



**EIA REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/1/B2/32/1026/18  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000474/2018  
**ENQUIRIES:** Samornay Smidt  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 2018-09-27

The Board of Directors  
Olyfberg Vrugte (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 344  
ROBERTSON  
6705

**Attention: Mr André Lourens**

Tel.: (023) 342 5096  
Fax: (086) 555 0749

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): REMOVAL OF NATURAL VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM NO. 472, WORCESTER**

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

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

Cc (1) Susan de Kock (Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice)  
(2) P Hartzenberg (Breede Valley Municipality)  
(3) P Huntley (CapeNature)  
(4) J Wentzel (Department of Agriculture)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

### APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED REMOVAL OF NATURAL VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM NO. 472, WORCESTER

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

#### DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activity specified in section B below with respect to Site and Layout Option 3, as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated 25 May 2018.

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 Board of Directors  
c/o Mr. André Lourens  
Olyfberg Vrugte (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 344  
ROBERTSON  
6705

Tel: (023) 342 5096  
Fax: (086) 555 0749

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

**B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED**

Listed Activities	Activities/Project Description
<p>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 -</p> <p><b>Activity Number: 27</b></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> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The development entails the clearance of 18ha of indigenous vegetation for the establishment of vineyards.</p>

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

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

This alternative entails the clearance of 18ha of natural vegetation on the Remainder of the Farm No. 472, Worcester, comprising 6ha within Site 1 (with a 32m buffer between the site and watercourse), 9ha within Site 2, which include a 5.5ha and 3.5ha area with a 32m wide buffer on either side of the ephemeral watercourse that traverses the site, and 3ha within the north-western portion of Site 3 between Eilandia Road and the vegetable field.

**C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

The listed activity will be undertaken on the Remainder of Farm No. 472, Worcester

The SG21 digit code is: C08500000000047200000

Co-ordinates:

	Latitude	Longitude
Site 1	33° 44' 59.66"	19° 36' 52.10"
Site 2	33° 45' 37.85"	19° 37' 09.52"
Site 3	33° 45' 54.79"	19° 37' 18.81"

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

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

## D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice cc  
c/o Ms Susan de Kock  
P.O. Box 367  
**PRIESKA**  
8940

Tel: (082) 679 6780

Fax: (087) 234 3434

## E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

### Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to Site and Layout Option 3, as described in the BAR dated 25 May 2018 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.
3. The development must be concluded within **ten years** from the date of commencement of the listed activity.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

### Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.
  - 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, 11, 18 and 20.

### **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 e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).
8. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant 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 activity, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

### **Management of activities**

9. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") dated 25 May 2018, submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

### **Monitoring**

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.

12. 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 and the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Audit Report 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).

The holder must undertake an environmental audit (quarterly for the duration of the construction phase) and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority (once every six months during the construction phase). The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority (six months after operation commenced).

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the report 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. 32 m wide buffers must be demarcated as no-go areas between the affected watercourses and proposed cultivation areas prior to commencement of the clearing activities.
19. The remaining natural areas located within Site 3, adjacent to the Breede River, must be conserved by the landowner in consultation with CapeNature, as part of the upland-lowland corridor along the eastern boundary of the farm that connects the Langeberg Mountain Protected Areas in the north with lowland areas towards the Breede River.
20. A copy of the approved Farm Plan, which include the authorised layout, the aforementioned corridor mapped as a no-go conservation area and stormwater management measures, as required by the Department of Agriculture, must be submitted to the Department for record-purposes before commencement of the clearing activities.

## **F. GENERAL MATTERS**

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

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

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

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

## **G. APPEALS**

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

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority–
  - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
  - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
  
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
  - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
  - 2.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organs of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
  
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organs of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
  
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:  
  
By post:                   Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and  
                                  Development Planning  
                                  Private Bag X9186  
                                  CAPE TOWN  
                                  8000  
  
By facsimile:           (021) 483 4174; or  
  
By hand:                   Attention: Mr Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)  
                                  Room 809  
                                  8<sup>th</sup> Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001  
  
**Note:** For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to 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>.



