



**EIA REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/B5/2/1018/21  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000889/2021  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 28 October 2021

The Trustees  
Groot Groenfontein Farming Trust  
Private Bag X4

**HOUT BAY**  
7872

**Attention: Mr V Miros**

E-mail: [volker@woodtruffles.co.za](mailto:volker@woodtruffles.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 ESTABLISHMENT OF GUEST COTTAGES ON FARM GROENFONTEIN NO. 96, CERES**

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) Ms K Williams/ Mr D Jeffery (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd)  
(2) Mr B Klaasen (Witzenberg Municipality)  
(3) Mr M Tshikalange (Department of Water and Sanitation)  
(4) Ms A Duffel-Canham (CapeNature)  
(5) Ms N Achmat (Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management)

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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 ESTABLISHMENT OF GUEST COTTAGES ON FARM GROENFONTEIN NO. 96, CERES**

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

**DECISION**

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

The Trustees  
Groot Groenfontein Farming Trust  
% Mr V Miros  
Private Bag X4  
**HOUT BAY**  
7872

E-mail: [volker@woodtruffles.co.za](mailto:volker@woodtruffles.co.za)

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

**B. ACTIVITY AUTHORISED**

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014:  <b>Activity Number: 6</b>  <i>The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more.</i>	The establishment of five cottages, which will accommodate a maximum of 20 people, and which will be located within the Groenfontein Private Nature Reserve. The cottages will be located outside an urban area within a protected area identified in terms of National Environmental Management: Protected Areas

<p>i. Western Cape:</p> <p><b>i. Inside a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA;</b></p> <p><b>ii. Outside urban areas:</b></p> <p>(aa) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; or</p> <p>(bb) Within 5km from national parks, world heritage sites, <b>areas identified in terms of NEMPAA</b> or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;-</p> <p><i>excluding the conversion of existing buildings where the development footprint will not be increased.</i></p>	<p>Act (Act 57 of 2003) ("NEMPAA").</p>
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The abovementioned is hereinafter referred to as "**the listed activity**".

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

The proposal entails the establishment of five guest cottages with auxiliary services and infrastructure with a development footprint of 2145 square metres in extent on Farm Groenfontein No. 96, Ceres. The development will comprise of the following:

- Each guest cottage will accommodate four people and will have a physical footprint of 147 square metres in extent.
- Each guest cottage will have a 5000 litre PVC septic tank draining into a soak-away.
- Access to each guest cottage will be gained via the development of an access road from the existing farm road. The access roads to cottages two and five will be approximately 60m to 70m in length and the access roads to cottages one, three and four will be approximately 30m to 40m in length. These access roads will be approximately 3m wide and will remain gravel tracks.
- Potable water will be supplied by an existing borehole on the farm. The water will be pumped to an existing reservoir from where the water will be distributed by a 50mm PVC pipeline of approximately 360m in length, under gravity to the guest cottages.
- Electricity will be supplied via solar panels and wind-chargers feeding a battery bank.
- Solid waste removal will be accommodated by the local municipality.

### C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activity will be undertaken on Farm Groenfontein No. 96, Ceres at the following co-ordinates:

**Location of the five guest cottages:**

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
32° 52' 03.76"	19° 35' 14.52"

The SG 21-digit code is: C01900000000009600000

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

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd  
% Ms K Williams /Mr D Jeffery  
P.O Box 44  
**KLAPMUTS**  
7625

Tel.: (021) 875 5272  
E-mail: [doug@dougjeff.co.za](mailto:doug@dougjeff.co.za)

## E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

### Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with, and restricted to, Preferred Alternative in the BAR dated July 2021 at the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activity on site within a period of **five (5) years** from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be concluded within **10 years** from the date of commencement of the listed activity.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in Section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information, in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

### Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities. The notice must:
  - 6.1 make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above; and
  - 6.2 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; and
- 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 activity, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notifies 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 activity, 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"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
12. The ECO must conduct fortnightly compliance monitoring inspections during the construction phase. Monthly Environmental Compliance Reports must be compiled and quarterly Environmental Compliance Reports must be submitted to the Competent Authority for the duration of the construction phase. The final Environmental Compliance Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within six months after construction has been completed.
13. 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.
14. 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**

15. 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, that is not the ECO referred to in Condition 11 and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The Environmental Audit Reports must be submitted to the Competent Authority every **six (6)** months during the construction phase. The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority three 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**

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

17. 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.
18. The construction site must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of construction activities and all areas outside of the demarcated construction site 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 activity.
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 activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (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  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

**Note:** For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to [DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za)

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 2659, 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

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

**DATE OF DECISION: 28 OCTOBER 2021**

CC: (1) Ms K Williams/ Mr D Jeffery (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd)  
(2) Mr B Klaasen (Witzenberg Municipality)  
(3) Mr M Tshikalange (Department of Water and Sanitation)  
(4) Ms A Duffel-Canham (CapeNature)  
(5) Ms N Achmat (Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management)

