



REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F1/13/2017/22
NEAS REFERENCE NUMBER: WCP/EIA/0001076/2022
ENQUIRIES: Ms. N. Wookey
DATE OF ISSUE: 21 October 2022

The Director
Unifrutti SA (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 32
REDELINGHUYS
8105

For Attention: Mr. De Witt La Grange

Tel: (022) 962 1730

Email: Dewitt@unifrutti.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING PACK STORES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 5 OF FARM MATROOZEFONTEIN 13, REDELINGHUYS.

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 decision on the application, that all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to the decision 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 summarised in the Environmental Authorisation below.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

Copies to: (1) Ms. A. Joubert (Bergrivier Municipality)
(2) Mr. N. Hanekom (Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.)

Email: JoubertA@bergmun.org.za

Email: Nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F1/13/2017/22

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING PACKHOUSE STORE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 5 OF FARM MATROOZEFONTEIN 13, REDELINGHUYS.

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 22 May 2022.

A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Director
% Mr. De Witt La Grange
Unifrutti SA (Pty) Ltd.
P. O. Box 32
REDELINGHUYS
8105

Tel: (022) 962 1730
Email: Dewitt@unifrutti.co.za

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

B. LISTED ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity / Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</p> <p>Activity Number: 43 Activity Description:</p> <p><i>The expansion and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes, where the development footprint of the hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities will be increased by 2 000 square metres or more.</i></p>	<p>The proposed expansion of the existing packhouse store and associated infrastructure on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys will be expanded by approximately 8000m² outside an industrial complex.</p>

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 proposed development:

The authorised development entails the expansion of the existing packhouse store and associated infrastructure on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys.

The expansion of the packhouse will occur on an existing leveled platform and will consist of the following:

- The packhouse / store extension;
- An office extension;
- A clinic security room;
- A chemical store;
- A covered canopy;
- A covered drench;
- A pack control room;
- A freezer room extension; and
- Associated infrastructure.

The existing packhouse washes and packages grapes. An existing effluent treatment system is used for the treatment of washwater emanating from the grape washing and packaging process and domestic waste emanating from the existing facility. The proposed expansion will allow for the washing and packaging of citrus produce. Due to the seasonal nature of the development, the processing of grapes and citrus will not occur simultaneously. The existing treatment infrastructure therefore does not require an upgrade to accommodate the proposed expansion. The effluent produced for the processing of citrus will have high concentrations of fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, preservatives and disinfection chemicals. This effluent stream will be kept separate from the existing floor drainage and sewer effluent so that it can receive specific treatment before being discharged to the existing reedbed. The maximum daily volume of chemical effluent to be treated will be approximately 11200 litres. As part of the expansion, the addition of a chemical effluent stream will be added to treat the chemical effluent, which will contain concentrations of fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, preservatives and disinfection chemicals prior to discharge to the reedbed.

Sufficient and spare of bulk water supply is available in accordance with the existing water use rights for the proposed site and sanitation and solid waste services are available. Existing access via the R366 and an existing farm road is available.

The total development footprint of the proposed expansion will be approximately 8000m² in extent.

C. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activity will take place on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys.

The 21-digit Surveyor General code is:

Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys	C05800000000001300005
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The central co-ordinate for the proposed expansion is:

Middle (Point)	32° 29' 31.51" South	18° 34' 26.37" East
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Refer to **Annexure 1**: Locality Plan and **Annexure 2**: Site Development Plan.

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

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.
% Mr. N. Hanekom
P. O. Box 205
AGULHAS
7287

Cell: 076 963 6450
Email: Nicolaas@enviro-eap.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 the Preferred Alternative described in Section B above and in the BAR dated 22 May 2022 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activity within the stipulated validity period which this Environmental Authorisation is granted for, or this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority

This Environmental Authorisation is granted for–

- (a) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activity; and
 - (b) A period of ten (**10**) years, from the date the holder commenced with an authorised listed activity, during which period the authorised listed activity for the construction phase, must be concluded.
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. A minimum of **seven (7)** calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of the development activity.
 - 5.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 5.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 6, 7, 10 and 17.