## 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**

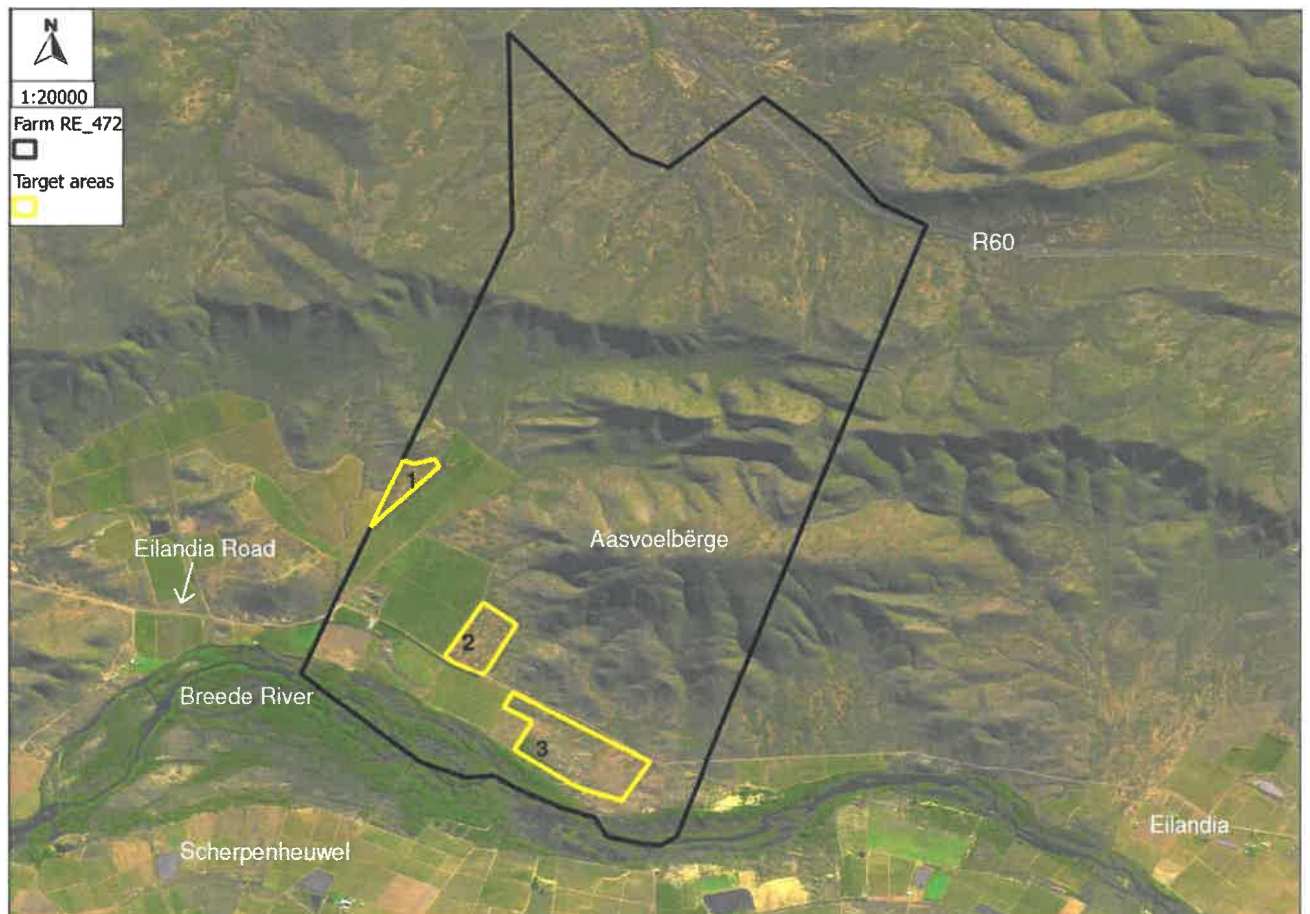
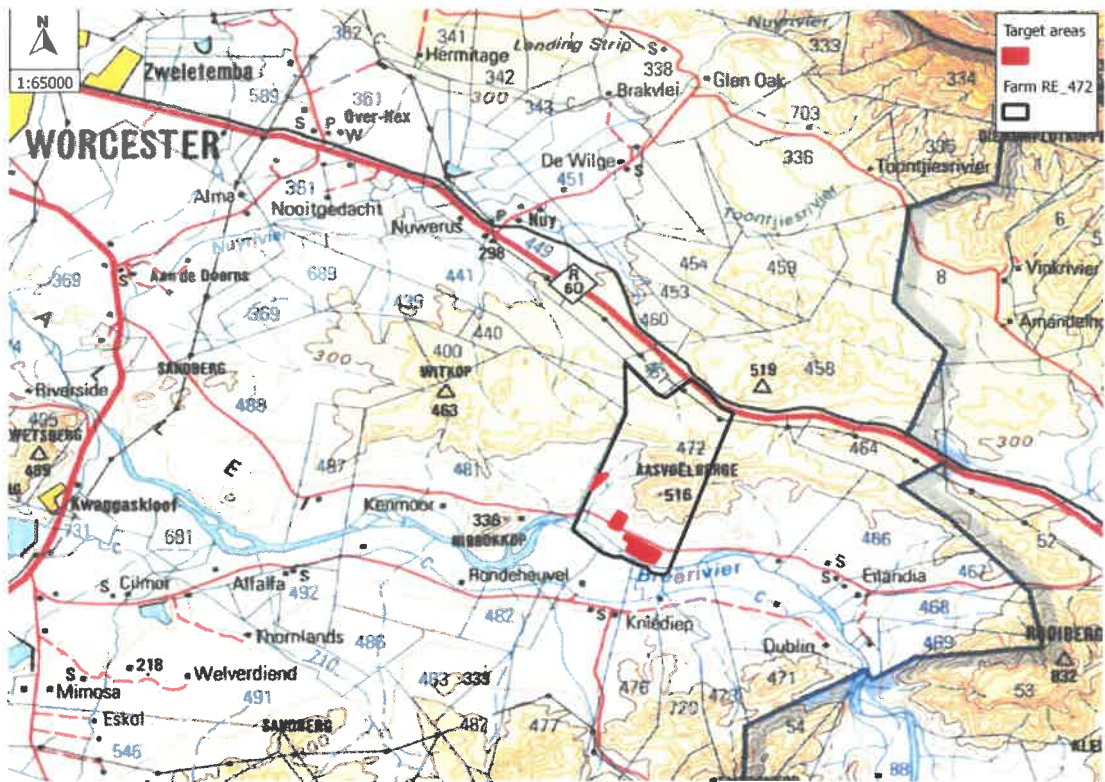
**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)**

