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**REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/F3/16/3031/21  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000942/2021  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 13 December 2021

The Director  
Zolani Boerdery  
P.O. Box 81  
**LUTZVILLE**  
8165

**Attention: Ms. Elise Barnard**

E-mail: [bjbarnard@namakwanet.co.za](mailto:bjbarnard@namakwanet.co.za)

Dear Madam

**APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON PORTION 10 OF THE FARM ZANDKRAAL NO. 180, VANRHYNSDORP.**

1. With reference to the above application, the competent authority 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 EIA 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 are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered interested and affected parties are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the procedure to be followed in the event of appeals being lodged. This procedure is summarised 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. Sean Ranger (FOOTPRINT Environmental Services)  
(2) Ms. Annali van der Westhuizen (Matzikama Municipality)

E-mail: [sean.ranger1@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ranger1@gmail.com)  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON PORTION 10 OF THE FARM ZANDKRAAL NO. 180, VANRHYNSDORP.**

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 NEMA and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the competent authority herewith grants Environmental Authorisation to the applicant to undertake the list of activities specified in Section B below with respect to the preferred alternative as included in the Basic Assessment Report (“BAR”) dated August 2021.

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation (hereinafter referred to as the “Environmental Authorisation”) is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in Section E below.

#### **A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

Zolani Boerdery  
Ms. Elise Barnard  
P.O. Box 81  
**LUTZVILLE**  
8165

Tel.: (027) 2171 201  
E-mail: [bjbarnard@namakwanet.co.za](mailto:bjbarnard@namakwanet.co.za)

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

## B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p><b>Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</b></p> <p><b>Activity 27:</b> "The clearance of an area of 1 hectares 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".</p>	<p>More than 1ha, but less than 20ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>

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

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following related to the listed activity:

The proposed development entails the clearance of indigenous vegetation on Portion 10 of the Farm Zandkraal No. 180, Vanrhynsdorp. The proposed clearance of vegetation will be undertaken on two areas as follows:

- The southernmost area (Area A) will be a 5ha shade net covered "tunnel" to grow the cuttings to a suitable size for transplanting; and
- A 14.9ha area will be used to plant out the cuttings (Area B).

Bulk supply water will be provided through an irrigation system. Water use allocation is available and is listed with the Lower Olifants River Water User Association.

## C. LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The listed activity will take place on Portion 10 of the Farm Zandkraal No. 180, Vanrhynsdorp.

The farm is located southeast of Lutzville between the Olifants River and Hol River.

The SG 21-digit code is: C07800000000018000010

Co-ordinates:

**Area A: 5ha shade cloth "tunnel":**

Latitude: 31° 35' 08.61" S

Longitude: 18° 23' 59.21" E

**Area B: 14.9ha block:**

Latitude: 31° 34' 57.51" S

Longitude: 18° 24' 18.34" E

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

hereinafter referred to as "the site".

## D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (“EAP”)

Cederberg Conservation Services t/a FOOTPRINT Environmental Services  
c/o Mr. Sean Ranger  
P.O. Box 454  
**PORTERVILLE**  
6810

E-mail: [sean.ranger1@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ranger1@gmail.com)  
Fax: (086) 655 8060

## E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

### Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the preferred alternative, described in the BAR dated August 2021 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in this Environmental Authorisation. The holder must ensure 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.
3. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activity within the stipulated validity period which this Environmental Authorisation is granted for, or this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority.

This Environmental Authorisation is granted for–

- (a) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activity; and
  - (b) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date the holder commenced with an authorised listed activity, during which period the authorised listed activity for the construction phase, must be concluded.
4. The activity that has been authorised may only be carried out at the site described in Section C above in terms of the approved EMPr.
  5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the description set out in Section B and Condition 2 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 such 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.

## **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

6. The holder of the authorisation must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision –
  - 6.1 notify all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") of –
    - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
    - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision;
    - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
    - 6.1.4 the date of issue of the decision;
  - 6.2 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 Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended);
  - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
  - 6.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
    - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
    - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
    - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder,
    - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
    - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any;
    - 6.4.6 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 (as amended).

