

EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/E2/37/1009/23
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001231/2023
DATE OF ISSUE: **31 AUGUST 2023**

The Director
Ross Poultry Breeders (Pty) Ltd
Wortelgat Road
STANFORD
7210

Attention: Mr L de Villiers

E-mail: lawrence.devilliers@rpb.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 EXPANSION OF EXISTING CHICKEN LAYING HOUSES, REARING HOUSES, AND HATCHERY INFRASTRUCTURE AT ROSS POULTRY BREEDERS ON PORTION 5 OF FARM TURTLE SPRINGS NO. 643, STANFORD

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Mr N Hanekom (Enviro EAP (Pty) Ltd) E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za
(2) Mr P Roux (Overstrand Municipality) E-mail: petrusroux@overstrand.gov.za
(3) Mr R Smart (CapeNature) E-mail: rsmart@capenature.co.za
(4) Mr C Abrahams (BOCMA) E-mail: cabrahams@bocma.co.za
(5) Mr C van der Walt (Department of Agriculture: LandCare) E-mail: corvdw@elsenburg.com
(6) Ms C Herman (Heritage Western Cape) E-mail: chane.herman@westerncape.gov.za

EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/E2/37/1009/23
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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING CHICKEN LAYING HOUSES, REARING HOUSES, AND HATCHERY INFRASTRUCTURE AT ROSS POULTRY BREEDERS ON PORTION 5 OF FARM TURTLE SPRINGS NO. 643, STANFORD

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, described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), received on 17 May 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

The Board of Directors
 % Mr L de Villiers
 Ross Poultry Breeders (Pty) Ltd
 Wortelgat Road
STANFORD
 7210

E-mail: lawrence.devilliers@rpb.co.za

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

B. ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Project Description
Listing Notice 1 of 2014- Activity Number: 27 <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</i>	Approximately 3.5 hectares of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.

<p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	
<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 28</p> <p><i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 1 April 1998 and where such development:</i></p> <p>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</p> <p><i>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The clearance of vegetation will take place on land that was used for agricultural purposes outside an urban area and where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 40</p> <p><i>The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of poultry, excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by-</i></p> <p>(i) more than 1000 poultry where the facility is situated within an urban area; or</p> <p>(ii) more than 5000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area.</p>	<p>The expansion of a chicken farm by an additional eight laying and four rearing houses, accommodating more than 5000 poultry per facility, outside an urban area.</p>
<p>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 clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p>(i) Western Cape:</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>Remnants of indigenous vegetation, Agulhas Limestone Fynbos, which is a critically endangered ecosystem, will be cleared as part of the development.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. <i>Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</i> iii. <i>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;</i> iv. <i>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</i> v. <i>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.</i> 	
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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:

This proposal entails the expansion of existing chicken laying houses, rearing houses, and hatchery infrastructure at Ross Poultry Breeders on Portion 5 of Farm Turtle Springs No. 643, Stanford, which will consist of:

- The expansion of the hatchery by approximately 1200m², which will be linked to a new effluent treatment facility of approximately 77m². The treated effluent will be irrigated on-site on an area of approximately 18 000m².
- The construction of 8 additional laying houses and 4 rearing houses with an approximate footprint of 23 100m².
- The 8 laying and 4 rearing houses will be connected to 2 evaporation ponds which will receive approximately 90m³ of wash water. A free board of 500mm was included in the design to accommodate rainwater.
- The staff changing and laundry room will be expanded by approximately 300m².
- The existing office will be expanded.
- An additional maintenance manager house will be constructed.
- An additional supervisor dwelling will be constructed.
- A new LPG gas storage tank (less than 30 cubic meters) will be installed.

Access to the facility is existing. The total expanded infrastructure will be approximately 3.5ha in extent.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Portion 5 of Farm Turtle Springs No. 643, Stanford, at the following co-ordinates:

Latitude (S)	34° 26' 09.36"
Longitude (E)	19° 26' 07.35"

The SG21 digit code is: C01300000000064300005,

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

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd
% Mr N Hanekom
PO Box 205
AGULHAS
7287

E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.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, described in the BAR received on 17 May 2023 at 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 then (**10**) years, from the date the holder commenced with the authorised listed activities, during which period the authorised listed activity, 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. The notice must:
 - 5.1 make clear reference to the farm details and EIA Reference number given above; and
 - 5.2 also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 6, 7, 10 and 17.