Notification and administration of appeal

6. The holder must in writing, within **fourteen (14)** 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 Section H;
 - 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 Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section F below;
 - 6.3. Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; 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. The name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 6.4.3. The postal address of the holder;
 - 6.4.4. The telephonic and fax details of the holder;
 - 6.4.5. The e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and
 - 6.4.6. The contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
7. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within **twenty (20)** calendar days from the date the holder 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

8. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") (compiled by Enviro-EAP and dated June 2022) submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
9. The EMPr must be included in all relevant contract documentation for the applicable phases of implementation.

Monitoring

10. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before the commencement of any land clearing or development activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation.
11. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, Environmental Audit Reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activity during the development activities thereafter it must be kept at the office of the holder and must be made available to any authorised person on request.
12. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

13. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 - 13.1. The holder must undertake an environmental audit within three (3) months of the commencement of the listed activity and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Competent Authority one (1) month after the completion of the environmental audit.
 - 13.2. A second Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority one (1) month after the completion of the development/construction activities.
 - 13.3. An Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority every 5 (five) years after the commencement of the operational phase while the EA remains valid.
 - 13.4. The holder must, within seven (7) days of the submission of the Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the Environmental Audit Report available to any I&APs upon request.

Specific Conditions

14. Should any heritage resources be discovered during the execution of the activities above, all works must be stopped immediately and the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay.

- 14.1. 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 bones and fossil shells); coins; indigenous and/ or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.
15. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate avoidance, reduction, recycling, treat, reuse and disposal where appropriate.
16. Surface, storm or ground water must not be polluted due to any actions on the site. The applicable requirements with respect to relevant legislation pertaining to water must be met.
17. The site must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of the development activities. The development footprint of the proposed development must be limited to the demarcated area.
18. The recommendations of the Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment (compiled by Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd and dated July 2022), as included in the EMPr, must be implemented.
19. Dust suppression measures must be used to mitigate dust during the construction phase. No potable water must be used to mitigate dust nuisance. Alternative dust suppression methods (such as shade netting screens and/ or straw stabilisation, etc.) must be implemented instead.
20. Employment opportunities must be afforded to the local community (as far as possible) during all phases of the proposed 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 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. An application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation must be submitted 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 NEMA 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 the notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal form/s must be submitted by means of one of the following methods:
 - By post: Attention: Marius Venter
Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000
 - By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or
 - By hand: Attention: Mr M. Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building
1 Dorp Street
CAPE TOWN
8001
 - By e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za
5. A prescribed appeal form, as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the office of the 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 Addendum to the 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)