## **Commencement**

7. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision.
8. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Administrator, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until such time as the appeal is decided. In the instance where an appeal is lodged the holder may not commence with the activity, including site preparation, until such time as the appeal has been finalised and the holder is authorised to do so.

## **Written notice to the competent authority**

9. A minimum of 7 (seven) calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of construction activities. Commencement for the purpose of this condition includes site preparation.
  - 9.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
  - 9.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:  
Conditions: 6, 7, 14 and 22.1.

## **Management of activity**

10. The draft Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”) dated August 2021 (as compiled by Cederberg Conservation Services t/a FOOTPRINT Environmental Services) and submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
11. An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the competent authority in terms of Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) if any amendments are to be made to the outcomes of the EMPr, and these may only be implemented once the amended EMPr has been authorised by the competent authority.
12. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr must be kept at the site where the listed activity will be undertaken. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted and, the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr 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. The Environmental Authorisation and EMPr must also be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the applicant who works or undertakes work at the site.

## **Monitoring**

14. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environment Control Officer (“ECO”), for the duration of the construction phase to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation.

The ECO must–

- 14.1 be appointed prior to commencement of any construction activities commencing;
- 14.2 ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein;
- 14.3 keep record of all activities on site; problems identified; transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO;
- 14.4 remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed;
- 14.5 provide the competent authority with copies of the ECO reports within 30 days of the project being finalised;
- 14.6 conduct two weekly site inspections during the construction phase; and
- 14.7 demarcate the approved development footprint of the proposed Areas A and B.

## **Environmental audit reports**

15. The holder must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid -
  - 15.1 ensure that the compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr is audited;

- 15.2 submit an environmental audit report three months after commencement of the construction phase to the relevant competent authority;
  - 15.3 submit an environmental audit report six months after completion of the construction phase (or clearance of vegetation) to the relevant competent authority; and
  - 15.4 submit an environmental audit report every five (5) years while the Environmental Authorisation remains valid.
16. The environmental audit reports must be prepared by an independent person and must address the objectives and contain all the information set out in Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).  
In addition to the above, the environmental audit report, must -
- 16.1 provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on-
    - (a) the level of compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
    - (b) the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr achieve the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr and highlight whether this is sufficient or not;
  - 16.2 identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
  - 16.3 evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr;
  - 16.4 identify shortcomings in the EMPr;
  - 16.5 identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr;
  - 16.6 indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
  - 16.7 include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
  - 16.8 be informed by the ECO reports.
17. The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the environmental audit report to the competent authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and, where the holder has such a facility, be placed on a publicly accessible website.

### **Specific conditions**

- 18. Surface or ground water must not be polluted due to any actions on the site. The applicable requirements with respect to relevant legislation pertaining to water must be met.
- 19. An integrated waste management approach, which is based on waste minimisation and incorporates reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal, where appropriate, must be employed. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a waste disposal facility licensed in terms of the applicable legislation.
- 20. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape (in accordance with the applicable legislation). 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 archaeological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); 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; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and graves or unmarked human burials.

A qualified archaeologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the applicant and in consultation with the relevant authority) to remove any human remains in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

21. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, at all times, ensure that the activities comply with the Noise Regulations in terms of the relevant legislation.
22. The following recommendations provided in the Botanical Specialist Report dated 25 June 2021 and compiled by Advanced Environmental Corporation, as included in the EMPr, must be implemented:
  - 22.1 The threatened plants (*Quaqua framesii*) must be relocated from the proposed Area A through a search and rescue operation to the high sensitive area before commencement of construction.
  - 22.2 The search and rescue and relocation must be done once the holder has obtained Environmental Authorisation.
  - 22.3 The rescued plants must be kept in pots in a suitable growth medium until climatic conditions (May-August) is favourable for re-location to the high sensitive area.
  - 22.4 None of the remaining natural areas outside the proposed Areas A and B on the farm Zandkraal may be developed in future.
  - 22.5 Spray operations on the Amaryllis plants and bulbs may only be done under wind-still conditions and the holder must at all times, ensure full adherence to the recommendations on the legally registered label for the use of all agricultural chemicals.
23. The following mitigation measures as recommended by CapeNature in their comment dated 24 August 2021, must be implemented:
  - 23.1 A buffer of at least 15m must be kept between the proposed development areas and the high sensitive area containing *Quaqua framesii*.
  - 23.2 The high sensitive area containing *Quaqua framesii* that will not be developed must be maintained as a no-go area and vehicle or human passage is not allowed during the construction and operational phases.
  - 23.3 The translocation of *Quaqua framesii* must be conducted by a botanical specialist using monitoring techniques provided by the appointed botanist.
24. The demarcation of the site must follow the recommended boundary (as per the recommendation of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture in their letter dated 27 September 2021) to avoid unsuitable soils and site clearance must occur within the 19.9ha footprint, as per Annexure 2: Site Plan.
25. The requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), must be adhered to.