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 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
- 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, of the holder; and
 - 6.4.6 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).
7. The listed activities, including site preparation, must 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 i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activities

- 8. The draft 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 any clearing activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr.
- 11. The ECO must conduct monthly compliance monitoring inspections during the construction phase. Environmental Compliance Reports must be compiled monthly and submitted to the Competent Authority every second month. A final Environmental Compliance Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within three months after the completion of the construction phase.
- 12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activity, and must be made available to anyone on request, including on 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. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent

person (which is not the ECO or the EAP for this application) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

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

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

Specific Conditions

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 construction site must be clearly demarcated prior to commencement of construction activities. All areas outside the development footprint must be treated as no-go areas for development.

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, 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 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

- A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 2659, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR ZAAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 31 AUGUST 2023

CC: (1) Mr N Hanekom (Enviro EAP (Pty) Ltd)	E-mail: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za
(2) Mr P Roux (Overstrand Municipality)	E-mail: petrusroux@overstrand.gov.za
(3) Mr R Smart (CapeNature)	E-mail: rsmart@capenature.co.za
(4) Mr C Abrahams (BOCMA)	E-mail: cabrahams@bocma.co.za
(5) Mr C van der Walt (Department of Agriculture: LandCare)	E-mail: corvdw@elsenburg.com
(6) Ms C Herman (Heritage Western Cape)	E-mail: chane.herman@westerncape.gov.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

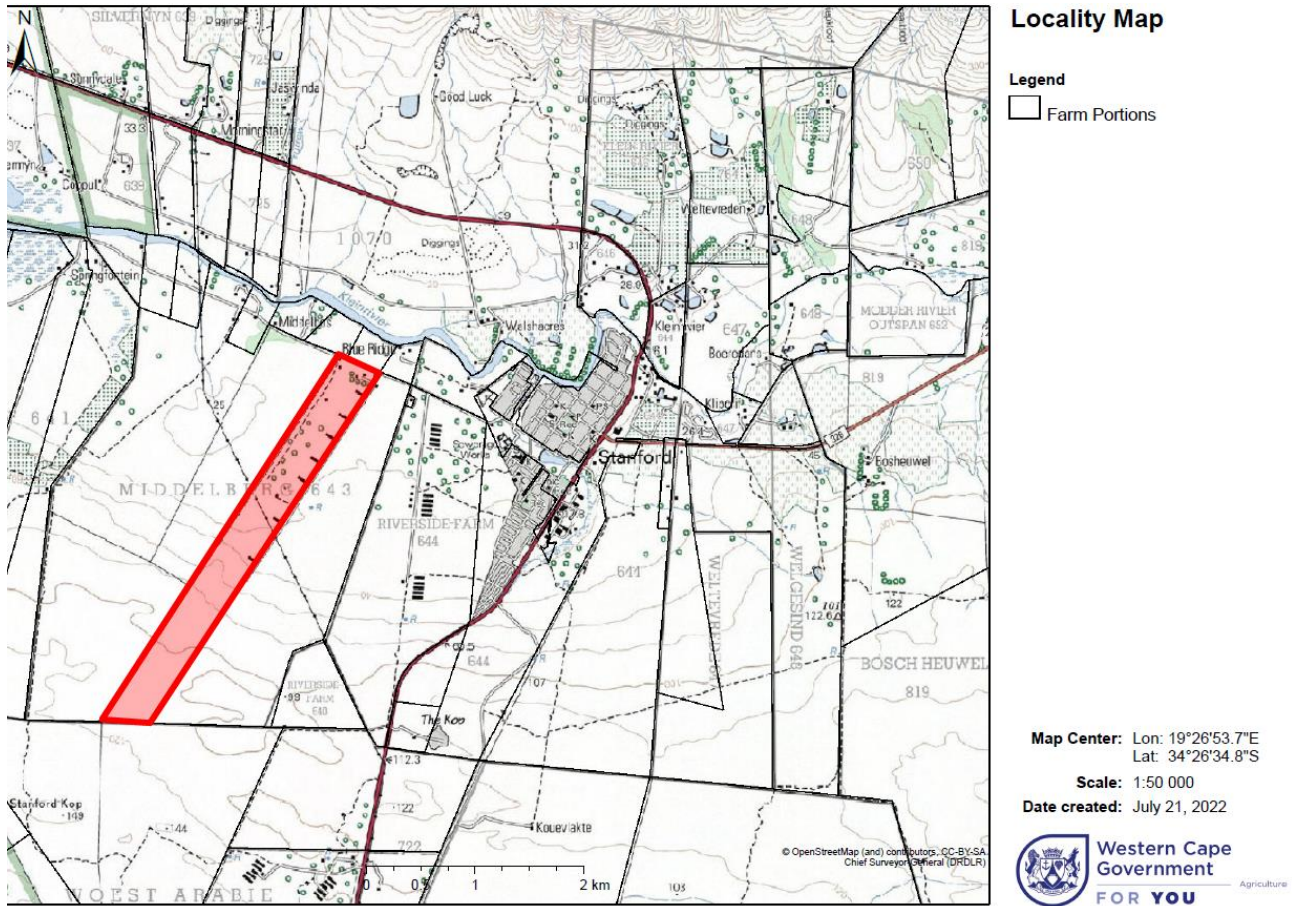


Figure 1: Locality map of Portion 5 of Farm Turtle Springs No. 643, Stanford.

