



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B3/28/1031/21
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000925/2021
DATE: 07 December 2021

The Municipal Manager
Drakenstein Municipality
PO Box 1
PAARL
7620

Attention: Mr Johan Leibbrandt

Tel.: (021) 807 4500
Email: Johan.Leibbrandt@drakenstein.gov.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 ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CEMETERY ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM NIEUWEDRIFT NO. 486, PAARL

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the 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

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Cc: (1) Ms H Liebenberg/ Ms C Nel (GNEC)
(2) Ms C Winter (Drakenstein Municipality)
(3) Mr. E Saayman (Drakenstein Municipality)
(4) Ms A Duffel-Canham (CapeNature)

Email: carina@gnec.co.za/intern@gnec.co.za
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E-mail: aduffel-canham@capenature.co.za

REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B3/28/1031/21
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000925/2021
ENQUIRIES: Samornay Smidt
DATE OF ISSUE: 07 December 2021

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): PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CEMETERY ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM NIEUWEDRIFT NO. 486, PAARL

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the Preferred Layout Alternative, as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated 1 October 2021.

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

Drakenstein Municipality
c/o Mr Johan Leibbrandt
PO Box 1
PAARL
7622

Tel.: (021) 807 4500
Email: Johan.Leibbrandt@drakenstein.gov.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>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 23</p> <p><i>The development of cemeteries of 2 500 square metres or more in size.</i></p>	<p>The proposed development of a cemetery exceeding 2500 square meters in size.</p>
<p>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 27</p> <p><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></p> <p><i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The development of a cemetery will result in the clearance of more than 1ha of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 4</p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p><i>i. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning;</i></p> <p><i>ii. Areas outside urban areas;</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation;</i></p> <p><i>(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</i></p> <p><i>iii. Inside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas zoned for conservation use; or</i></p> <p><i>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority.</i></p>	<p>The proposed development includes the construction of internal roads which will be 8 metres in width, will be located outside the urban area and will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 -</p> <p>Activity Number: 12</p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>More than 300 square metres of critically endangered indigenous vegetation will be cleared to develop the proposed cemetery.</p>

<p>i. Western Cape</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas; iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister. 	
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The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

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

The proposal entails the development of a new cemetery with 13 653 grave plots and associated infrastructure, such as internal roads, parking bays, an ablution facility and a stormwater detention pond in the north-eastern corner of the site. Access to the cemetery will be gained from Minor Road 5267 (Boland Road). The development proposal will also incorporate a conservation area approximately 2.5 hectares in extent.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Farm Nieuwedrifit No. 486 located north of Paarl and south-west of Wellington.

The SG21 digit code is: C05500000000048600000

Co-ordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
33° 41' 09.28"	18° 57' 42.85"

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

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
c/o Carina Becker
PO Box 2632
PAARL
8000

Tel: (021) 870 1874
Email: carina@gnec.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 Layout Alternative, as described in the BAR dated 1 October 2021 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The Environmental Authorisation is valid for a period of **five years** from the date of issue, within which commencement must occur.
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 activity.
 - 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 18.

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties (“I&APs”) of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
 - 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
 - 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder, and
 - 7.4.6 contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and 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 (as amended).
8. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

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

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer (“ECO”) before commencement of any land clearing or construction activity to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
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 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 (as amended), 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** (i.e. not the ECO appointed in terms of condition 11 above or the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The holder must undertake an environmental audit every year for the duration of the construction phase and submit Environmental Audit Reports annually to the Competent Authority during the construction phase. The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within three months after operation commenced.

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 relevant requirements with respect to occupational health and safety must be adhered to at all times.
18. A Restoration Plan must be compiled and submitted to CapeNature for approval before construction of the proposed development commences. A copy of the Restoration Plan and CapeNature's approval must be submitted to the Department for record purposes.

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 that activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:

Amendments to the EMPr must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations 2014, (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority–
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organs of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.