## General matters

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activity.
2. If the holder does not commence with the listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 3, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for the 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.
3. 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.

4. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:  
Amendments to the EMPr, other than those mentioned above, 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.
5. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

## F. 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 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 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 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:           Attention: Mr. Marius Venter  
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 3721)  
Room 809  
8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za) or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

## G. 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

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

**DATE OF DECISION: 13 DECEMBER 2021**

CC: (1) Mr. Sean Ranger (FOOTPRINT Environmental Services)  
(2) Ms. Annali van der Westhuizen (Matzikama Municipality)

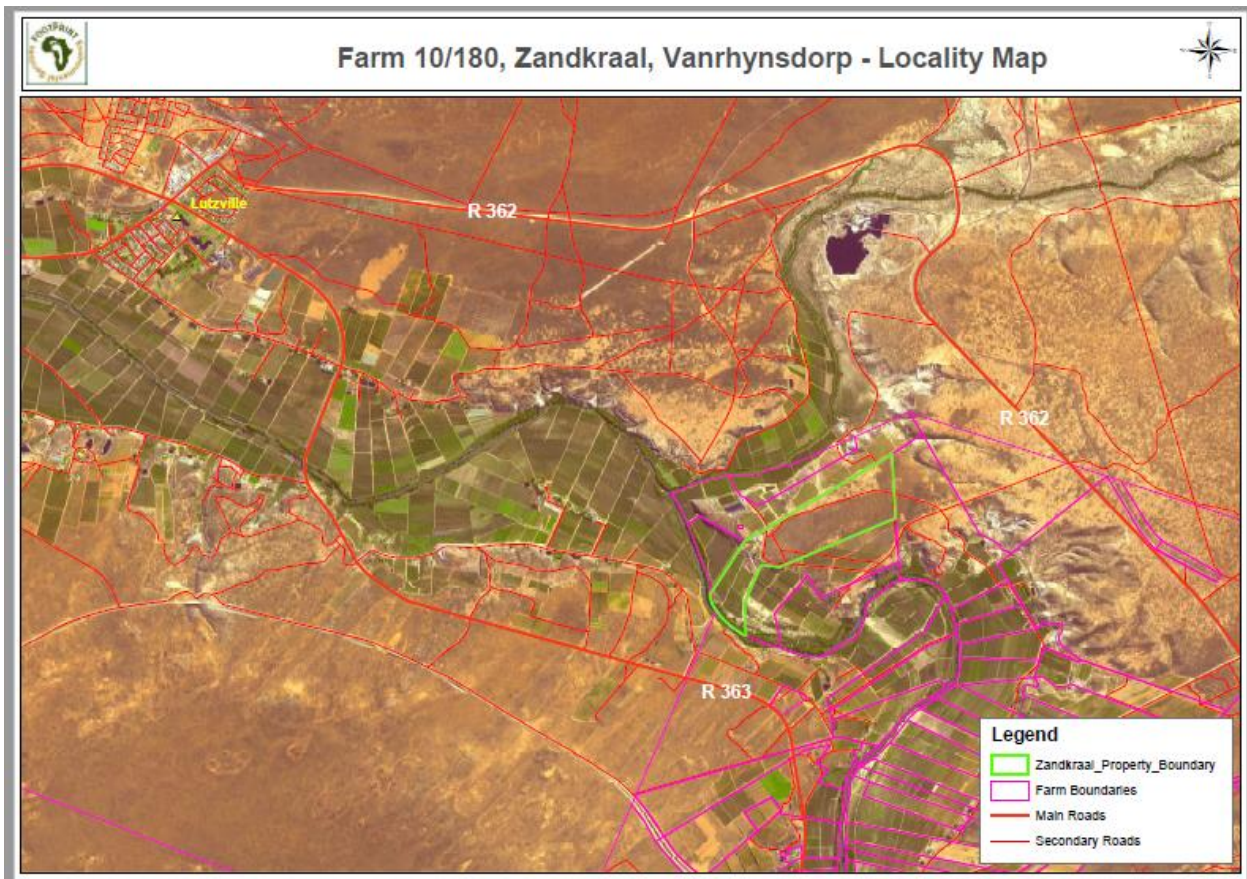
E-mail: [sean.ranger1@gmail.com](mailto:sean.ranger1@gmail.com)  
E-mail: [annalivdw@matzikama.gov.za](mailto:annalivdw@matzikama.gov.za)

