



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B5/2/1025/23
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001257/2023
ENQUIRIES: Bernadette Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: **23 AUGUST 2023**

The Board of Directors
Grootfontein Access Road (Pty) Ltd.
3 Dock Road
CAPE TOWN
8002

Attention: Mr Alberto Gambacorta

Tel: (021) 202 1230
E-mail: Alberto.Gambacorta@scatec.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 ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD ON THE REMAINDER AND PORTION 5 OF THE FARM GROOTFONTEIN NO. 149, CERES.

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, 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 Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

Cc: (1) Mr Dale Holder (Cape Environmental Assessment Consultants)
(2) Mr David Nasson (Witzenberg Municipality)

E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za
E-mail: david@witzenberg.gov.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B5/2/1025/23
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001257/2023
ENQUIRIES: Bernadette Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: **23 AUGUST 2023**

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: THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD ON THE REMAINDER AND PORTION 5 OF THE FARM GROOTFONTEIN NO. 149, CERES.

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, the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the Preferred Technology Alternative 1 described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated 16 June 2023.

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

Grootfontein Access Road (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr Alberto Gambacorta
3 Dock Road
CAPE TOWN
8002
Tel: (021) 202 1230
E-mail: Alberto.Gambacorta@scatec.com

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

B. ACTIVITY AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 24 The development of a road—</p> <p>(i) for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or</p> <p>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</p> <p>but excluding a road—</p> <p>(a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014;</p> <p>(b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or</p> <p>(c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</p>	<p>The road will have a maximum width of 12m inclusive all side drains and gravel embankments.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 – Activity Number: 4 The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>Western Cape</p> <p>i. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning;</p> <p>ii. Areas outside urban areas;</p> <p>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation;</p> <p>(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</p> <p>iii. Inside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas zoned for conservation use; or</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development</p>	<p>The road will exceed 4 metres in width and is outside of an urban area where indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>

Frameworks adopted by the competent authority.	
--	--

The abovementioned activities are hereinafter referred to as "**the listed activities**".

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activities:

The proposed development will entail the development of an access road of approximately 2,8km long and approximately 12m wide (inclusive of side drains and gravel embankments). The road will have a gravel surface constructed to natural ground level to maintain natural sheet flow. Some portions of the road might require concrete surfacing or other wearing course. The road will have a development footprint of approximately 33600m².

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on the Remainder and Portion 5 of the Farm Grootfontein No. 149, Ceres and has the following co-ordinates:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Co-ordinates of start point:	32° 57' 09.41" South	19° 55' 17.57" East
Co-ordinates of middle point:	32° 57' 24.34" South	19° 56' 05.23" East
Co-ordinates of end point:	32° 57' 37.00" South	19° 56' 53.43" East

The SG digit codes are: C 0 1 9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 4 9 0 0 0 0 0
 C 0 1 9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 4 9 0 0 0 0 5

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

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac)
c/o Mr Dale Holder
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530
Cell: 071 603 4132
Email: dale@cape-eaprac.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 the Preferred Technology Alternative 1 described in the BAR dated 16 June 2023 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on the site within a period of **five years** from the date issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be concluded within **ten 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.
 - 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8, 11 and 17

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 detailed in Section F 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,

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 2014 National Appeals Regulations.

8. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not commence within 20 (twenty) 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.

Management of activity

9. The draft or 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 construction activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained herein. The ECO must conduct site visits and must submit ECO reports on a monthly basis to the competent authority.

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, including a publicly accessible website.
13. Access to the site referred to in Section C above 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

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person (other than the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner or Environmental Control Officer) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The holder must undertake an environmental audit and submit Environmental Audit Reports 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 all the activities have been 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

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 palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts 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.

17. The development areas must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of construction activities. All areas outside the demarcated areas 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 EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with a listed activity 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 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.