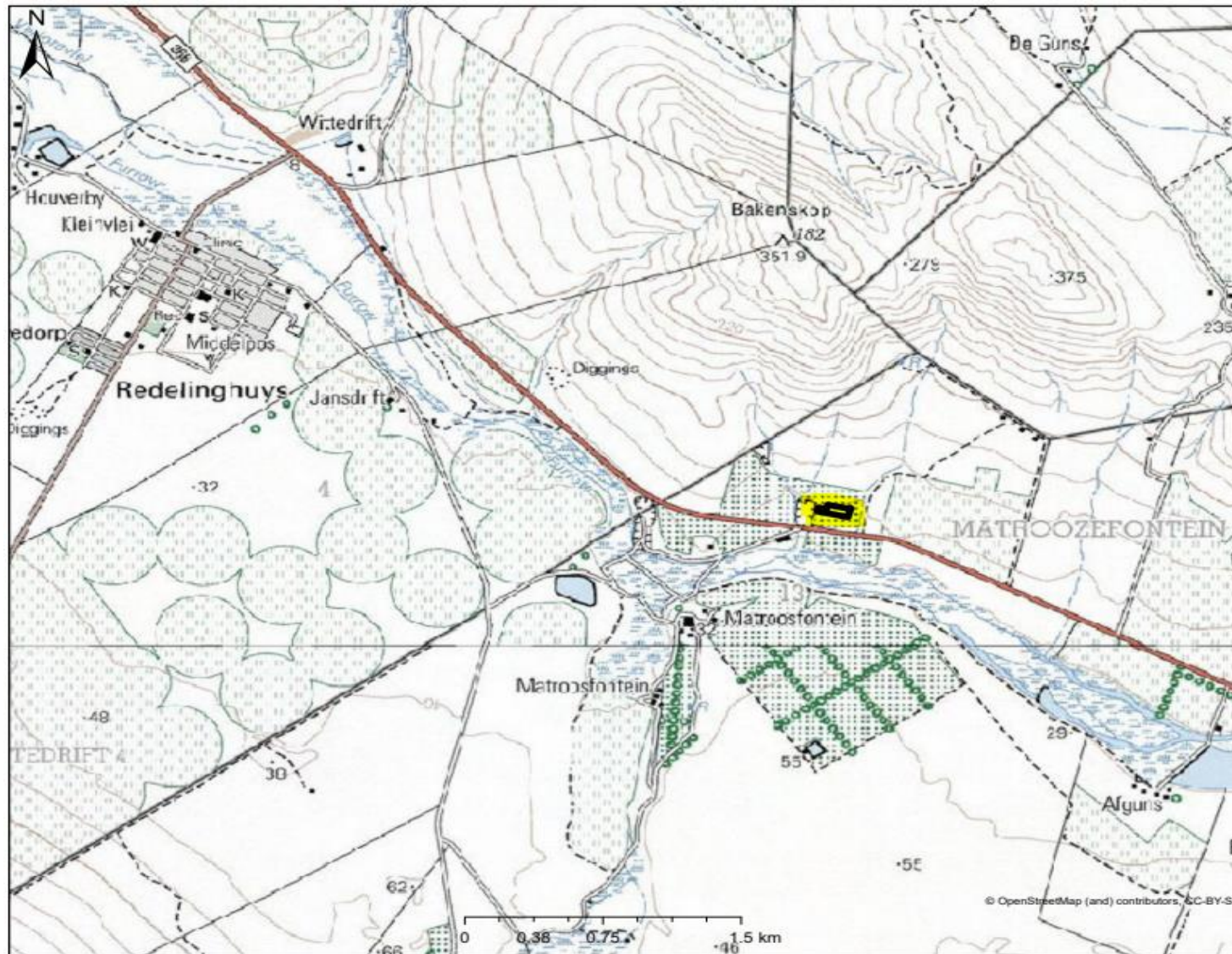
DATE OF DECISION: 21 OCTOBER 2022

Copies to: (1) Ms. A. Joubert (Bergrivier Municipality)
(2) Mr. N. Hanekom (Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd.)

Email: JoubertA@bergmun.org.za
Email: Nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN

Proposed site on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinguys (highlighted in yellow)



