



**Western Cape
Government**

Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

Directorate: Development Management
(Region 1)

EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F4/5/3029/18
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000453/2018
ENQUIRIES: Ms. M. Schippers
DATE OF ISSUE:

2019 -03- 05

The Director
Vermikor (Pty) Ltd.
P. O. Box 1041
LANGEBAAAN
7357

Attention: Mr. O. Kleynhans

Cell: (082) 792 7596
Email: o.kleynhans@gmail.com

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CHICKEN HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON ERF 1772, HOPEFIELD.

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 Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

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

Copies to: (1) Ms. V. Read (Victoria Read Environmental Consulting)
(2) Ms. N. Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)

Email: Victoria@readenvironmental.co.za
Fax: (022) 715 1518



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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

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) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CHICKEN HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON ERF 1772, HOPEFIELD.

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), the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended on 07 April 2017 ("NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014") the competent authority herewith **grants environmental authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the preferred alternative described in the Final Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") dated November 2018.

The granting of this environmental authorisation is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Hopefield Abattoir (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr. O. Kleynhans
P. O. Box 1041
LANGEBAAN
7357

Cell: (082) 792 7596
Email: o.kleynhans@gmail.com

The abovementioned company is the holder of this environmental authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "the applicant".

B. LISTED ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

The listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations as amended on 07 April 2017.

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>Listing Notice 1 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</p> <p>Activity Number: 5 Activity Description:</p> <p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) more than 1 000 poultry per facility situated within an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days; (ii) more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days; (iii) more than 5 000 chicks younger than 20 days per facility situated within an urban area; or (iv) more than 25 000 chicks younger than 20 days per facility situated outside an urban area. 	<p>The proposed development will entail the concentration of 60 000 poultry.</p>
<p>Activity Number: 27 Activity Description:</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. 	<p>The proposed development will entail the clearance of 3.43ha of indigenous vegetation.</p>

The abovementioned is hereinafter referred to as "the listed activities".

The applicant is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative related to the listed activities:

The proposed development entails the clearance of vegetation to establish chicken houses and associated infrastructure for egg laying on Erf 1772, Hopefield.

The proposed development will include the following:

- Six chicken houses with a development footprint of approximately 6480m²;
- Six net houses with a development footprint of approximately 16 200m² to provide an outside area to allow free range standards;
- Two bulk water storage tanks with a development footprint of approximately 300m²;
- A shed with a development footprint of approximately 360m²;
- A security building with a development footprint of approximately 50m²;
- A farmhouse with a development footprint of approximately 330m²; and
- Associated infrastructure.

The chicken houses will consist of a total of 60 000 chickens. Chickens will be brought to the farm at the age of 16 weeks and will be removed at the age of 52 weeks. Dead birds will be removed on a daily basis and will be taken to a licensed waste facility. At the end of each cycle, the manure will be removed and sold off to the local farmers.

The proposed development will have a footprint of approximately 3.43ha. Access to the site will be gained from existing and new roads.

C. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will take place on the Erf 1772, Hopefield.

The SG 21 digit code is: C04600040000177200000

Co-ordinates of the site:

33°	01'	80"	South
18°	17'	51"	East

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

hereinafter referred to as "the site".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Victoria Read Environmental Consulting
c/o Ms. V. Read
13 Watermeyer Street
BLOUBERG RISE
7441

Cell: (072) 550 6546
Email: Victoria@readenvironmental.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of Authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the preferred Alternative described in the BAR dated November 2018 on the site as described in Section C above.

2. The holder must commence with 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.
3. This Environmental Authorisation is granted for a period of five (5) years, from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activities.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the preferred 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. A minimum of seven calendar days notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of the development phase.
 - 6.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 6.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 13 and 17.

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The applicant must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision and in accordance with Regulation 4 (2) –
 - 7.1. Notify all registered interested and affected parties 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 of issue of the decision;
 - 7.2. Draw the attention of all registered interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 detailed in section F below;
 - 7.3. Draw the attention of all registered interested and affected parties to the manner in which they may access the decision;
 - 7.4. Provide the registered Interested and Affected Parties with-
 - 7.4.1. the name of the holder (entity) of this environmental authorisation;
 - 7.4.2. the name of the responsible person for this environmental authorisation;
 - 7.4.3. the postal address of the holder;

- 7.4.4. the telephonic and fax details of the holder;
- 7.4.5. the e-mail address if any; and
- 7.4.6. the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations.

Commencement

8. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not be commenced with within twenty (20) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision.
9. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

10. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation is hereby approved on condition that the following is included in the EMPr that must be implemented:
 - 10.1. A program for reporting on non-compliance;
 - 10.2. An environmental awareness plan describing the manner in which—
 - the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work; and
 - risks must be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.
 - 10.3. Mitigation measures for cement mixing.
11. An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the competent authority if any amendments are to be made to the EMPr other than those required by this environmental authorisation, and this may only be implemented once the amended EMPr has been authorised by the competent authority.
12. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

13. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
14. A copy of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site and must be made available to anyone on request.
15. Access to the site referred to in section C above must be granted and, the environmental authorisation and EMPr 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. The environmental authorisation and EMPr must also be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the applicant who works or undertakes work at the site.