DATE OF DECISION: 27/09/2018

Cc (1) Susan de Kock (Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice)  
(2) P Hartzenberg (Breede Valley Municipality)  
(3) P Huntley (CapeNature)  
(4) J Wentzel (Department of Agriculture)

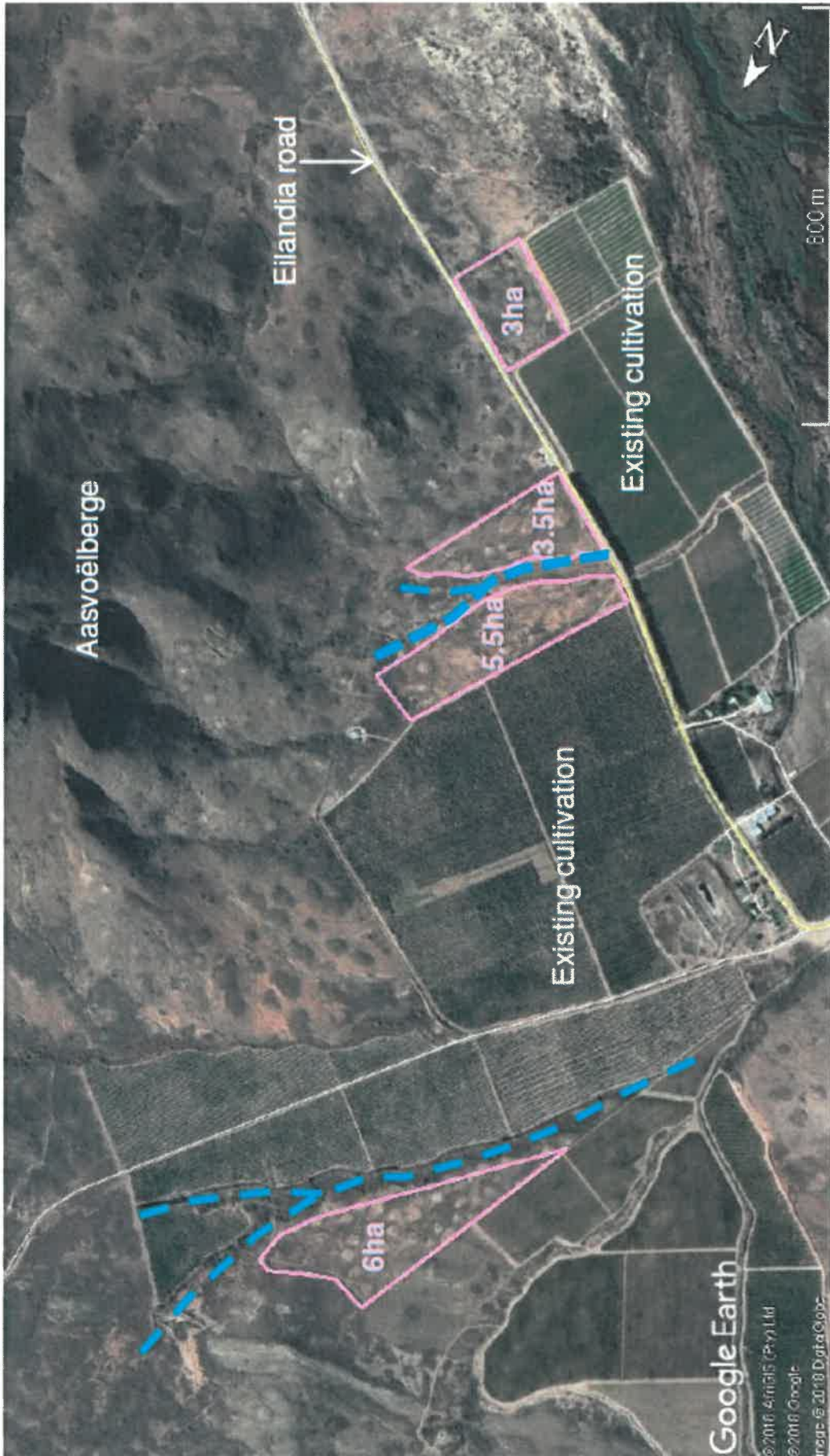
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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP





