



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/F1/11/2018/18
ENQUIRIES: RONDINE ISAACS
DATE OF ISSUE: 2018-08-21

The Board of Trustees
Platkloof Familie Trust
PO Box 522
PIKETBERG
7320

Attention: Mr JPP Kotze

Tel.: (022) 912 4321
E-mail: boetie@platkloof.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014:

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE PLATKLOOF DAM ON PORTION 34 OF THE FARM RIETKLOOF NO. 144, PIKETBERG

1. With reference to the above application, the competent authority 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 EIA Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered Interested and Affected Parties are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the procedure to be followed in the event of appeals being lodged. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully


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

Copied to: (1) Mr Pieter Badenhorst (Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services cc)

Fax: (086) 672 1916



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Attention: Mr JPP Kotze

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Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014:

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE PLATKLOOF DAM ON PORTION 34 OF THE FARM RIETKLOOF NO. 144, PIKETBERG

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the NEMA and the EIA Regulations, 2014, the competent authority herewith grants Environmental Authorisation to the applicant to undertake the list of activities specified in Section B below as included in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") dated 23 May 2018.

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation (hereinafter referred to as the "Environmental Authorisation") is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in Section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Platkloof Familie Trust
 c/o Mr JPP Kotze
 PO Box 522
 PIKETBERG
 7320
 Tel.: (022) 912 4321
 E-mail: boetie@platkloof.co.za

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

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Government Notice No. R. 983 of 4 December 2014 –

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p>Activity 19: <i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</i> <i>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i> <i>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</i> <i>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i> <i>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies".</i> 	<p>Infilling and/or depositing of material of more than 10m³ into the watercourse will be undertaken.</p>
<p>Activity 27: <i>"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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan".</i> 	<p>The proposed development will entail the clearance of 1ha or more of indigenous vegetation.</p>

<p>Activity 48: <i>"The expansion of -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or</i> <i>(ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</i> <p><i>where such expansion occurs-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(b) in front of a development setback; or</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> <p><i>excluding -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(aa) the expansion of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</i> <i>(bb) where such expansion activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</i> <i>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</i> <i>(dd) where such expansion occurs within an urban area; or</i> <i>(ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves".</i> 	<p>The footprint of the existing dam will be expanded by more than 100m².</p>
<p>Activity 66: <i>"The expansion of a dam where -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, was originally 5 metres or higher and where the height of the wall is increased by 2,5 metres or more; or</i> <i>(ii) where the high-water mark of the dam will be increased with 10 hectares or more".</i> 	<p>The current wall height of the existing dam is 19m and the height will be increased by more than 2.5m.</p>

<p>Activity 4: <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Western Cape i. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning; ii. Areas outside urban areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation; (bb) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined; or iii. Inside urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas zoned for conservation use; or (bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority". 	<p>A section of the existing road will be relocated and the road will be wider than 4m outside an urban area containing indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p>Activity 12: <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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; 	<p>More than 300m² of vegetation will be cleared.</p>

<p>or v. <i>On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister</i>".</p>	
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The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "the listed activities".

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

The proposed project entails enlarging the existing Platkloof Dam on Portion 34 of the Farm Rietkloof No. 144, Piketberg.

The proposed enlarged Platkloof Dam will consist of the following:

- A maximum storage capacity of 1 200 000m³;
- A crest length of 430m;
- A dam wall height of 27.5m;
- A crest width of 4m; and
- A surface area of 17.1ha.

Irrigation areas will also be expanded on previously disturbed areas within the farm's existing water rights. The existing 400mm diameter outlet pipe will be extended to coincide with the enlarged dam footprint. No additional pipelines are required and the existing pipeline will be extended by a few meters. The existing pump house (15m X 15m footprint) will be relocated downstream of the proposed enlarged embankment. A section of the existing farm access road will also be relocated to above the proposed dam full supply level. The relocated access road will be approximately 300m in length and 7m wide.

C. LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The listed activities will take place on Portion 34 of the Farm Rietkloof No. 144, Piketberg.

The farm is located approximately 11km west of the town of Piketberg.