Locality Map

Legend

Scale: 1:36 112
Date created: July 31, 2021

Compiled with CapeFarmMapper

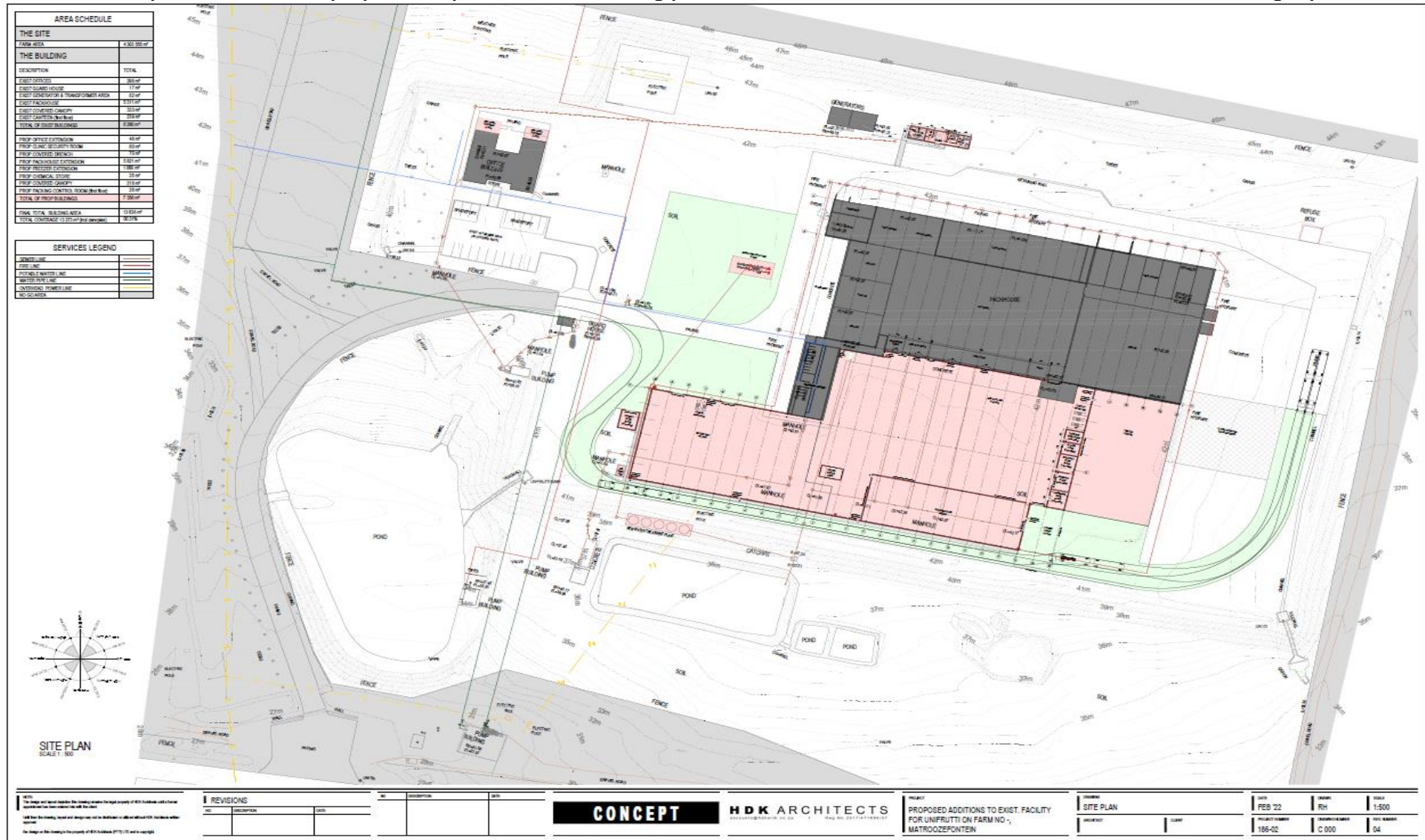


**Western Cape
Government**

Agriculture

ANNEXURE 2: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2.1. Site Development Plan for the proposed expansion of the existing packstore on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefonthein No. 13, Redelinghuys.



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority took, inter alia, the following into consideration:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 15 March 2022 and received by the Competent Authority on 30 March 2022, the BAR dated 22 May 2022 and the EMPr and June 2022 received by the Competent Authority on 04 July 2022 and additional information received by the Competent Authority on 11 July 2022;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including, the Guidelines on Public Participation, Alternatives and Exemptions (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 interested and affected parties and the responses to these, included in the BAR dated 22 May 2022;
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures; and
- f) No site visits were conducted, the Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision, is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- fixing notice boards at the boundary of the proposed site where the listed activity is to be undertaken on 06 October 2021;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Weslander' on 28 October 2021;
- giving written notice to the occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity on 13 October 2021;
- Making the pre-application draft BAR available to I&APs for public review from 18 January 2022 to 18 February 2022;
- Making the draft BAR available to I&APs for public review from 12 April 2022 to 20 May 2022;
- The PPP undertaken was in accordance with the approved Public Participation Plan as agreed to.