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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

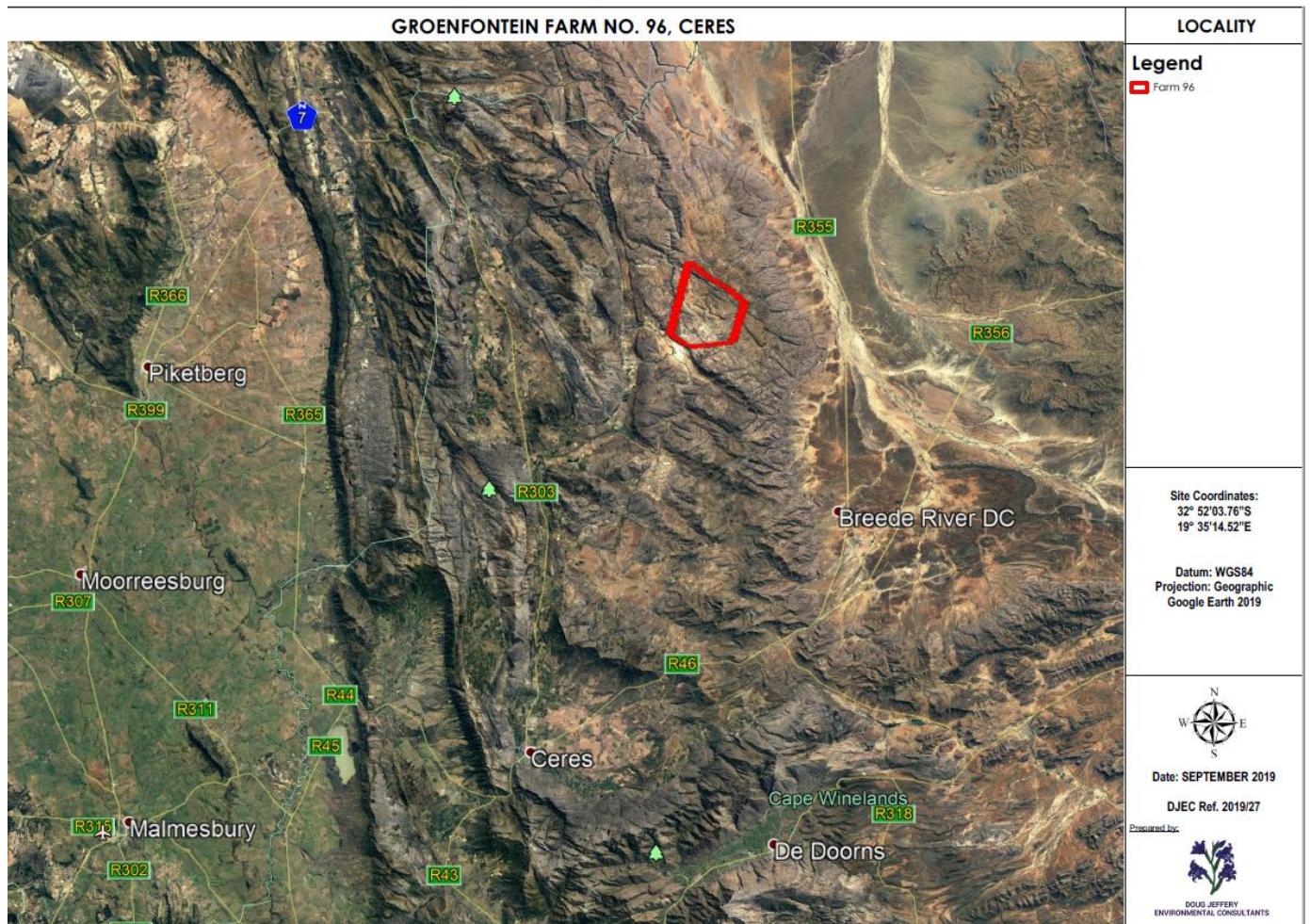


Figure 1: Locality map depicting the location of Farm Groenfontein No. 96, Ceres

## ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

### Proposed 5 Cottages on Groenfontein, Ceres



Figure 2: Site plan depicting the proposed guest cottages and auxiliary services on Farm Groenfontein No. 96, Ceres.

## 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 received electronically by the Department on 15 April 2021, the final BAR dated July 2021 and the EMPr submitted together with the final BAR on 12 July 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 NEMA;
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated July 2021; 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.

### 1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site 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 activity, on 22 October 2020 and 15 April 2021;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the "Witzenberg Herald" on 22 October 2020;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken and the Belmont Spar;
- making the first pre-application draft BAR available on the EAP's website to I&APs for public review on 22 October 2020;
- making the in-process draft BAR available to I&APs for public review on 15 April 2021.

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

Two site alternatives were investigated for the proposed development and are discussed below.