The SG 21-digit code is: C05800000000014400034

Co-ordinates:

Proposed enlarged Platkloof Dam

Latitude: 32° 54' 30.38" S

Longitude: 18° 38' 29.91" E

Proposed relocated road

Starting point:

Latitude: 32° 54' 22.99" S

Longitude: 18° 38' 26.09" E

Middle point:

Latitude: 32° 54' 18.65" S

Longitude: 18° 38' 25.55" E

End point:

Latitude: 32° 54' 14.89" S

Longitude: 18° 38' 27.44" E

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

hereinafter referred to as "the site".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services cc
c/o Mr Pieter Badenhorst
PO Box 1058
WELLINGTON
7654
Tel.: (021) 873 7228
Fax: (086) 672 1916

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 23 May 2018 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. Authorisation of the activities is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in this Environmental Authorisation. The holder must ensure 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.
3. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activities within the stipulated validity period which this Environmental Authorisation is granted for, or this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority. This Environmental Authorisation is granted for–
 - (a) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activities; and
 - (b) A period of five (**5**) years, from the date the holder commenced with an authorised listed activity, during which period the authorised listed activities for the construction phase, must be concluded.

4. The activities that have been authorised may only be carried out at the site described in Section C above in terms of the approved "Environmental Management Programme" ("EMPr").
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the description set out in Section B and Condition 2 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 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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

6. The holder of the authorisation must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision –
 - 6.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties of –
 - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision;
 - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 6.1.4 the date of issue of the decision;
 - 6.2 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 Appeals Regulation, 2014;
 - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered Interested and Affected Parties to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
 - 6.4 provide the registered Interested and Affected Parties with:
 - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any;
 - 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 Interested and Affected Parties in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeals Regulations 2014.

Commencement

7. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered Interested and Affected Parties of this decision.
8. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Administrator, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until such time as the appeal is decided. In the instance where an appeal is lodged the holder may

not commence with the activities, including site preparation, until such time as the appeal has been finalised and the holder is authorised to do so.

Written notice to the competent authority

9. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of construction activities. Commencement for the purpose of this condition includes site preparation.
 - 9.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 9.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:
Conditions: 6, 7 and 14.

Management of activity

10. The draft EMPr submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
11. An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the competent authority in terms of Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 if any amendments are to be made to the outcomes of the EMPr, and these 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.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr must be kept at the site where the listed activities will be undertaken. 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.

Monitoring

14. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environment Control Officer ("ECO"), for the duration of the construction and rehabilitation phases of implementation.

The ECO must–

- 14.1 be appointed prior to commencement of any land clearing or construction activities commencing;
- 14.2 ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein;
- 14.3 keep record of all activities on site; problems identified; transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO;

- 14.4 remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed.

Environmental audit reports

15. The holder must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid—
 - 15.1 ensure that the compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr is audited; and
 - 15.2 submit at least two environmental audit reports to the relevant competent authority. The holder must submit one audit report six months after commencement of the construction phase and another audit report six months after completion of the construction period.
16. The environmental audit report must be prepared by an independent person and must address the objectives and contain all the information set out in Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

In addition to the above, the environmental audit report, must -

- 16.1 provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on—
 - (a) the level of compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
 - (b) the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr achieve the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr and highlight whether this is sufficient or not;
 - 16.2 identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
 - 16.3 evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr;
 - 16.4 identify shortcomings in the EMPr;
 - 16.5 identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr;
 - 16.6 indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
 - 16.7 include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
 - 16.8 be informed by the ECO reports.
17. The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the environmental audit report to the competent authority, notify all potential and registered Interested and Affected Parties of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and, where the holder has such a facility, be placed on a publicly accessible website.

Specific conditions

18. Surface 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.
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 waste disposal facility licensed in terms of the applicable legislation.

20. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape (in accordance with the applicable legislation). 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: archaeological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); 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; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and graves or unmarked human burials.

A qualified archaeologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the applicant and in consultation with the relevant authority) to remove any human remains in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

21. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
22. If the holder does not commence with the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 3, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for the 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.
23. 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 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.

24. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr, other than those mentioned above, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of GN No. R. 982 of 4 December 2014 or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.
25. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

F. 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 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 Interested and Affected Parties, 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 Interested and Affected Parties -
 - 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 Interested and Affected Party, 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 Interested and Affected Party 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 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 Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)
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 Jaap.DeVilliers@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 Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

G. 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: 21/08/2018

CC: (1) Mr Pieter Badenhorst (Pieter Badenhorst Professional Services cc)

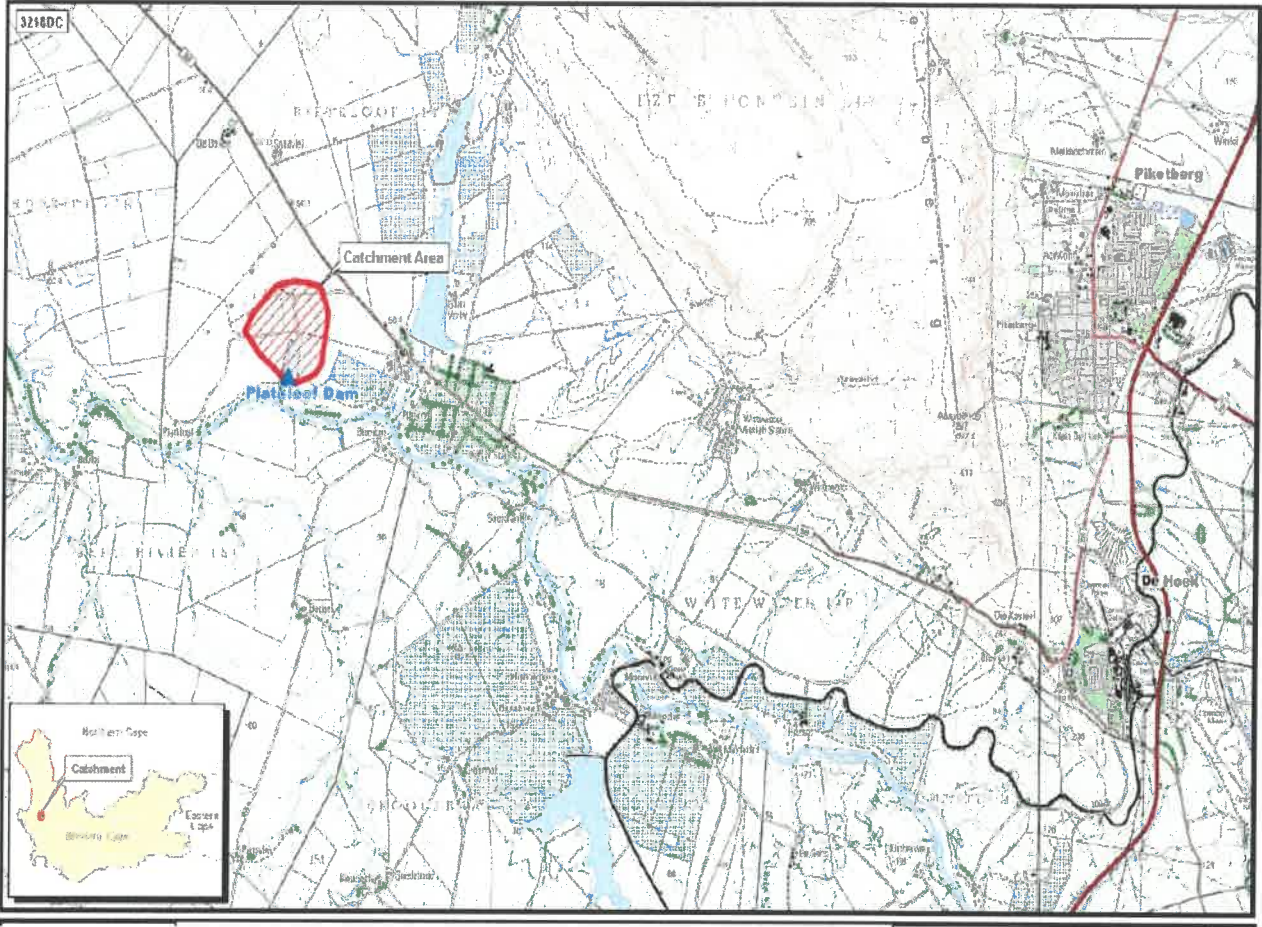
Fax: (086) 672 1916

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F1/11/2018/18
NEAS EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: WCP/EIA/0000393/2018

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN

The approximate location of the proposed enlarged Platkloof Dam on Portion 34 of the Farm Rietkloof No. 144 in the Piketberg area.