G. APPEALS

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

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the 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 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 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 to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ 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 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. 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 3721, 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

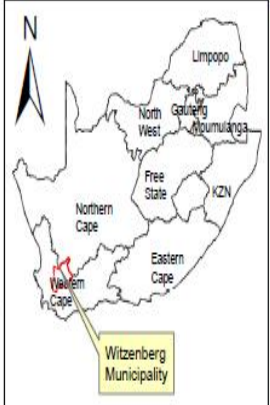
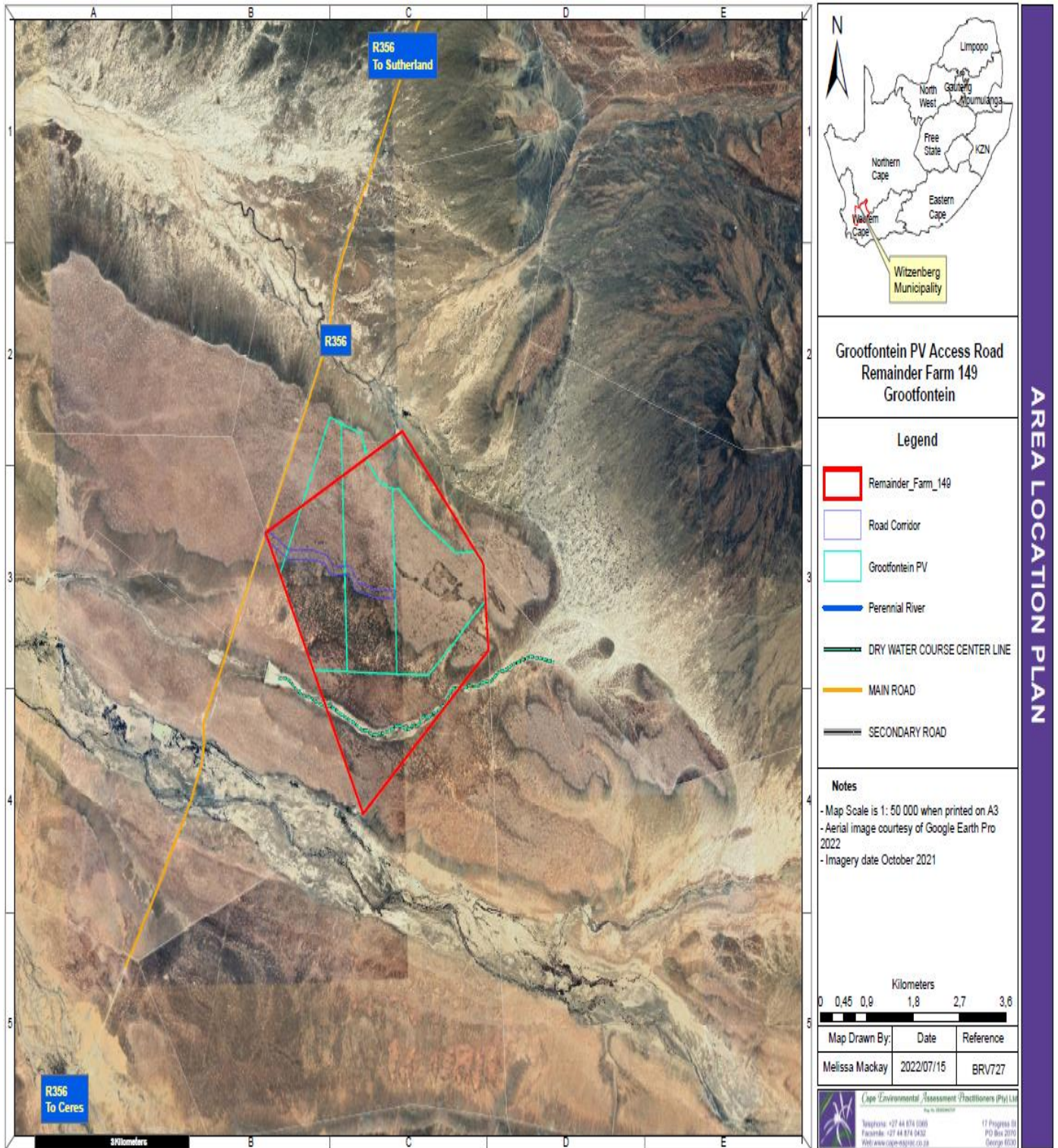
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 23 AUGUST 2023