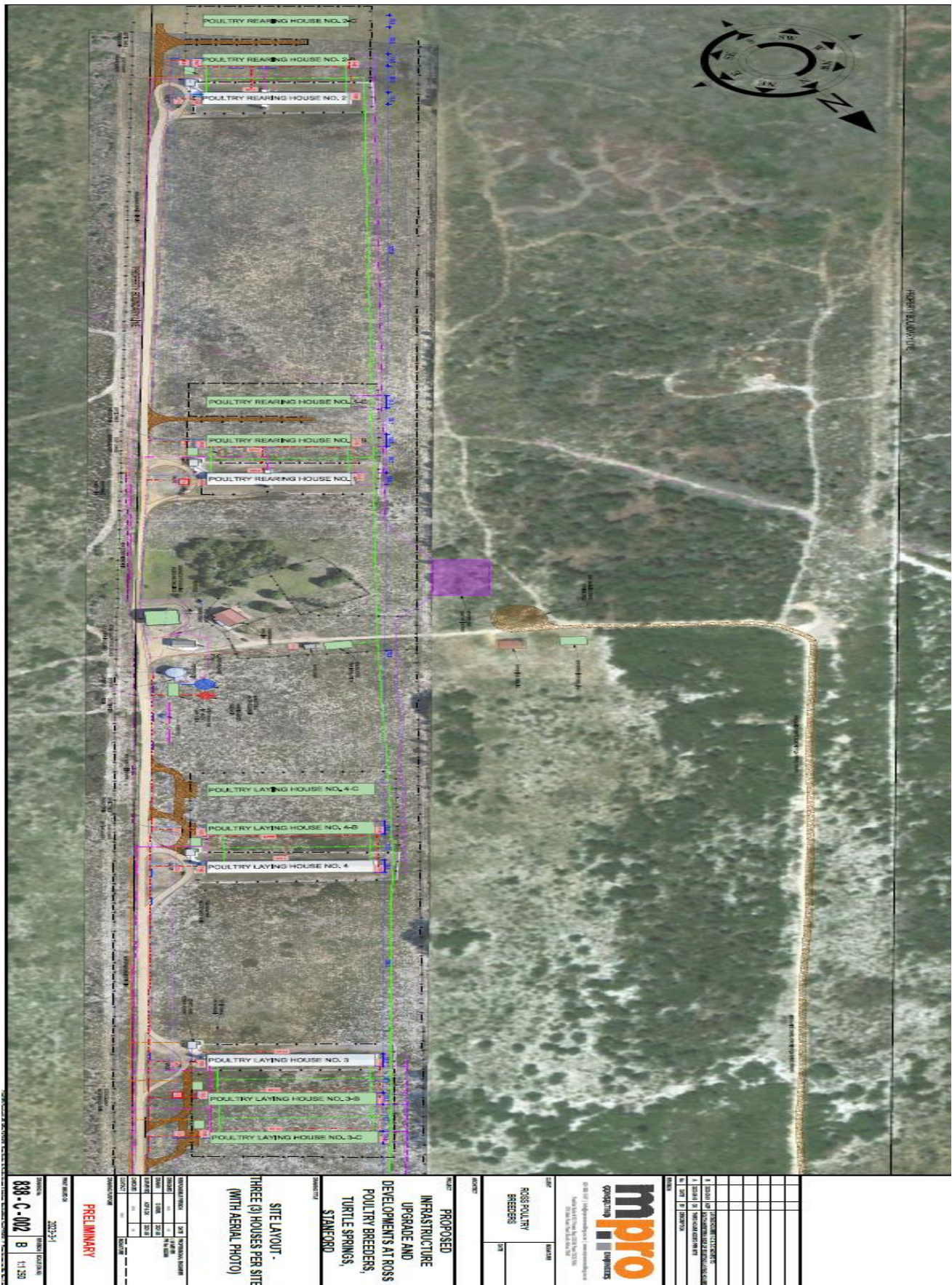


Figure 3: Site Development Plan indicating the following structures and infrastructure to be developed and expanded: laying houses 3B, 3C, 4B and 4C (also indicated on Figure 2), the 4 rearing houses, one of the evaporation ponds the supervisor dwelling.

