity Number 27:	clearing of approximately 2.6 hectares of
	indigenous vegetation.
The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous	
vegetation, except where such clearance of	
indigenous vegetation is required for -	
(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or	
(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance	
management plan.	
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014:	The proposed expansion of the caravan park will
Activity Number 17:	take place approximately 1.5km east of the
	Agulhas National Park and approximately 1.1km
The expansion of a resort, lodge, hotel, tourism or	south of the Andrews Field Nature Reserve.
hospitality facilities where the development	
footprint will be expanded, and the expanded	
facility can accommodate an additional 15	
people or more.	
i Western Cape i inside a protected area identified in terms of	
NEMPAA;	
ii Outside urban areas:	
(aa)critical biodiversity areas as identified in	
systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the	
competent authority or in bioregional plans; or	
(bb) within 5km from national parks, world	
heritage sites, areas identified in terms of NEMPAA	
or from the core area of biosphere reserve;-	
excluding the conversion of existing buildings	
where the development footprint will not be increased.	

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

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activities as it relates to the development:

The proposal entails:

- The expansion of an existing caravan park westwards by approximately 2.6 hectares.
- The expanded area will be fenced in a similar manner to the existing caravan park.
- Construction of ablution facilities.
- Construction of roads with a width of less than 4m.
- Access to the site via First Avenue.
- Services provided by the local municipality.

## C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Erf No. 856, Struisbaai, at the following co-ordinates:

Latitude (S)		Longitude (E)				
34°	46'	49.34"		20°	2'	29.44"

The SG21 digit code is: C01100080000085600000

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

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

#### D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd % Mr J Rose Suite 17, Private Bag X11 MOWBRAY 7705

Cell: 084 0555678

E-mail: <u>jeremy@infinityenv.co.za</u>

# 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, Layout Alternative 2 described in the BAR dated September 2021 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 **10 years** from the date of commencement of the listed activities.
- 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, 11 and 18.

# 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 email 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 activity, 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"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or 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 monthly Environmental

Compliance Reports must be 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 completed.

- 13. 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, including on a publicly accessible website.
- 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. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the amended EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person (which is not the ECO or EAP for this application) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

An Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority once a **year** during the construction phase. The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within three months after construction is completed.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of each of the above-mentioned reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

# **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.
- 18. The construction site must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of construction activities and all areas outside of the demarcated construction site must be regarded as "no-go" areas.

#### 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 amended 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 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 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.

- 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)

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: 04 FEBRUARY2022

CC: (1) Mr J Rose (Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd)

(2) Ms S Nel (Cape Agulhas Municipality)

(3) Ms C Rampartab (CapeNature)

(4) Mr R Le Roux (Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency) E-mail: rleroux@bgcma.co.za

E-mail: <u>jeremy@infinityenv.co.za</u> E-mail: <a href="mailto:suneln@capeagulhas.gov.za">suneln@capeagulhas.gov.za</a>

E-mail: <u>crampartab@capenature.co.za</u>

## **ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP**



Figure 1: Locality map depicting the location of the proposed development on Erf No. 856, Struisbaai

# ANNEXURE 2: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Figure 2: Site plan depicting the proposed expansion area on Erf No. 856, Struisbaai.

#### **ANNEURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

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

- a) The information contained in the Application Form received electronically by the Department on 29 June 2021, the amended Application form dated 28 September 2021, final BAR dated September 2021, 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 2021; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

The Competent Authority conducted a site visit on 04 February 2022.

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;
- 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, during January 2020 and 17
  August 2021;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Southern Post' on 24 January 2020;
- fixing a site notice at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken;
- making the Background Information Document available to I&APs for public review from 28 January 2020 and the in-process draft BAR from 17 August 2021.

The concerns raised by I&APs were responded to, and adequately addressed during the public participation process. Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation, and in the EMPr, in order to adequately address the concerns raised.

### 2. Alternatives

# 2.1 Layout Alternatives:

<u>Layout Alternative 1:</u>

This alternative entails:

- The expansion of an existing caravan park northwards and westwards by approximately 4 hectares
- The expanded area will be fenced in a similar manner to the existing caravan park.
- Construction of ablution facilities.

- Construction of roads with a width of less than 4m.
- Access to the site via First Avenue.
- Services provided by the local municipality.

This alternative is not preferred from a biodiversity perspective because it will encroach into the low-risk coastal zone and would be subjected to impacts associated with dynamic coastal processes and sea level rise.

## <u>Layout Alternative 2 (Herewith authorised):</u>

This alternative entails:

- The expansion of an existing caravan park westwards by approximately 2.6 hectares.
- The expanded area will be fenced in a similar manner to the existing caravan park.
- Construction of ablution facilities.
- Construction of roads with a width of less than 4m.
- Access to the site via First Avenue.
- Services provided by the local municipality.