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

The location of the existing Platkloof Dam to be expanded.



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 16 March 2018, as received by the competent authority on 23 March 2018; the BAR dated 23 May 2018 and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR;
- b) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the NEMA;
- c) The comments received from Interested and Affected Parties and the responses provided thereon, as included in the BAR dated 23 May 2018;
- d) 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 comprised of the following:

- Notices were posted via registered post to adjacent neighbours and other Interested and Affected Parties on 16 March 2018 to announce the availability of the draft BAR;
- An advertisement was placed in the "Swartland Gazette" newspaper on 20 March 2018;
- A notice was placed on site on 20 March 2018; and
- The draft BAR was made available from 22 March 2018 until 20 April 2018.

Authorities consulted

The authorities consulted included the following:

- CapeNature;
- Provincial Department of Agriculture;
- Bergrivier Municipality;
- Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Heritage Western Cape; and
- West Coast District Municipality.

The competent authority is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements. All the comments and responses that were raised were included in the BAR.

2. Alternatives

The following design alternatives were investigated:

Alternative 1 (1a) (preferred alternative – herewith authorised):

This alternative entails enlarging the existing Platkloof Dam to a maximum storage capacity of 1 200 000m³ and increasing the wall height to 27.5m. This is the preferred alternative since no additional water will be abstracted from the Berg River and the

holder will be able to store the maximum capacity existing lawful water use in the enlarged dam, thereby reducing stress on the Berg River during the drier months of the year. Furthermore, the downstream raising of the existing embankment will ensure that the dam remain partly operational during the construction phase.

Alternative 2:

This alternative entails the construction of a new dam, upstream of the existing Platklouf Dam with a maximum storage capacity of 875 000m³ and a maximum wall height of 12m. Alternative 2 was rejected since the holder will not be able to store the maximum capacity existing lawful water use in the new dam. Furthermore, the total estimated capital cost of Alternative 2 is more expensive than Alternative 1.

Alternative 3:

This alternative entails the construction of a new off-stream dam with a maximum storage capacity of 850 000m³ and a maximum wall height of 11m. Alternative 3 was rejected since the holder will not be able to store the maximum capacity existing lawful water use in the new dam. Furthermore, the total estimated capital cost of Alternative 3 is more expensive than Alternative 1.

“No-Go” Alternative:

This alternative implies that the dam will not be enlarged. This alternative was therefore rejected since it places stress on the Berg River during the drier months of the year. Summer months are regarded as low-flow/dry periods and are therefore environmentally unsuitable for abstracting water.

3. Impacts, assessment and mitigation measures

3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

The holder intends to store the existing lawful water use in the enlarged Platklouf Dam. The existing storage capacity of the Platklouf Dam is currently 325 000m³ and the dam will be enlarged to a maximum storage capacity of 1 200 000m³. The enlargement of the dam will allow the holder to store the maximum volume of water abstracted from the Platklouf and Berg Rivers during winter for use for irrigation during the drier summer months.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The existing Platklouf Dam is located in an unnamed ephemeral tributary of the Berg River. The tributary does not sustain significant aquatic vegetation with a very limited riparian zone.

The tributary has been determined as an Ecological Support Area category 2, which are areas that are acknowledged as being degraded but which should be restored where appropriate. However, the existing dam and the surrounding agricultural activities have severely degraded and transformed the tributary, such that the possibility of successful restoration is extremely low. The downstream habitat between the dam and the Berg River is highly modified, therefore the release of ecological flow is not required. The area for the proposed enlargement will be within cultivated and mined land and very little natural vegetation remains on the site.

3.3 Geotechnical

The materials that are required for the enlargement of the Platkloof Dam are available in the enlarged dam basin. The core material that was used for the construction of the existing dam is also available in the dam basin in the vicinity of the left abutment and spillway excavation.

A Construction Completion Report dated 9 October 2002 compiled by Mr J van Breda confirmed that the existing dam was well constructed and maintained and appears to be in a good condition. No signs of instability or significant distress was observed.

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.

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 NEMA and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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