



**EIA REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/F3/17/1068/22  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0001170/2022  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 09 May 2023

The Board of Directors  
Redsun Property Vredendal (Pty) Ltd.  
P. O. Box 767  
**KEIMOES**  
8860

**Attention: Mr. Peter Kuilman**

Cell: 083 283 6744  
E-mail: [Peter@redsun.co.za](mailto:Peter@redsun.co.za)

Dear Sir

**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 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A RAISIN PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 334 OF THE FARM NO. 292, VREDENDAL.**

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant the Environmental Authorisation** ("EA") 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)**

CC: (1). Ms. Mische Molife (GroenbergEnviro (Pty) Ltd))  
(2). Ms. Marlize Roux (Fantastic Investment 160 (Pty) Ltd)  
(3). Ms. Thesme van Zyl (Matzikama Municipality)

E-mail: [mische@groenbergenviro.co.za](mailto:mische@groenbergenviro.co.za)  
E-mail: [Marlize.roux@sfpwealth.co.za](mailto:Marlize.roux@sfpwealth.co.za)  
E-mail: [thesme@matzikama.gov.za](mailto:thesme@matzikama.gov.za)

**EIA REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/F3/17/1068/22  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0001170/2022  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 09 May 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, (AS AMENDED): THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A RAISIN PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 334 OF THE FARM NO. 292, VREDENDAL.**

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 alternative as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), received on 18 January 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

Redsun Property Vredendal (Pty) Ltd.  
P. O. Box 767  
**KEIMOES**  
8860

Cell: 083 283 6744  
E-mail: [Peter@redsun.co.za](mailto:Peter@redsun.co.za)

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

## B. LISTED ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activities	Project Description
<p><b>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014:</b>  <b>Activity Number: 8</b>  <i>The development and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.</i></p>	<p>The agri-industrial facility (raisin processing facility) will have a development footprint of more than 2000m<sup>2</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 1</b>  <b>Activity Number: 27</b>  <i>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>  <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i>  <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a</i>  <i>(a) maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>More than 1ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 1</b>  <b>Activity Number: 28</b>  <i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional development where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i>  <i>i. will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or</i>  <i>ii. will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</i></p> <p><i>Excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The raisin processing facility will be developed on land previously used for agriculture and will have a footprint of more than 1ha.</p>

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

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

The proposed development entails the construction of a raisin processing and packaging facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 334 of Farm No.292, Vredendal.

The raisin facility will include the following components:

- 2 x Stores with loading/receiving areas and receiving laboratory;
- A warehouse/final goods factory, offices, a testing laboratory and final loading area;
- 12 x Fume/store rooms;
- Bin storage, cleaning, repair and bin office area;
- 6 x concrete sludge drying beds;
- 2 x 200m<sup>3</sup> concrete tanks for water treatment;

- A boiler with coal storage area;
- Caretaker accommodation; and
- Associated infrastructure (internal roads and pipelines).

Wastewater from the facility will be treated on site and will be re-used in the process. No wastewater will be used for irrigation. The proposed development will have a footprint of approximately 19.9ha. Existing access is available to the proposed site.

### C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Portion 334 of Farm No. 292, Vredendal, at the following coordinates:

Latitude (S)	31°	39'	20.08"
Longitude (E)	18°	33'	21.74"

The SG digit code: C07800000000029200334

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

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

### D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Ms. M. Molife  
 GroenbergEnviro (Pty) Ltd.  
 P. O. Box 1058  
**WELLINGTON**  
 7654

Cell: 079 111 7378  
 Email: [mische@groenbergenviro.co.za](mailto:mische@groenbergenviro.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 alternative described in the BAR received on 18 January 2023 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activities 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 activities.

(b) A period of ten (10) years, from the date the holder commenced with the authorised listed activities, during which period the authorised listed activities, must be concluded.

3. 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.
4. 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**

5. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.
  - 5.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
  - 5.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:  
Conditions: 6, 7, 10 and 16.

#### **Notification and administration of appeal**

6. The holder 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 as included in Annexure 3;
    - 6.1.3. the date of the decision; and
    - 6.1.4. the date when the decision was issued.
  - 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 Appeals Regulations, 2014 detailed in Section F below;
  - 6.3. draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
  - 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, of the holder,

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 2014 National Appeals Regulations.

7. 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**

8. The draft or Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
9. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

### **Monitoring**

10. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of the proposed development to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained herein. The ECO must conduct site visits and submit ECO Reports on a monthly basis to the competent authority.
11. 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.
12. 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**

13. 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, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person, that is not the ECO referred to in Condition 10 above and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The Audit Reports must be compiled and subsequently submitted to the Department in the following manner:

- 13.1. The holder must undertake an environmental audit and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Competent Authority within 3 (three) months of commencement of construction activities on the site.