All concerns raised by I&APs were responded to and adequately addressed during the public participation process. The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and all the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report. Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr to adequately address concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

No site, activity, design / layout and operational alternatives were investigated due to the fact that the proposed expansion is to an existing operational packhouse. In addition, the site is owned by the holder. The expansion will incorporate energy reduction and water saving technology alternatives.

The Preferred Alternative and the "No-Go" Alternative were therefore assessed as follows:

The Preferred Alternative - herewith authorised

The Preferred Alternative entails the expansion of the existing packhouse store and associated infrastructure on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys.

The expansion of the packhouse will occur on an existing leveled platform and will consist of the following:

- The packhouse / store extension;
- An office extension;
- A clinic security room;
- A chemical store;
- A covered canopy;
- A covered drench;
- A pack control room;
- A freezer room extension; and
- Associated infrastructure.

The existing packhouse washes and packages grapes. An existing effluent treatment system is used for the treatment of washwater emanating from the grape washing and packaging process and domestic waste emanating from the existing facility. The proposed expansion will allow for the washing and packaging of citrus produce. Due to the seasonal nature of the development, the processing of grapes and citrus will not occur simultaneously. The existing treatment infrastructure therefore does not require an upgrade to accommodate the proposed expansion. The effluent produced for the processing of citrus will have high concentrations of fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, preservatives and disinfection chemicals. This effluent stream will be kept separate from the existing floor drainage and sewer effluent so that it can receive specific treatment before being discharged to the existing reedbed. The maximum daily volume of chemical effluent to be treated will be approximately 11200 litres. As part of the expansion, the addition of a chemical effluent stream will be added to treat the chemical effluent, which will contain concentrations of fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, preservatives and disinfection chemicals prior to discharge to the reedbed.

Sufficient and spare of bulk water supply in accordance with the existing water use rights for the proposed site, sanitation and solid waste services are available.

Existing access via the R366 and an existing farm road is available.

The total development footprint of the proposed expansion will be approximately 8000m² in extent.

The proposed expansion will occur on an already leveled platform and will not result in the clearance of any indigenous vegetation. The proposed site has been previously extensively farmed and does not contain any botanically sensitive areas. In addition, the proposed expansion will not occur within 32m of the two non-perennial watercourses located west and east of the proposed site and is located more than 200m away from the Verlorenvlei. No Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas are mapped within the proposed site or will be encroached on. The preferred alternative will result in positive impacts with respect to the social and economic aspects of the area. The Preferred Alternative will also improve the optimum use of the site for agricultural activities.

"No-Go" Alternative

The "No-Go" alternative entails maintaining the "status quo", i.e. not expanding the existing packstore on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys. Since the Preferred Alternative will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts and in consideration of the demonstration of the application of the Section 2 NEMA principles and implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, the "No-Go" alternative was not preferred.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1. Activity Need and Desirability

The proposed site is a brownfield site that has been completely transformed by previous agricultural activities and the existing packhouse on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys. The proposed site is zoned for agricultural purposes and the proposed expansion is in keeping with the existing landuse rights of the site. The proposed site contains an existing packhouse for grapes, which is currently operational with an associated effluent treatment system. The proposed expansion will contribute and provide sustainable employment within the agricultural sector. The expanded packhouse will result in the increase in food security and provide for the additional storage capacity of produce in the increase in yield of fruit production and economic gain in the local market. Since other farming ventures will make use of the proposed expanded packhouse, the improvement of agricultural services within the region will support the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector as the major employment contributor sector of the Bergvriervier municipal area.