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# ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN



## ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



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

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, *inter alia*, considered the following:

- a) The information contained in the application form dated 06 July 2021, as received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence on 07 July 2021; the BAR dated August 2021; the EMPr submitted together with the BAR; the comment from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence on 26 October 2021; and the additional information received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence on 07 December 2021;
- b) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the NEMA;
- c) The comments received from I&APs and the responses provided thereon, as included in the BAR dated August 2021;
- d) 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 which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision is set out below.

#### **1. Public Participation**

The Public Participation Process comprised of the following:

- A notice board was placed on site;
- Background Information Documents were distributed via e-mail on 21 July 2021 to adjacent landowners, the ward councillor, local and district municipalities and relevant organs of state/State Departments;
- An advertisement was placed in the "Ons Kontrei" newspaper on 23 July 2021;
- Follow-up e-mails were sent on 17 August 2021 to remind I&APs about the due date for submission of comments on the draft BAR;
- The draft BAR was made available from 22 July 2021 until 24 August 2021; and
- E-mails were sent on 07 December 2021 to registered I&APs to advise them regarding the amended layout.

#### **Authorities consulted**

The authorities consulted included the following:

- Matzikama Municipality;
- West Coast District Municipality;
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture;
- Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development;
- CapeNature;
- Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- Heritage Western Cape.

The competent authority is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements. All the comments and responses that were raised were responded to and included in the BAR.

## 2. Alternatives

No property alternatives were assessed, since the site is owned by the holder. Existing bulk services infrastructure is located directly adjacent to a property, which is used for farming of the same type of crop by the holder. Thus, the proposed development is an expansion of the current activity.

The southern portion of the site contains the largest population of Species of Conservation Concern, which will be avoided. This portion will provide a suitable area to relocate an estimated 50 plants of the Species of Conservation Concern.

Reasons for the preferred site:

- The vegetation type is categorised as least concern and uniform throughout the site.
- There are no areas within the site that have a higher sensitivity or contain discrete sensitive site scale habitats e.g. a spring.
- The higher sensitivity area where the Species of Conservation Concern occur in their highest concentration is avoided.
- The Species of Conservation Concern within the site are of a species that allows for successful relocation to the southern portion of the property. Thus, a search and relocate operation has a good chance of being successful.
- Locating the activity to another site is impractical as all associated bulk services infrastructure and access are already in place.

Preferred alternative – herewith authorised:

The proposed development entails the clearance of vegetation on two areas as follows:

- The southernmost area (Area A) will be a 5ha shade net covered “tunnel” to grow the cuttings to a suitable size for transplanting; and
- A 14.9ha will be used to plant out the cuttings (Area B).

“No-Go” Alternative:

This alternative implies that the clearance of vegetation will not be undertaken. This alternative was not deemed as preferred as the holder will not be able to increase the productivity of the farm and will likely also not improve farm revenue.

## 3. Impacts, assessment and mitigation measures

### 3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

The site is zoned for agriculture (Agriculture 1) and the proposed activity is therefore in line with the existing land use rights.

