



Development Management: Region 1

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**REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/B3/28/1008/20 **NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000726/2020

ENQUIRIES: Samornay Smidt
DATE OF ISSUE: 29 June 2020

# **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE PARYS CEMETERY ON A PORTION OF ERVEN 12665 AND 15279, PAARL

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

## **DECISION**

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the Preferred Alternative, as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated 11 June 2020.

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 Municipal Manager Drakenstein Municipality c/o Dr Johan Leibbrandt PO Box 1 PAARL 7622

Tel.: (021) 807 4500

Email: Johan.Leibbrandt@drakenstein.gov.za

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

# B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -  Activity Number: 27	The proposed expansion will result in the clearance of more than 1 ha of indigenous vegetation.
The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -  (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or  (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	
EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -  Activity Number: 44  The expansion of cemeteries by 2 500 square metres or	The proposed expansion of the existing cemetery and associated infrastructure will exceed 2 500 m <sup>2</sup> .
more.	
Activity Number: 12  The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.  i. Western Cape i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;  ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;  iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;  iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or  v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by	The proposed cemetery expansion will require the clearance of more than 300m2 of Swartland Alluvium Fynbos, which is classified as Critically Endangered in terms of NEMBA.

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

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

The proposal entails the expansion of the current cemetery and burial space by approximately 2 589 grave sites, as well as expanding the parking area to accommodate vehicles. This will also include the improvement of the existing cemetery infrastructure and walkways. The entire property will be fenced off to include Erven 15279 and 12665 as one unit. The identified areas of high botanical sensitivity will be conserved as a formal Municipal Conservation Area through a Steward Agreement with CapeNature.

#### C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Erven 15279 and 12665 to expand the existing Parys Cemetery, Paarl

The SG21 digit codes are: C05500080001266500000 C05500080001527900000

Co-ordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
33° 44' 33.27"	18° 58' 55.42"

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

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd c/o Mr Simamkele Ntsengwane PO Box 494

**CAPE TOWN** 

8000

Tel: (021) 256 9560

Email: Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.co

# 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, as described in the BAR dated 11 June 2020 on the site as described in Section C above.
- 2. The Environmental Authorisation is valid for a period of **five years** from the date of issue, within which commencement must occur.
- The development must be concluded within ten years from the date of commencement of the listed activities.

- 4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
- 5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

## Written notice to the Competent Authority

- 6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activity.
  - 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
  - 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8 and 11.

## Notification and administration of appeal

- 7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision—
  - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of
    - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
    - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
    - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
    - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
  - 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
  - 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
  - 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
    - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
    - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
    - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
    - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
    - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder, and
    - 7.4.6 contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and email address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).

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

### Management of activity

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

## Monitoring

- 11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO") before commencement of any land clearing or construction activity to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
- 12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request, including a publicly accessible website.
- 13. Access to the site referred to in Section C must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

## **Auditing**

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an **independent person** (not the ECO appointed in terms of condition 12 above) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

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

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

## **Specific Conditions**

- 15. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.
  - Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.
- 16. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.
- 17. The relevant requirements with respect to occupational health and safety must be adhered to at all times.
- 18. The identified high sensitivity area must be designated as a formal Municipal Conservation Area through a Stewardship Agreement with CapeNature within one year from the date of this Environmental Authorisation. Written confirmation must be provided to the Department for record-purposes. The conservation area must be fenced off to prevent unauthorised dumping and vehicular access.

### F. GENERAL MATTERS

- 1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
- 2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
- 3. If the holder does not commence with the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
- 4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

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

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

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

### G. APPEALS

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

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

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and

Development Planning

Private Bag X9186

CAPE TOWN

8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

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

**Room 809** 

8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

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

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail <u>DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za</u> or URL http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp.

## H. DISCLAIMER

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

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)** 

**DATE OF DECISION: 29 JUNE 2020** 

Cc: (1) Mr. S Ntsengwane (Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd)

(2) Ms C Winter (Drakenstein Municipality)

(3) Ms P Huntly (CapeNature)

 ${\it Email: Simamkele. Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com}$ 