3.2. Freshwater Impacts

In accordance with the Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment (compiled by Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd and dated July 2022), the freshwater specialist indicated that there are three main water features within the surrounding area. Two non-perennial rivers are located approximately 32m away from the proposed site to the east and west of the proposed site and the Verlorenvlei, which is declared as a RAMSAR site, is located approximately 200m south of the proposed site.

The specialist noted that the non-perennial watercourses have been subjected to modification of the riparian zones and loss of indigenous vegetation from surrounding agricultural activities and road crossings. It was further indicated by the specialist that the two non-perennial watercourses have a low / poor Ecological Importance and Sensitivity ("EIS") and Present Ecological State ("PES") whereas the Verlorenvlei has a very high EIS and PES. The specialist indicated that the proposed expansion will not impact on the identified aquatic features provided that the recommendations of the specialist have been implemented. The proposed recommendations and mitigation measures have been included as a condition set in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr.

The requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) will be met. The process for authorisation of water use activities has been initiated with the Department of Water and Sanitation in accordance with the correspondence dated 26 June 2022.

The concerns raised by this Department's Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management with respect to chemical effluent, waste management, potential high chemical usage and associated impacts and water monitoring requirements have been noted and mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

3.3. Botanical Impacts

According to the Screening Report (dated 30 July 2021), the proposed site is deemed to be located within a medium sensitivity area from a plant species perspective and a very high sensitivity area from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement (compiled by Enviro-EAP and dated January 2022) was conducted and indicated that no species of conservation concern and no terrestrial plant species or biodiversity features were observed given the complete transformed nature of the proposed site i.e. levelled platform with no natural habitat remaining. The specialist indicate that the proposed site is of low sensitivity and that no mitigation measures are required for the proposed expansion of the existing packhouse on Portion 5 of the Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys. CapeNature indicated (in their correspondence dated 18 February 2022) that they have no objection to the proposed expansion.

3.4. Heritage Impacts

Although the proposed site has already been extensively farmed in the past and that the proposed site is on an already levelled platform, a Notice of Intent to Develop (dated 11 October 2021) was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. Heritage Western Cape indicated (in their comment dated 03 December 2021 that since there is no reason to believe that the proposed expansion of an existing packs store building on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein 13, Redelinghuys, will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.

3.5. Stormwater considerations

The existing stormwater infrastructure on Portion 5 of Farm Matroozefontein No. 13, Redelinghuys, has been confirmed to have the capacity to adequately manage the additional run-off from the proposed expanded packhouse area and a major flood event. No additional impacts are therefore anticipated.

3.6. Socio-economic Impacts

The existing packhouse provides for approximately 250 employments opportunities during the operational phase where the proposed expansion of the existing packhouse will contribute to approximately 85 additional job opportunities.

3.7. Visual, Dust and Noise Impacts

Potential visual, dust and noise impacts associated with the proposed expansion will be mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EMPr.

3.8. Services

Confirmation of the provision of sufficient capacity for water supply from the existing registered, allocated, validated and verified existing lawful water use right (i.e. 760 018m³ per annum dated 27 October 2017) has been provided. Sewerage treatment service capacity will be accommodated by the existing effluent treatment system.

Confirmation of sufficient capacity with respect to waste recycling services of the proposed expansion has been provided by WJJ Klaasen Trading in their correspondence dated 31 May 2022. The provision of sufficient electrical capacity for the proposed expansion of the existing packhouse may be accommodated and has been confirmed by Eskom in their correspondence dated 03 May 2022.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts include:

- Potential aquatic biodiversity impacts;
- Potential heritage impacts;
- Potential stormwater impacts; and
- Potential visual, dust and noise impacts during the construction phase.

Positive impacts include:

- The optimization of resources;
- Employment opportunities during construction and operational phase of the proposed development;
- Potential improvement of aquatic habitat – removal of invasive species;
- Improvement and increase in agricultural services; and
- Economic gain for the applicant.

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.

Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activity 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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

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