- 13.2. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted within 3 (three) months of completion of construction activities.

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.

### **Specific Conditions**

14. 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.

15. A qualified archaeologist and/or paleontologist 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 directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.
16. The development footprint must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of site clearing activities on the site. All areas outside the demarcated area 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 the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for those 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 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.
6. It is recommended that the EMPr, as it relates to the operational phase of the development, be implemented.

## 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 3721)  
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](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>.

## 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:**

CC: (1). Ms. Mische Molife (GroenbergEnviro (Pty) Ltd)  
(2). Ms. Marlize Roux (Fantastic Investment 160 (Pty) Ltd)  
(3). Ms. Thesme van Zyl (Matzikama Municipality)

E-mail: [mische@groenbergenviro.co.za](mailto:mische@groenbergenviro.co.za)

E-mail: [Marlize.roux@sfpwealth.co.za](mailto:Marlize.roux@sfpwealth.co.za)

E-mail: [thesme@matzikama.gov.za](mailto:thesme@matzikama.gov.za)

## ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

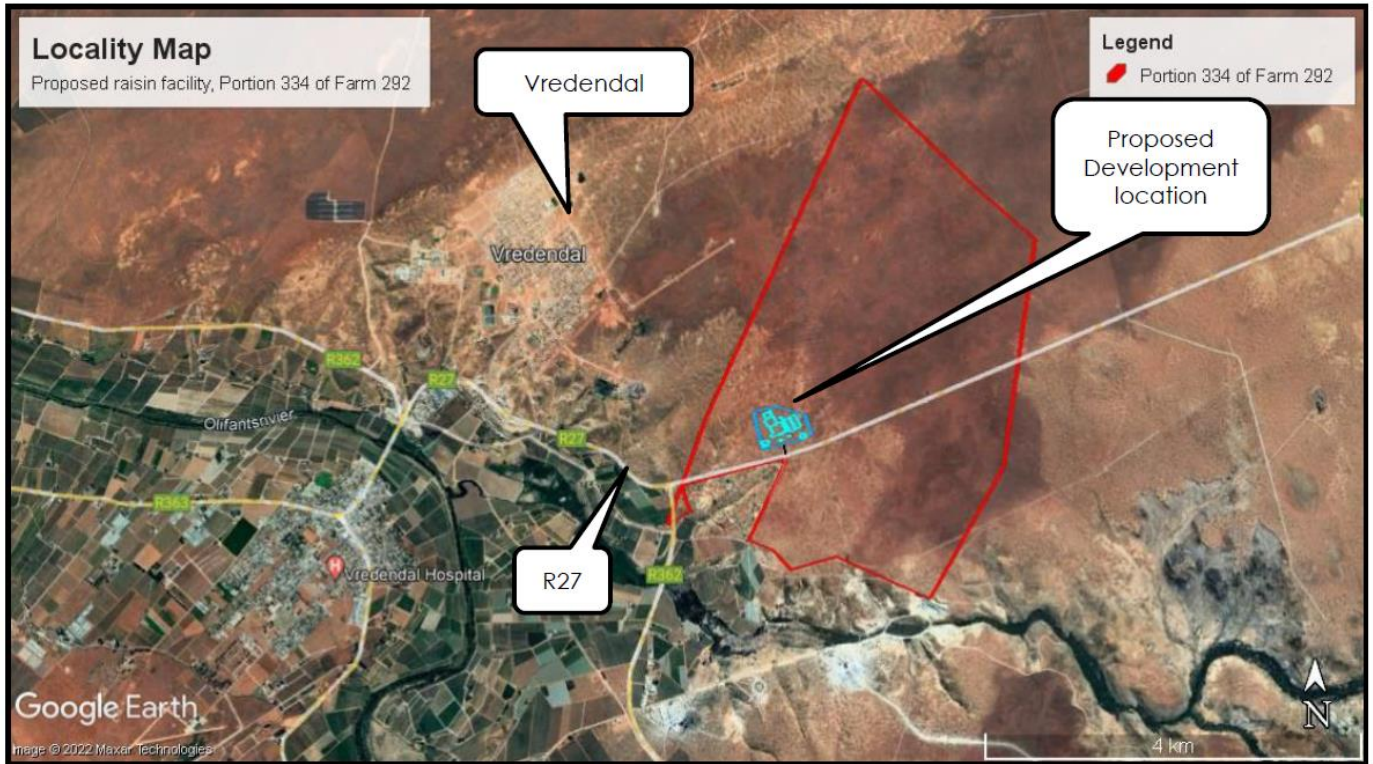


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development (indicated by the red polygon).

## ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

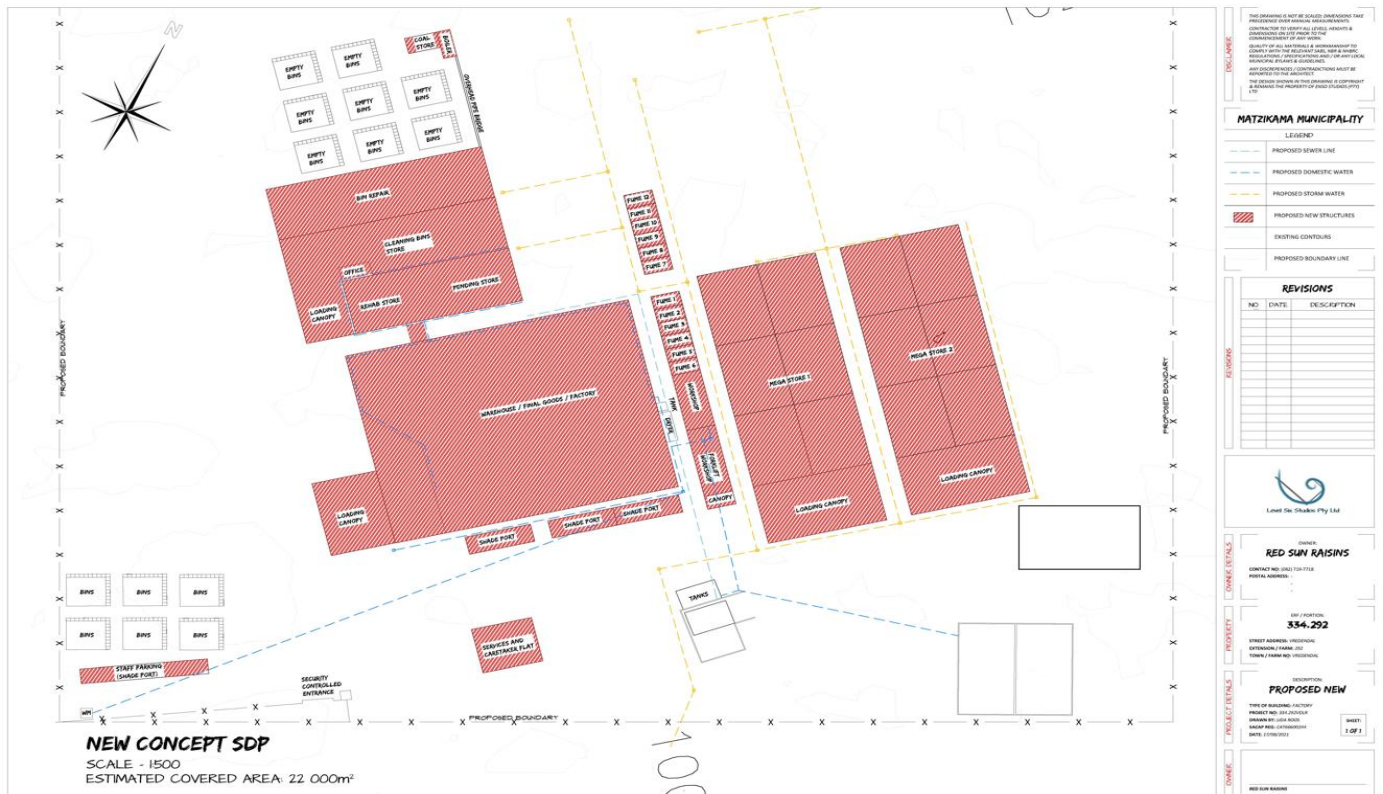


Figure 2: Proposed site plan

## **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 received by the Department on 28 September 2022 and the EMPr submitted together with the Basic Assessment Report on 18 January 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 Basic Assessment Report received on 18 January 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 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;
- fixing a notice board at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in "Ons Kontrei" on 30 September 2022;
- 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 councilor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 29 September 2022; and
- making the draft BAR available to I&AP's for comment from 03 October 2022 until 04 November 2022.

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

Four alternative locations for the placement of the raisin processing facility on the proposed site were investigated. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 were not preferred since there is no existing access road available to these locations. These alternatives were also not preferred from an engineering perspective, due to

the presence of deep, soft sand, which is not ideal for construction purposes. Furthermore, the Namaqualand Spinescent Grassland habitat present in the footprint of Alternative 3 is intact, with a higher species diversity than the footprint of Alternative 1 and 2 and a higher likelihood of the occurrence of Species of Conservation Concern ("SCC").