Email: Cindy.Winter@drakenstein.gov.za

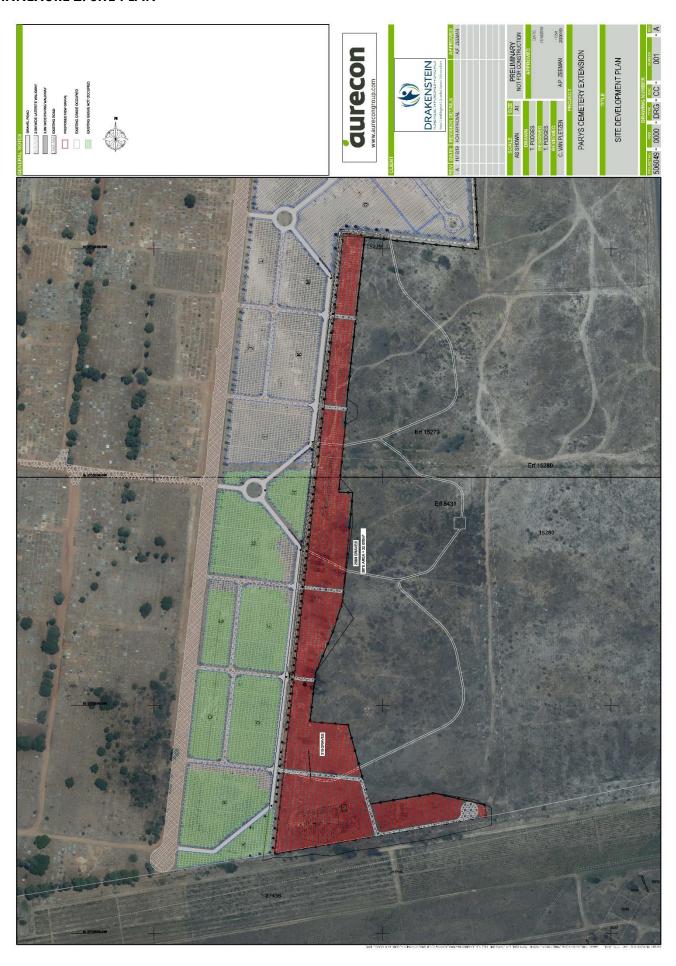
Email: phuntly@capenature.co.za

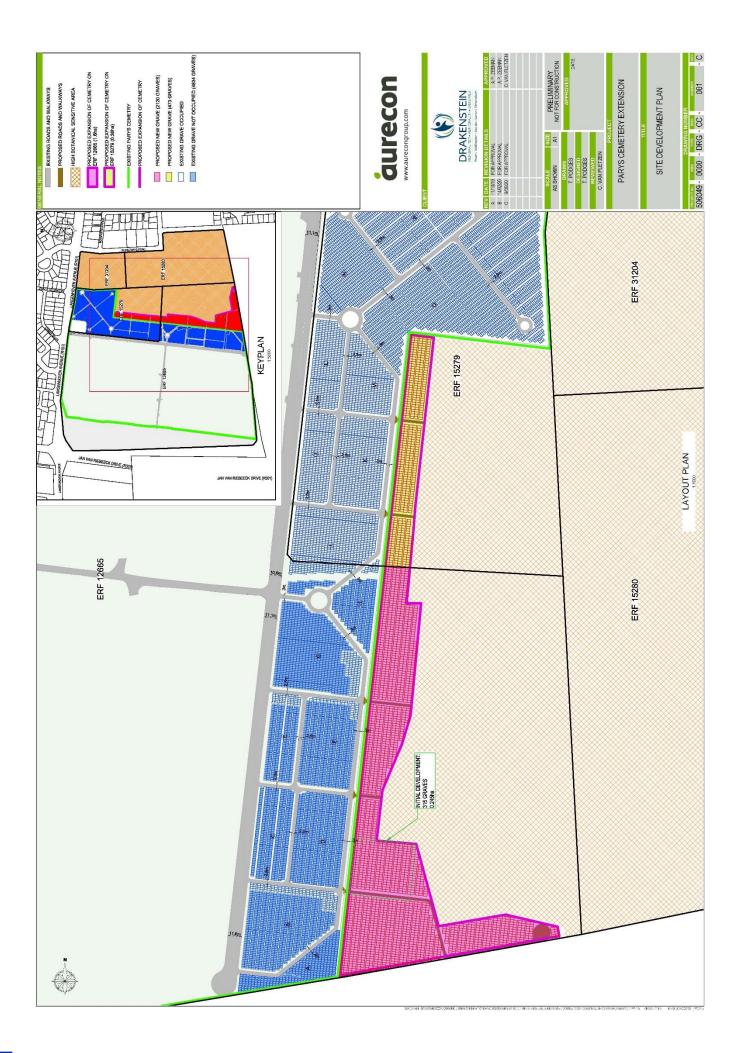
# **ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP**





# **ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN**





## **ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 6 February 2020 and the EMPr submitted together with final BAR on 11 June 2020;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated 11 June 2020; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.
- f) A site visit was conducted on 15 July 2019 by Mare-Liez Oosthuizen, Andrea Thomas and Samornay Smidt from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Wayne Hendricks, Cindy Winter, Lauren King and Bisschoff Bosman from Drakenstein Municipality, Philippa Huntly from CapeNature and Jeane-Louise Wiese and Chris Van Pletzen from Aurecon.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

# 1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken and public areas on 27 February 2020;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed
  activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of
  State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities between 27 February 2020;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Paarl Post' on 27 February 2020; and
- circulating the in-process draft BAR to I&APs from 27 February 2020.