This alternative is preferred from a biodiversity perspective, since it will have a slightly lower ecological impact compared to Alternative 1. The proposed development will be developed outside of the coastal risk zones.

## 2.2 "No-Go" Alternative

The "no-go" option was considered. However, it is not preferred since this alternative will not address the existing caravan park's capacity constraints. The overflow of visitors into the surrounding dune and beach areas in an unmanaged manner will continue. This will result in the ongoing degradation of the habitat, erosion, peri-urban impacts and illegal dumping.

## 3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

# 3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

The proposed land use is consistent with spatial planning and land use management frameworks for the area. The proposed activity is supported by the Spatial Development Framework as the site is identified as "New commercial, tourism and public space". During the holiday season, the existing caravan park reaches capacity and is unable to accommodate all guests. This leads to overflow into surrounding dune and beach areas. More space is required to provide affordable accommodation in a managed environment. The expansion of the existing caravan park, rather than constructing the required space elsewhere, will optimise the use of existing service infrastructure since the site has access to existing services, road access and buildings. The expansion of the caravan park is in line with Section 63(3) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA), since the expansion will provide important services to the public when using the coastal public property, the coastal protection zone, coastal access land or a coastal protected area. The proposed expansion of the caravan park is in line with objective 2 of the Overberg District Municipality's Coastal Management Programme: ensuing the public has equitable access to opportunities and benefits of the coast on a managed basis.

## 3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

The vegetation present on the site is Overberg Dune Strandveld, which is classified as a least threatened ecosystem in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Biodiversity Act 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). The site is not identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area but is identified as an Ecological Support Area. The Ecological Support Area on the site is designated because it forms

part of a coastal corridor, rather than a threatened ecosystem. The proposed development will leave an approximately 175m wide corridor to the west and will not expand eastwards. No Species of Conservation Concern were recorded on site. The findings of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment dated February 2020 and updated in June 2021, conducted by Nick Helme of Nick Helme Botanical Surveys, confirmed that the habitat fragmentation and loss of current ecological connectivity across the site will be low negative as the proposed expansion area is adjacent to the existing caravan park. There will be alternative connectivity options along the coast, since the proposed development will unlikely cause any loss of irreplaceable botanical and faunal resources. The preferred alternative will also have a smaller development footprint, which will therefore have less of an ecological impact than Alternative 1. CapeNature does not object to the proposed development, provided that the development remains outside of the coastal risk zones. The potential impacts on the vegetation that may result from the proposed development will be further mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in the EMPr (Condition 9), which includes the recommendations of the specialist.

Two wetlands were identified within 500 metres from the site. A large depression wetland is located to the south of the site, approximately 350 metres from the proposed expansion area. The wetland was assessed as having a present ecological state of C (moderate modified) and a moderate ecological importance and sensitivity. A smaller depression wetland is located to the north of the site, approximately 250 metres from the proposed expansion area. This wetland was assessed as having a present ecological state of B (largely natural) low ecological importance and sensitivity. According to the Aquatic Impact Assessment Report compiled by, Liezel Landman of Luhlaza Advisory and Consulting, the proposed development will be well outside of the buffer areas (15m and 30m, respectively, as determined based on the Department of Water and Sanitation Guidelines to be implemented) and the potential impacts on these wetlands have been assessed and confirmed to be mitigated to acceptable levels. The potential impacts on the wetlands that may result from the proposed development will be further mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in the EMPr (Condition 9), which includes the recommendations of the specialist.

## 3.3 Heritage Impacts

Based on the Heritage Impact Study conducted by Jonathan Kaplan of ACRM, the rocky coastline south of Struisbaai is known to be a sensitive archaeological landscape. However, no trace of archaeological resources has been recorded on the sandy shore north of Langezandt and none were located on the site. Heritage resources impacts are anticipated to be moderate to low. Heritage Western Cape responded that no further assessment was required. Through the implementation of the EMPr (Condition 9), the potential heritage impacts will be mitigated to acceptable levels.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

## **Negative Impacts:**

- The development will result in the loss of natural vegetation during site preparation and construction activities. However, disturbance will be restricted to the development footprint.
- The development will result in construction related impacts such as dust, noise and visual intrusion during the clearance of vegetation.

# Positive impacts:

- All areas outside the demarcated development footprint will be regarded as no-go areas during the land clearing activities.
- The proposed expansion will increase the availability of holiday accommodation and provide an important amenity for local and regional visitors.

• The expansion of the caravan park will provide affordable accommodation and accommodate day visitors in a managed environment, reducing impacts on the neighbouring natural vegetation and dunes.

## 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 to be approved, 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