#### **Alternative 4 (Preferred alternative, herewith authorised)**

This alternative entails the construction of a raisin processing and packaging facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 334 of Farm No.292, Vredendal.

The raisin processing facility will include the following components:

- 2 x Stores with loading/receiving areas and receiving laboratory;
- A warehouse/final goods factory, offices, a testing laboratory and final loading area;
- 12 x Fume/store rooms;
- Bin storage, cleaning, repair and bin office area;
- 6 x concrete sludge drying beds;
- 2 x 200m<sup>3</sup> concrete tanks for water treatment;
- A boiler with coal storage area;
- Caretaker accommodation; and
- Associated infrastructure (internal roads and pipelines).

Wastewater from the facility will be treated on site and will be re-used in the process. No wastewater will be used for irrigation. The proposed development will have a footprint of approximately 19.9ha. Existing access is available to the proposed site.

The facility will aim to minimise power consumption with the installation of solar technology, consisting of roof-mounted solar panels to generate electricity for use in the facility. Initially the main electrical supply will, however, remain via the municipal supply, with the plant becoming self-sufficient once all the panels have been installed (phased installation). Infrastructure for electricity generation at the facility will also include a transformer and a standby generator.

This alternative is acceptable from a botanical and engineering perspective and existing access to the site is available.

#### **The "No-Go" Alternative**

The "No-Go" option of not proceeding with the proposed development is not preferred, as potential negative impacts associated with the development will either be avoided or will be sufficiently mitigated, and the economic benefit associated with the proposed development will not be realized.

### **3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures**

#### **3.1. Activity need and desirability.**

The applicant wishes to make use of the vacant farm to generate income since the farm is not ideal for crop production. The proposed development will secure continued income for the applicant and



create long-term employment opportunities in the area. The local authority confirmed that the necessary services are available for the proposed development.

### 3.2. Biophysical impacts

According to the Botanical Impact Assessment Report (dated August 2022, compiled by Biodiversity Africa), the proposed site comprises of Vanrhynsdorp Gannabosveld, which is not classified as a critically endangered or endangered ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, (Act 10 of 2004) ("NEM:BA") revised list of Threatened Ecosystems in Need of Protection, dated 18 November 2022. The proposed site is not located within a Critical Biodiversity Area. The specialist report further indicates that the vegetation on the proposed site is degraded and the loss of indigenous vegetation as a result of the proposed development will be of moderate negative significance after mitigation. Appropriate mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

### 3.3. Traffic Impact Assessment

According to the Traffic Impact Assessment report (dated August 2022, compiled by Innovative Transport Solution (Pty) Ltd.), the additional traffic as a result of the proposed development will not result in unacceptable levels of service of the existing intersections. The proposed development will therefore have a low negative traffic impact on the surrounding road network.

### 3.4. Heritage Resources

According to the Heritage Impact Assessment ("HIA") (dated September 2022, compiled by Lize Malan and David Gibbs), no buildings are located on the proposed site and the site has no historical value. Although the proposed development is of a large scale, the landscape is not of exceptional heritage/visual significance. The intrusion of the proposed development in the landscape is limited to a short section of the R27 near Vredendal. The visual impact associated with the proposed development is therefore regarded to be moderate negative significance, which will be reduced to low negative significance with appropriate landscaping.

According to the Archaeological Impact Assessment (dated 14 September 2022, compiled by Dr Lita Webley), there is a continuous scatter of stone artefacts across most of the southern and western portions of the study area. The artefacts are distributed across compacted pans and deflation areas and comprise of bifacial pieces (including broken handaxes), silcrete flakes and a very high predominance of quartz chunks and flakes. The specialist report further indicates that although the majority of the stone tool scatters were graded as not conservation worthy, a few were regarded as low to medium significance due to the presence of bifaces. The specialist concluded that the proposed development may proceed on condition that a surface collection must be made where the bifacial pieces occur.

Heritage Western Cape indicated in their comment dated 8 December 2022 that they endorse the HIA and the recommendations therein. These recommendations have been included in the EMPr and will be implemented.

### 3.5. Loss of Agricultural land

According to an agricultural compliance statement (dated 7 April 2022, compiled by Johann Lanz), the site is classified to be of low agricultural sensitivity. The proposed site is not suitable for crop production due to the arid nature of the area and low rainfall. Therefore, the loss of potential agricultural production from the site is insignificant.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

#### **Negative Impacts:**

- Loss of indigenous vegetation.

#### **Positive impacts:**

- Creation of temporary and permanent employment opportunities; and
- Economic benefits for the area.

### 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-----