Cc: (1) Mr Dale Holder (Cape Environmental Assessment Consultants)
(2) Mr David Nasson (Witzenberg Municipality)

E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za
E-mail: david@witzenberg.gov.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



**Grootfontein PV Access Road
Remainder Farm 149
Grootfontein**

Legend

- Remainder_Farm_149
- Road Corridor
- Grootfontein PV
- Perennial River
- DRY WATER COURSE CENTER LINE
- MAIN ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD

Notes

- Map Scale is 1: 50 000 when printed on A3
- Aerial image courtesy of Google Earth Pro 2022
- Imagery date: October 2021

Kilometers

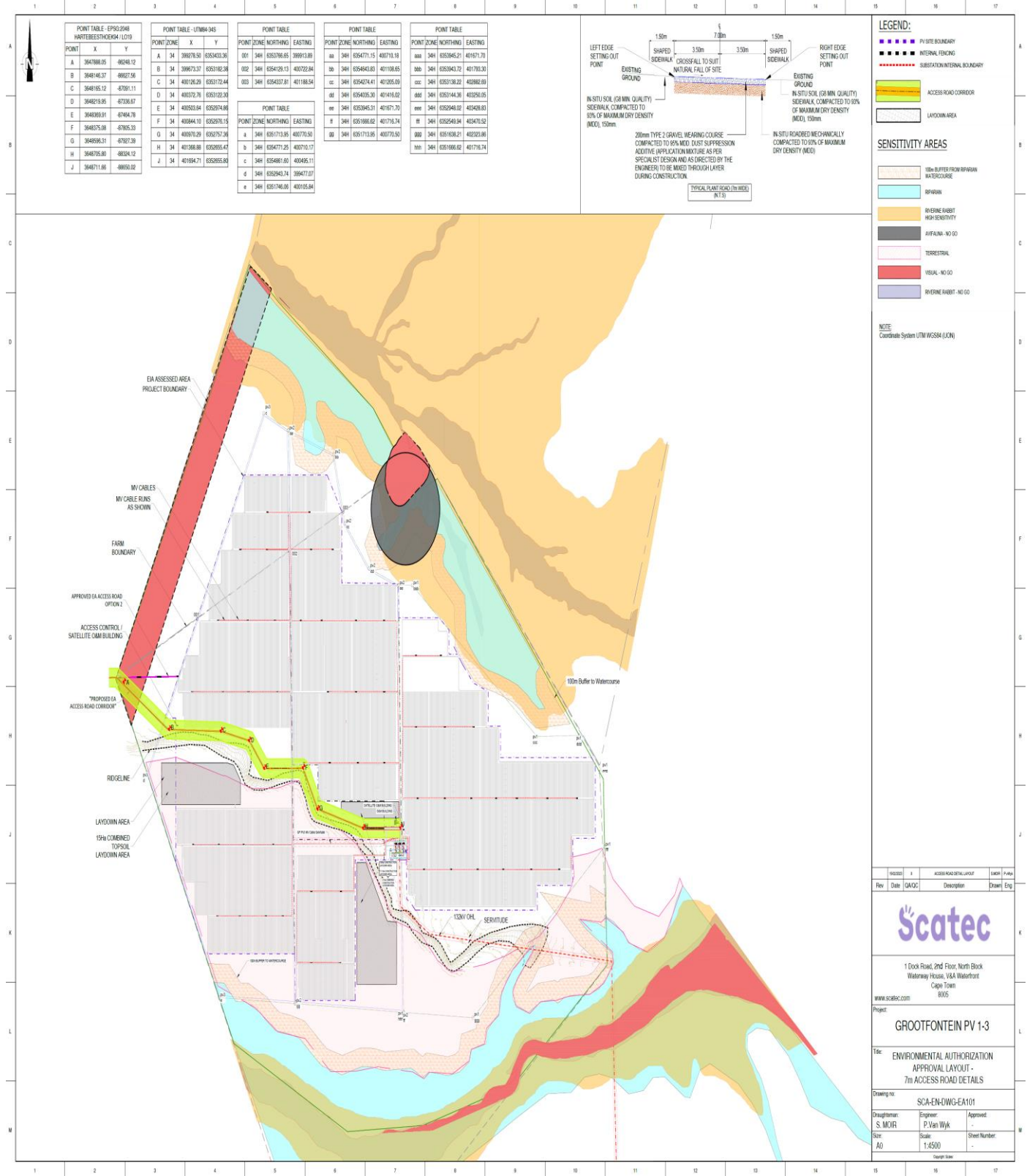
0 0,45 0,9 1,8 2,7 3,6

Map Drawn By:	Date	Reference
Melissa Mackay	2022/07/15	BRV727

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd
 Telephone: +27 44 874 0061 | 17 Progress St
 Facsimile: +27 44 874 0432 | PO Box 2010
 www.ceaap.co.za | George 6520

AREA LOCATION PLAN

ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 4 April 2023, the EMPr submitted together with the final BAR dated 16 June 2023;
- 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 the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated 16 June 2023; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

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 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;
- A site notice was placed at the entrance to the site.
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the '*Witzenberg Herald*' on 21 April 2023;
- 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 3 May 2023;
- making the Draft BAR available for comment from 3 May 2023.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and 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

The following two alternatives were considered:

Alternative 1 (Preferred and herewith authorised)

This alternative entails the development of an access road of approximately 2,8km long and approximately 12m wide (inclusive of side drains and gravel embankments). The road will have a gravel surface constructed to natural ground level to maintain natural sheet flow.

This alternative is preferred for the following reasons:

- Run-off water will not be concentrated, and sheet flow will be maintained. Maintaining sheet flow and allowing natural infiltration is widely known as the best storm water management philosophy for flat areas in arid and semi-arid environments.
- A gravel road at natural ground level will allow for some infiltration of stormwater.
- A gravel road will be significantly easier to decommission and rehabilitate after completion of operations.

Alternative 2