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

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

#### 2. Alternatives

A few location alternatives were considered in the assessment and the feasibility of expanding the cemetery onto portions of Erven 31204, 12665 and 15279, due to it being situated adjacent to the existing cemetery and the transformed nature of the area. The current location is the only available space without significant biophysical or socio-economic constraints immediately adjacent to an existing cemetery. Layout alternatives have been considered at length with the preferred alternative taking into consideration the botanical sensitivity, heritage sensitivity and geotechnical constraints of the site. Expanding the cemetery onto a portion of Erf No. 31204 was excluded from the preferred alternative layout due to the presence of vegetation of high conservation value and the recommendation from CapeNature to conserve the area as a formal Municipal Conservation Area. The following alternative incorporates the specialist recommendations and CapeNature's input received and was therefore considered as the most viable option for implementation:

### <u>Preferred Alternative (Herewith authorised)</u>

The proposal entails the expansion of the current cemetery and burial space by approximately 2 589 grave sites, as well as expanding the parking area to accommodate vehicles on Erven 15279 and 12665. This will also include the improvement of the existing cemetery infrastructure and walkways. The entire property will be fenced off to include Erven 15279 and 12665 as one unit. The identified areas of vegetation with a high conservation value will be conserved as a formal Municipal Conservation Area through a Steward Agreement with CapeNature.

#### "No-Go" Alternative

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

### 3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

## 3.1 Activity need and desirability

The availability of cemetery space has been highlighted as a critical challenge in Drakenstein Municipality. The proposed expansion of the Parys Cemetery onto abutting land portions will allow for an increase in the capacity of the cemetery, which is fast reaching its full carrying capacity. According to burial records there are approximately 85 000 graves on the property. The cemetery has the capacity to accommodate another 900 graves, but with the demand of approximately 110 graves per month and a 15% increase per annum, the lifespan of the cemetery is estimated to be less than 8 months. This necessitates additional capacity to be created to service the local community. The specialist studies conducted during the EIA process and input obtained during the public participation process have informed the layout of the site to avoid and mitigate potential impacts and provide the best practicable environmental option. An opportunity to formally conserve the abutting area of high conservation value has also been made available due to the proposed development. The proposed expansion of the cemetery onto the adjacent vacant land would also minimise the potential impacts associated with identifying and developing a new site elsewhere within the municipal area.

## 3.2 Biophysical Impacts

According to available mapping resources, the vegetation on site is classified as Boland Granite Fynbos. However, based on the findings of the Botanical Assessment dated 17 May 2019, compiled by Nick Helme Botanical Surveys, the study area consists of Swartland Alluvium Fynbos vegetation, which is classified as Critically Endangered. Erf No. 31204 is in a fair botanical condition with good rehabilitation potential despite being brushout within the last two years. Six confirmed plant Species of Conservation

Concern were recorded on this site and the likelihood of there being others in this area is considered to be high. This area is deemed to be of high botanical sensitivity and no development should take place in the high sensitivity areas, as that would have a high negative botanical impact. The proposed layout was therefore informed by these findings and the input provided by CapeNature during the basic assessment process. The areas identified will be formally conserved as a Municipal Conservation Area through a Stewardship Agreement with CapeNature, for which arrangements are already underway. The recommendations of the specialist have been included in the EMPr and as conditions of this Environmental Authorisation.

### **Negative Impacts:**

• The proposed expansion will lead to the loss and degradation of low sensitivity natural vegetation in the development footprint. This impact will however be mitigated to a satisfactory level with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures and adherence to the EMPr.

### Positive impacts:

- Additional cemetery space will be provided, which will address a critical challenge in the municipal area.
- The proposed expansion will provide an opportunity to formally conserve the identified conservation worthy areas through a Stewardship Agreement with CapeNature.
- The proposed expansion will provide employment opportunities.

## 4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), inter alia, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

#### 5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, 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.