Auditing

16. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority.
 - 16.1. The audit reports must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended);
 - 16.2. A first audit report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within three (3) months of commencement of the proposed development;
 - 16.3. A final audit report must be submitted to the competent authority within one (1) year of the operational phase of the proposed development;
 - 16.4. The audit reports must indicate compliance status with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, and the EMPr and make recommendations for improved environmental management;
 - 16.5. The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of an audit report to the Competent Authority, notify potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request; and
 - 16.6. If the audit reports are not submitted, the competent authority may give 30 days written notice and may have such an audit undertaken at the expense of the applicant and may authorise any person to take such measures necessary for this purpose.

Specific conditions

17. Development areas and access routes must be clearly demarcated before development commences. The remainder of the farm must be demarcated as a "no-go" area for future development. A georeferenced map must be drawn up clearly indicating the location of all existing infrastructure as well as this proposed development and the "no-go" areas. This map must be submitted to the competent authority for record purposes.
18. The mitigation measures as included in the Botanical Impact Assessment Report (dated June 2018 and compiled by Bergwind Botanical Surveys and Tours) must be implemented (herewith attached as Appendix A).
19. An integrated waste management approach, which is based on waste minimisation and incorporates reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal, where appropriate, must be employed. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of the applicable legislation.
20. All noise and sounds generated during the proposed development must comply with the relevant SANS codes and standards and the relevant noise regulations.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. The holder is 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.
2. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the description set out 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 such information as it deems necessary 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.
3. The applicant must notify the competent authority in writing, within 24 hours thereof if any condition herein stipulated is not being complied with.
4. The applicant must submit an application for amendment in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) of the environmental authorisation to the competent authority where any detail or scope with respect to the environmental authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated.
5. 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.
6. Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation or EMPr may result in suspension of this environmental authorisation and may render the holder liable for criminal prosecution.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014.

1. An appellant (if the holder) must –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 to the Appeal Administrator and a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision maker within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder was notified by the Competent Authority of this decision:
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder) must –
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 to the Appeal Administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the holder, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision maker within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder notified the registered I&APs of the decision.
3. The holder (if not the appellant), the decision-maker, I&AP and 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. This appeal and 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 Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809, 8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: You are also requested to submit an electronic copy (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal and any supporting documents to the Appeal Administrator to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the office of the Minister at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail Jaap.DeVilliers@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 development or operation subsequent to development 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 TOFEY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 05/03/2019

Copies to: (1) Ms. V. Read (Victoria Environmental Consulting)
(2) Ms. N. Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)

Email: Victoria@readenvironmental.co.za
Fax: (022) 715 1518

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

Annexure 1: Locality Map Google Earth™ aerial image showing the locality of Erf 1772 (green outline) in relation to Hartebeesfontein and the R45.



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, *inter alia*, considered the following:

- a) The listed activities applicable in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations as amended on 07 April 2017.
- b) The information contained in the application form dated 25 July 2018 and received by the competent authority on 06 August 2018, the BAR received by the competent authority on 06 November 2018 and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR and the additional information (proof of public participation and updated comments and response report) received by this Directorate on 18 February 2019 and 20 February 2019, respectively;
- c) The assessment of the activities in the BAR received by the competent authority on 06 November 2018;
- d) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including, the Guidelines on Public Participation, Alternatives and Exemptions (dated March 2013);
- e) 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);
- f) The comments received from interested and affected parties and the responses provided thereon, as included in the BAR received by the Department on 06 November 2018; and
- g) 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 ("PPP") included, *inter alia*, the following:

- identification of and engagement with interested and affected parties;
- fixing a notice board at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken;
- giving written notice to the owners of the land and owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities; and
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Weslander' on 31 May 2018.

The Department is satisfied that the PPP that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and all the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Concerns were raised with respect to biosecurity risk and the impacts it will have on the existing poultry farm should a disease break out. It must be noted that the EMPr includes mitigation measures to minimise potential biosecurity risks. Further, the threat of any disease is existing and it cannot be said with certainty that the proposed development will be the cause of any outbreak.

Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this environmental authorisation and in the EMPr to adequately address significant concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

Preferred Alternative (herewith authorised)

The preferred alternative entails the clearance of vegetation to establish chicken houses and associated infrastructure for egg laying on Erf 1772, Hopefield.

The proposed development will include the following:

- Six chicken houses with a development footprint of approximately 6480m²;
- Six net houses with a development footprint of approximately 16 200m² to provide an outside area to allow free range standards;
- Two bulk water storage tanks with a development footprint of approximately 300m²;
- A shed with a development footprint of approximately 360m²;
- A security building with a development footprint of approximately 50m²;
- A farmhouse with a development footprint of approximately 330m²; and
- Associated infrastructure.