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

- a) The information contained in the Application Form submitted on 15 February 2023, the BAR and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR on 17 May 2023 and the additional information received on 12 June 2023;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR received on 17 May 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 during the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

1. Public Participation

The Public Participation Process included:

- Placing site notices at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken on 4 May 2022;
- Giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the properties where the listed activity is 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 5 May 2022;
- Placing an advertisement in the "Hermanus Times" newspaper on 18 May 2022;
- Circulating the pre-application BAR to I&APs for public review on 11 December 2022;
- Circulating the in-process draft BAR to I&APs for public review on 2 March 2023;
- Circulating the amended in-process draft BAR Report to I&APs for public review on 11 April 2023.

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

2. Alternatives

The following layout alternatives and the "no-go" alternative were considered:

2.1 Preferred Layout Alternative (herewith authorised):

This alternative entails the expansion of existing chicken laying houses, rearing houses, and hatchery infrastructure at Ross Poultry Breeders on Portion 5 of Farm Turtle Springs No. 643, Stanford which will consist of:

- The expansion of the hatchery by approximately 1200m², which will be linked to a new effluent treatment facility of approximately 77m². The treated effluent will be irrigated on-site on an area of approximately 18 000m².
- The construction of 8 additional laying houses and 4 rearing houses with an approximate total footprint of 23 100m².

- The 8 laying and 4 rearing houses will be connected to 2 evaporation ponds which will receive approximately 90m³ of wash water. A free board of 500mm was included in the design to accommodate rainwater.
- The staff changing and laundry room will be expanded by approximately 300m².
- The existing office will be expanded.
- A new additional maintenance manager house will be constructed.
- An additional supervisor dwelling will be constructed.
- A new LPG gas storage tank (less than 30 cubic meters) will be installed.

Access to the facility is existing. The total expanded infrastructure will be approximately 3.5ha in extent.

This alternative is preferred since the location of laying houses 1-c, 2-c and 3-c were relocated from the northern boundary of the existing infrastructure to the south to avoid a sensitive botanical area. This alternative will also not encroach on the three white milkwood trees recorded on the site.

2.2 Layout Alternative:

This alternative is similar to the preferred Layout Alternative. It is not preferred, since laying houses 1-c, 2-c and 3-c will remain within the northern boundary of the site and will therefore encroach onto the sensitive botanical area and the three white milkwood trees recorded on the site.

2.3 "No-go" Alternative:

The 'no-go' alternative was considered. However, it is not preferred since it will not provide an opportunity to increase the economic viability of the farm and will not contribute to the socio-economic benefits for the region in terms of job creation and food security.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activities need and desirability

Portion 5 of Farm Turtle Springs No. 643, Stanford, is zoned Agriculture Zone I. The intention is to increase the current production in response to the growing market need. The expansion of the chicken farm will result in the farm becoming more economically viable. The region's socio-economic benefits in terms of job creation and food security will also be enhanced by the expansion of the chicken farm. All required services are existing and available on the property. The proposed expansion will take place in an active farming area.

3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

According to CapeNature, Elim Ferricrete Fynbos occurs on the site, which is now a critically endangered ecosystem according to the Revised National list of Ecosystems that Threatened or in need of Protection published in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). There are two sensitive areas located in close proximity of the site, which are a clump of white milkwood trees and a wetland. The preferred Site Layout Plan has been amended to exclude these sensitive areas and the potential impacts that may result from the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the EMPr (accepted in Condition 8).

There are no watercourses or wetlands located on the development footprint. The Klein River Estuary is located in close proximity of the site. The site is also located above an important aquifer which supplies water for the town of Stanford. The Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment compiled by Enviro-EAP, dated November 2022, concluded that the wetland as mentioned above, is considered to be of low ecological importance. The Geohydrological Investigation compiled by Gerdes Steenekamp, dated November 2022, concluded that the small amount of groundwater abstraction which is being applied for, will not have any adverse effects on the surrounding boreholes. Potential impacts on groundwater and the wetland will be mitigated by the implementation of mitigation measures set out in the EMPr. Furthermore, a Water Use Licence Application ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998) has been submitted to the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency for the expansion of existing chicken laying houses, rearing houses, and hatchery infrastructure, who will further investigate the water use related impacts.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- The development will result in construction related impacts such as dust, visual impact and noise. However, these impacts will be mitigated to a satisfactory level.
- Impacts on groundwater quality may occur but will be managed in terms of the EMPr approved in terms of Condition 8.

Positive impacts:

- The development will provide additional employment opportunities.

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, 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.

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