3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organs of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

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

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
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

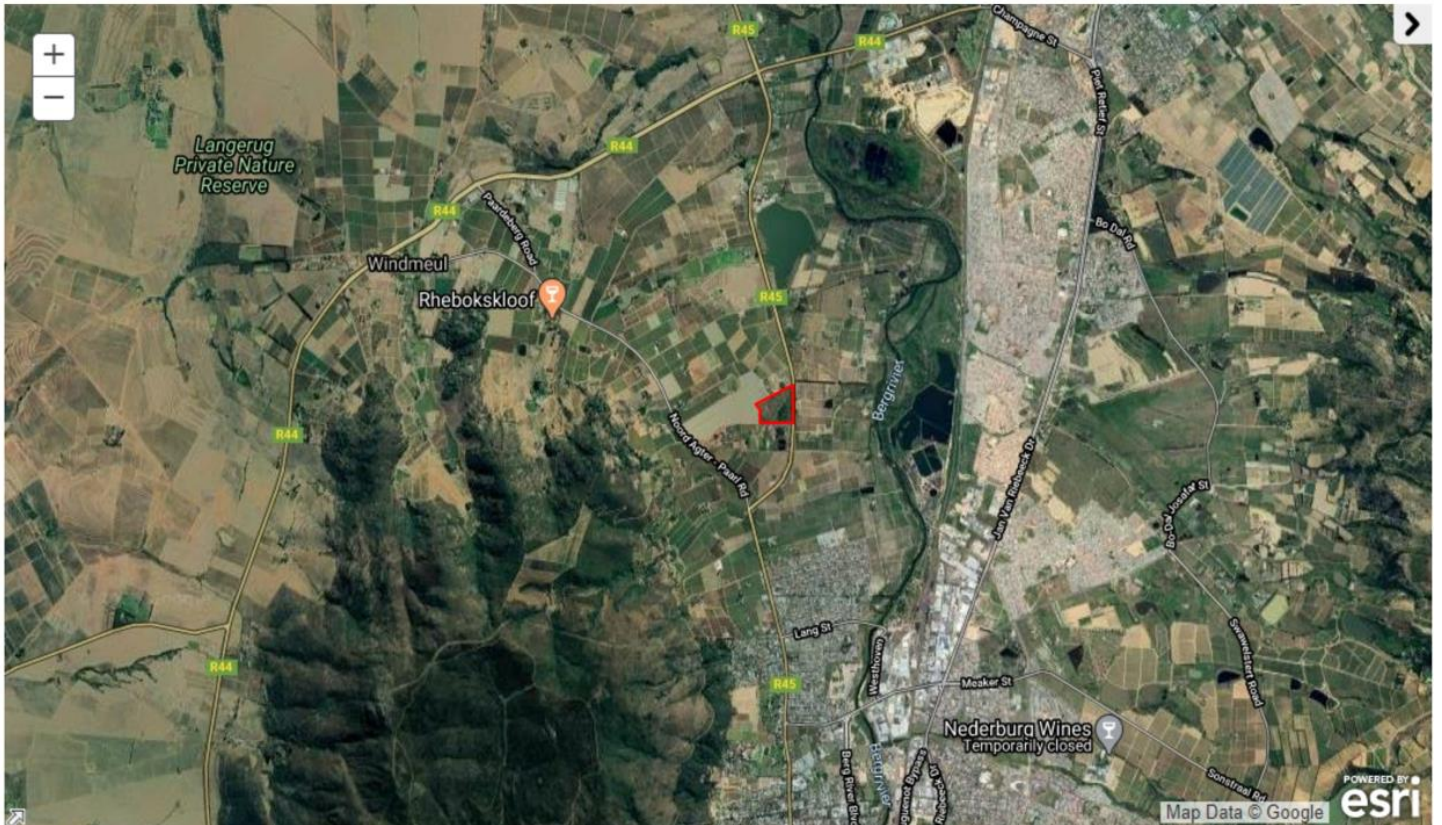
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 07 DECEMBER 2021

Cc: (1) Ms H Liebenberg/ Ms C Nel (GNEC)
(2) Ms C Winter (Drakenstein Municipality)
(3) Mr. E Saayman (Drakenstein Municipality)
(4) Ms A Duffel-Canham (CapeNature)

Email: carina@gnec.co.za/intern@gnec.co.za
Email: Cindy.Winter@drakenstein.gov.za
Email: Ernest.Saayman@drakenstein.gov.za
E-mail: aduffel-canham@capenature.co.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



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 17 June 2021 and the EMPr submitted together with final BAR on 1 October 2021;
- 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 1 October 2021; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

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;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Paarl Post' on 18 February 2021;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken and public areas on 22 February 2021;
- 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 22 February 2021;
- circulating of the pre-application draft BAR to I&AP's from 22 February 2021, and
- circulating the in-process draft BAR to I&APs from 6 July 2021.

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

Drakenstein Municipality considered a number of site alternatives but, following an investigation of the sites, it was determined that it was not suitable for the development of a cemetery due to factors such as water resources and boreholes on or in close proximity to the sites, unsuitable topography which

would require extensive earthworks, inadequate access and the existing land use of the sites. Nieuwedrift Farm is the preferred site since it is the only available space that is owned by the municipality, and is the most suitable in terms of access, current land use and environmental factors.