The chicken houses will consist of a total of 60 000 chickens. Chickens will be brought to the farm at the age of 16 weeks and will be removed at the age of 52 weeks. Dead birds will be removed on a daily basis and will be taken to a licensed waste facility. At the end of each cycle, the manure will be removed and sold off to the local farmers.

"No-Go" Alternative

The "no-go" alternative will result in the status quo being maintained. The preferred alternative will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts, therefore the "no-go" alternative was not warranted.

3. Impacts, assessment and mitigation measures

3.1. Activity Need and Desirability

The proposed site has been earmarked for agricultural purposes in terms of the Saldanha Bay Spatial Development Framework ("SDF") (2010). The proposed development is therefore in line with local authority's SDF. The proposed development is required by the applicant as there is an increased demand in the market for free range eggs.

3.2. Biophysical Environment

According to the Botanical Impact Assessment Report (dated June 2018 and compiled by Bergwind Botanical Surveys and Tours), the vegetation type occurring on the proposed site is Hopefield Sand Fynbos. The vegetation is not classified as a critically endangered or endangered ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 ("NEM:BA"), List of Threatened Ecosystems in Need of Protection, December 2011. The specialist further indicated that the vegetation is intact and undisturbed. The proposed site falls within an Ecological Support Area and supports a high number of threatened species. The specialist has indicated that should the development be approved 70% of the site must be conserved into perpetuity. CapeNature has indicated in their comment (dated 30 August 2018) that due to the size and location of the property, the proposed land use and considering the adjacent land uses, it is unlikely that the property will qualify for a formal conservation agreement. CapeNature has recommended that the remainder of the farm be earmarked as a "no-go" area for future development. With the implementation of effective management and mitigation

measures prescribed in the EMPr and this environmental authorisation, the potential environmental impacts are expected to be managed to acceptable levels.

3.3. Emission of odours

Odours as a result of the proposed development may have negative impacts on local air quality. With the implementation of effective management and mitigation measures prescribed in the EMPr and this environmental authorisation, the potential impacts are expected to be managed to acceptable levels.

3.4. Biosecurity risk

The transmission of diseases may have a negative impact on the environment. With the implementation of effective management and mitigation measures prescribed in the EMPr and this environmental authorisation, the potential environmental impacts are expected to be managed to acceptable levels.

3.5. Impact Assessment and significance rating

3.5.1. The loss of indigenous vegetation as a result of the proposed development has been identified in the BAR as being of medium to high negative significance after mitigation. Potential impacts will be mitigated by the implementation of the EMPr and conditions of this environmental authorisation.

3.5.2. Odour emissions has been identified in the BAR as being of low negative significance after mitigation. Potential impacts will be mitigated with the implementation of the EMPr and conditions of this environmental authorisation.

3.5.3. Potential biosecurity risks have been identified in the BAR as being of low negative significance after mitigation. Potential impacts will be mitigated by the implementation of the EMPr and conditions of this environmental authorisation.

National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Act 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.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts Include:

- Loss of indigenous vegetation;
- Potential odour emissions; and
- Potential biosecurity risks.

Positive impacts Include:

- The proposed development will create some employment opportunities;
- Economic benefits; and
- Supply of free range eggs to meet the demand.

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this environmental authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the competent authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

You are reminded of the 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."*

-END-

APPENDIX A

MITIGATION MEASURES AS INCLUDED IN THE BOTANICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Loss of vegetation type, important species and ecological processes

Loss of vegetation and ecological processes is likely to result in **High Negative Impacts** since the affected area would not only experience loss of sensitive habitat (Hopefield Sand Fynbos) but would become fragmented. The potentially developable areas, if developed, would not result in loss of high numbers of threatened species.

Mitigation

Mitigation options are limited, however, in the event of the land being developed it is **strongly recommended that the majority (at least 70%) of the undeveloped land be conserved in perpetuity in order to preserve an ecologically viable portion of Hopefield Sand Fynbos**. Note that most threatened species occurring in the red area in Figure 19 would be protected if the aforementioned mitigation measure is followed. Furthermore, the arrangement of the proposed poultry houses at an angle along the central access road (Figure 22) reduces the overall fragmentation effects of the development. Additional mitigation should include the following:

- The development footprint must be defined cordoned off with danger tape prior to construction (if approved) to prevent any further damage to vegetation.
- Firebreaks would be needed to be cut around all developments but that these should be placed on the outside of the fence, so that they serve as a buffer zones. These areas must not become dumping zones!
- Farmhouses must be 'contained' and should include limited gardens or further encroachment into the surrounding natural vegetation. The perimeter of the house must be fenced off during construction (if approved). The natural vegetation should be cut low (300 mm) and should NOT be completely removed. The main farmhouse should be fenced off and the footprint confined to a small footprint area with an outer (low cut) firebreak of 10 m wide.

If the above mitigation can be implemented impacts could be reduced from High to **Medium-High**.