The alternative entails the development of a raised asphalt access road. This is not preferred for the following reasons:

- It is expensive and not required for the type and volume of traffic that will use the road.
- It will result in canalisation of water on the road edges, which is not recommended for flat sites in arid or semi-arid areas.
- It will be extremely difficult to decommission and rehabilitate after completion of operations.

No-go Alternative

This alternative is the option of not proceeding with the construction of a combined access road to access three authorised Grootfontein Photovoltaic ("PV") Projects. In this instance the no-go alternative would be to build the 3 separate access roads as already authorised in the Environmental Authorisations for the facilities. This alternative was not preferred for the following reasons:

- The habitat loss will be significantly higher if 3 separate access roads are established.
- The construction of 3 separate access roads will increase stormwater run-off from the hard linear surfaces.
- The construction of 3 access roads would significantly increase the opportunity costs of the authorised PV facilities.
- The construction of 3 access roads would result in significantly higher indirect impacts associated with the mining of gravel for construction and maintenance of the roads.
- The construction of 3 access roads would make controlled access and security difficult to manage.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity need and desirability

The need for the proposed development is to provide one access road to the three authorised PV plants. Each authorised facility has an access road authorised in their respective Environmental Authorisations. The development will provide a single access road that will replace the three authorised access roads, thereby minimising the impacts on the environment.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

According to the ecological comment (compiled by SDP Ecological and Environmental Services dated 16 May 2022) Tanqua Karoo vegetation and Tanqua Wash Riviere vegetation is present on the site, which is both classified as least threatened. The comment concluded that the proposed route of the road avoids any areas identified as sensitive or of significance from an ecological perspective. No watercourses are present on or within 32m of the site.

Negative Impacts:

- Loss of indigenous vegetation.

Positive impacts:

- The development will provide a single access road that will replace three authorised access roads.

4. National Environmental Management Act 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.

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 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

-----END-----