The proposed development is aligned with the planning categories contained in the Provincial Spatial Development Framework, 2014 in that it proposes the development of natural vegetation for intensive production and export of an agricultural commodity.

The proposed development contributes towards and capacitates and strengthens the agricultural economy and increases the security of the employment of farm workers, thereby contributing to the cash economy and export markets of the Province. The Matzikama Municipality’s Integrated Development Plan 2017-2022 notes that there is a need to “strengthen the agricultural sector value chain” on emerging farmers. The proposed development is a new form of agriculture in the Matzikama region and the commercial production of Amaryllis bulbs for the export market therefore adds value to the economy.

### 3.2 Botanical impacts

A Botanical Specialist Report dated 25 June 2021 was compiled by Advanced Environmental Corporation, to assess the botanical impacts of the proposed development. A letter dated 04 October 2021 was provided by the specialist regarding the revised development footprint.

The natural areas on the farm are isolated on three sides by agricultural development that mostly consists of vineyards while the Olifants River flows along the southern border. The only corridor that links to the natural vegetation on the farm is to the northeast.

The site does not fall within a terrestrial or aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area CBA or Ecological Support Area ESA, nor does it contain any aquatic features.

The vegetation is classified as Vanrhynsdorp Gannabosveld, which is currently listed as Least Concern. Vanrhynsdorp Gannabosveld harbours a number of endemic species but none are present on the site.

Succulents are well represented on site, while a number of annuals and geophytes are also present. The majority of the species are present in both of the proposed development footprints. Evidence of the recent drought is notable with a lot of dead Euphorbia specimens.

One threatened plant was recorded within the 5ha area (Area A), namely *Quaqua framesii* which is listed as Vulnerable under the South African National Biodiversity Institute red list. This species is listed as a Species of Conservation Concern, with the vegetation being in a near natural state and homogenous across the proposed Areas A and B.

The *Quaqua framesii* population is estimated at around 50 plants with 50% occurring outside the proposed Area A. The only area that can be regarded as more sensitive is the southern end of the proposed Area A as it contains the threatened plant species, *Quaqua framesii*.

The proposed development will result in the loss of less than 20ha of Vanrhynsdorp Gannabosveld and will not significantly impact on the remaining vegetation unit of which 79%.

Further, the proposed development will not cause significant fragmentation of natural areas around the site, as the area is already compromised and isolated by farming activities. The proposed site is also not located within an identified biodiversity corridor. Due to the small size of the proposed development and the fragmentation of the site, the loss of ecological processes will be insignificant.

The threatened plants (*Quaqua framesii*) that occur within the medium-high sensitive area that is earmarked for development will be relocated to the medium-high sensitive area outside of the site.

The site boundary was amended to exclude areas where the soil is too shallow. The botanical specialist confirmed that the new proposed development footprint for the 19.9ha development makes more sense from a botanical and biodiversity perspective, as it will preserve a natural corridor on the southern side and there will be less fragmentation of the remaining natural areas.



The botanical assessment concluded that the proposed development will not have significant impact on ecological process nor biodiversity pattern, with the implementation of mitigation measures.

### 3.3 Soil suitability

An area of shallow soils was initially included in the 14.9ha area. The site boundary was amended to exclude areas where the soil was too shallow, lower lying areas (that may receive subsurface seepage from the higher free draining cultivated areas) and to realign the production area footprint to improve cost efficiency of irrigation and power use as recommended by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the irrigation specialist. The appointment of the irrigation specialists and the amended layout now places the production area in soils of suitable depth and that will be practical to irrigate.

### 3.4 Dust, traffic and noise impacts

Potential dust, traffic and noise impacts are anticipated during the construction phase. However, no significant potential dust, noise and traffic impacts are anticipated as these impacts will be mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EMPr.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

#### **Negative Impacts:**

- Loss of indigenous vegetation.

#### **Positive impacts:**

- Employment opportunities will be created during the construction and operational phases of the development; and
- Contribution to the local economy.

#### **National Environmental Management Act Principles**

The National Environmental Management Act 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 proposed listed activity 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.

You are reminded of your general duty of care towards the environment in terms of Section 28(1) of the NEMA which states: *“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”*

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