Initially, the preferred alternative entailed utilising the entire site for the proposed cemetery, comprising 18100 grave plots, a stormwater detention pond, parking bays and an internal road. This was not supported due to the significant botanical impact associated with the loss of an area of irreplaceable critically endangered indigenous vegetation of high sensitivity. The layout was therefore reconsidered and through further specialist input and extensive consultation with CapeNature, the following preferred alternative, which incorporates the specialist recommendations and CapeNature's input, was developed. It is considered as the most viable option for implementation from both a biophysical and socio-economic perspective.

Preferred Layout Alternative (Herewith authorised)

The proposal entails the development of a new cemetery with 13 653 grave plots and associated infrastructure, such as internal roads, parking bays, an ablution facility and a stormwater detention pond in the north-eastern corner of the site. Access to the cemetery will be gained from Minor Road 5267 (Boland Road). The development proposal will also incorporate a conservation area approximately 2.5 hectares in extent.

The amended project layout incorporates inputs from CapeNature and the botanical specialist and includes a conservation area to preserve the sensitive biodiversity area. All the relevant parties supported the new design proposal.

"No-Go" Alternative

The no-go alternative was considered. However, it was not preferred since it will not address the shortage of cemetery space in the municipal area and additional cemetery space would need to be acquired in different locations to address the need, which is not a viable option.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity need and desirability

The Drakenstein municipal area is currently experiencing a severe shortage of land availability for cemeteries and the lack of available cemetery space and a regional cemetery has been identified as a critical challenge. The need for more burial space has been significantly exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the development of a new regional cemetery is therefore a high-priority project.

The specialist studies conducted during the EIA process and input obtained during the public participation process have informed the layout of the site to avoid and mitigate potential impacts and provide the best practicable environmental option. The proposed development site is located adjacent and to the west of the R45, which makes it easily accessible for the public. The site is owned by the municipality, which eliminates the need to spend additional time and funds on acquiring new land for this purpose. Developing the proposed cemetery on this vacant municipal property in close proximity to the urban area will therefore effectively address the increasing demand for burial sites in the municipal area.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The proposed cemetery site comprises of undeveloped land that is surrounded by agricultural development, a school and clinic along its southern boundary. The site is mapped to contain only critically endangered Swartland Shale Renosterveld vegetation, but based on the Specialist Botanical Baseline and Constraints Study and subsequent Spring Survey undertaken by Capensis in July 2020 and October 2020, respectively, a small, degraded area of critically endangered Swartland Alluvium Fynbos is also present on site. The 12.8ha area identified for the proposed cemetery varies in condition from transformed to semi-intact, comprising an 8.51ha highly degraded area of low sensitivity, a 0.14ha degraded area with medium sensitivity and a 4.15ha area that is semi-intact and of high sensitivity. The area that contains the sensitive vegetation corresponds with the mapped Critical Biodiversity Area. The initial proposal to develop the entire site would have resulted in a high negative impact and was not supported from a botanical perspective. Given the irreplaceable nature of the critically endangered indigenous vegetation found on the site, a biodiversity offset was not deemed as a viable option and exclusion of the high sensitivity area from the layout was identified as the only acceptable mitigation to minimise the significance of the potential botanical impact. This was supported by the competent authority and CapeNature. The original preferred alternative to develop the entire site was therefore amended to incorporate the specialist recommendations and in consultation with CapeNature, an alternative layout that incorporates a 2.5ha conservation area, was developed. This amended alternative is considered as the best practicable environmental and socio-economic option, since it minimises the botanical impact and addresses the need for burial space in the municipal area. The specialist recommendations have also been included in the EMPr and as conditions of this Environmental Authorisation.

Negative Impacts:

- The proposed development will have a negative biophysical impact due to the loss of critically endangered indigenous vegetation. This impact will however be mitigated to a satisfactory level with the implementation of the preferred alternative, the recommended mitigation measures and adherence to the EMPr and proposed Restoration Plan.
- During the construction phase traffic, noise, visual and dust impacts can be expected, which will only be temporary and is expected to be negligible with the implementation of the EMPr.

Positive impacts:

- Additional cemetery space will be provided, which will address a critical challenge in the municipal area.
- The preferred alternative excludes the high sensitivity area which will be formally protected as a conservation area.
- The proposed development will provide employment opportunities during the construction phase.

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 EMP, 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.

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