#### 2.1. Site Alternative:

##### Preferred Alternative (Herewith Authorised):

This alternative entails the establishment of five guest cottages with auxiliary services and infrastructure with a development footprint of 2145 square metres in extent on Farm Groenfontein No. 96, Ceres. The development will be located above the ridge that is situated on the southern boundary of the site and will comprise of the following:

- Each guest cottage will accommodate four people and will have a physical footprint of 147 square metres in extent.
- Each guest cottage will have a 5000 litre PVC septic tank draining into a soak-away.
- Access to each guest cottage will be gained via the development of an access road from the existing farm road. The access roads to cottages two and five will be approximately 60m to 70m in length and the access roads to cottages one, three and four will be

approximately 30m to 40m in length. These access roads will be approximately 3m wide and will remain gravel tracks.

- Potable water will be supplied by an existing borehole on the farm. The water will be pumped to an existing reservoir from where the water will be distributed by a 50mm PVC pipeline of approximately 360m in length, under gravity to the guest cottages.
- Electricity will be supplied via solar panels and wind-chargers feeding a battery bank.
- Solid waste removal will be accommodated by the local municipality.

This alternative is preferred from a botanical perspective since the development will be located more than 32m away from the ephemeral drainage line, will be located on top of the ridge situated on the southern boundary of the site, will be within the developed portion of the farm and has an existing farm road accessing the site. The development will not impact on any threatened ecosystems. The development will not be obtrusive and is not visible from surrounding roads or properties.

#### Site Alternative 1:

This alternative entails the same development components as the preferred alternative with the exception being that it would be developed below the ridge and within 32m of the ephemeral drainage line.

This alternative is not preferred since it will have a negative impact on the ephemeral drainage line.

#### **“No-Go” Alternative**

The “no-go” option was considered. However, it is not preferred since it will not provide an opportunity to increase the economic viability of the farm.

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

#### **3.1 Activity Need and Desirability**

The Witzenberg municipal area prides itself on its tourism potential, particularly agritourism. The proposed development of 5 guest cottages on Farm No. 96, Ceres will be an addition to the Witzenberg agritourism industry. The lack of suitable fertile agricultural land prevents this farm from being an economical agricultural unit. Thus, the development will result in positive impacts for the community in the form of employment opportunities and its contribution to the local economy. In addition, the proposal will enhance the economic viability of the overall farm by providing income which can be utilised to expand or upgrade the existing agricultural operations and securing existing agricultural related jobs on the farm.

#### **3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts**

The vegetation on the site comprises Swartruggens Quartzite Fynbos, which is an ecosystem classified as least threatened in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Biodiversity Act 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). Although the zoning is Agriculture Zone I, the entire property falls within a Protected Area recognised as the Groenfontein Private Nature Reserve. The north-eastern portion of the site is disturbed, having been used as a dump site for organic waste previously. The holder of the environmental authorisation will rehabilitate this area, which is located in close proximity to the guest cottages, to preserve the natural setting. A Botanical Screening Study dated 8 July 2019 concluded that the development is a small-scale ecotourism development with a low environmental impact. In addition no red data species were recorded within the development area. Through the implementation of the EMPr (accepted in Condition 9), the impacts on the vegetation will be mitigated to acceptable levels.

The development area is located adjacent to a small, ephemeral drainage line, which is located below a ridge at the southern boundary of the proposed site. Another smaller drainage line is located approximately 100m north of the site. There are no National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas identified near the site. The closest wetland is located more than 350m from the site. The site is not located within 32m of any watercourses. Through the implementation of the EMPr the potential impacts on watercourses will be mitigated to acceptable levels.

In addition, CapeNature has agreed with the findings and mitigation measures as stipulated in the Botanical Screening Study dated 8 July 2019 and has no objection with respect to the proposed development.

A Water Use Licence Application ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998) has been submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation, for the abstraction of water from a spring borehole.

### 3.3 Heritage Impacts

A Notice of Intent to Develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape dated October 2019. A Heritage Impact Assessment dated February 2021 was compiled by ACO Associates. The Heritage Impact Assessment concluded that no heritage resources are located on the site. The San Rock Art at Stompiesfontein is located more than 2km away from the proposed development area and will not be affected by the proposal. No archaeological sites, materials, historical buildings and graves or cemeteries were identified on the site. Heritage Western Cape indicated that they are satisfied with the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment and that no further action was required. Through the implementation of the EMP, which includes the Fossil Chance Find Protocol, the potential heritage impacts will be mitigated to acceptable levels.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

#### **Negative Impacts:**

- The development will result in the loss of natural vegetation during site preparation and construction activities. However, disturbance will be restricted to the development footprint and disturbed areas will be rehabilitated.
- The development will result in construction related impacts such as dust, noise and visual intrusion during the clearance of vegetation.

#### **Positive impacts:**

- All areas outside the demarcated development footprint will be regarded as no-go areas during the land clearing activities.
- The organic waste dump site in close proximity of the proposed development will be rehabilitated, which will improve the ecological and visual value of the area.
- Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase.

## 4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The NEMA 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 activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the NEMA and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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