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 16 January 2018 and the BAR together with the EMPr dated 25 May 2018 and submitted on 12 June 2018;
- 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 25 May 2018; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

A site visit was not 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 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;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Breederivier Gazette' newspaper on 1 August 2017;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken on 2 August 2017;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activity is to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity on 10 August 2017;
- circulating the pre-application draft BAR to I&APs from 11 August 2017;
- circulating the in-process draft BAR to registered I&APs from 18 April 2018;

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

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

## 2. Alternatives

A baseline botanical assessment and a follow-up spring survey were conducted to determine the conservation value of the areas on the farm deemed suitable and practical for the proposed expansion of the current cultivation activities. Three sites of approximately 48ha in extent were identified for further assessment. Based on the outcome of the basic assessment process and botanical findings, the following site and layout alternatives are proposed:

### Site and Layout Option 1 (Applicant's preferred Alternative)

This alternative entails the clearance of 18ha of natural vegetation on the southern portion of the property between Eilandia Road and the Breede River on the Remainder of the Farm No. 472, Worcester. Although expansion at this location is practical since it is located next to existing cultivated land, it is not supported since it is considered to be of high conservation value due to its connectivity to the Breede River. This option entails the transformation and loss of 18ha of terrestrial CBA that forms part of a significant upland-lowland corridor connecting the Langeberg Mountain Protected Areas in the north with lowland areas towards the Breede River, which is rare due to intensive agricultural activities along the Central Breede River Valley with limited remaining natural lowland areas connecting to the river. Although this option will not fragment the corridor, it will reduce the width of the corridor, which is not desirable and therefore not preferred.

### Site and Layout Option 2

This alternative entails the clearance of 18ha of natural vegetation on the Remainder of the Farm No. 472, Worcester comprising 8ha within Site 1, which excludes the ephemeral watercourse that traverse the site and 10ha in the north-western corner of Site 3 between Eilandia Road and the Breede River. The remaining areas located within Site 3, adjacent to the Breede River will be maintained as a natural corridor between the river and natural areas towards the north. This alternative is not preferred as it still includes portions within Site 3 that forms part of the upland-lowland corridor connecting the Langeberg Mountain Protected Areas in the north with lowland areas towards the Breede River, thereby reducing the size of the corridor.

### Site and Layout Option 3 (Preferred Alternative herewith authorised)

This alternative is mostly in line with what the botanist recommended and entails the clearance of 18ha of natural vegetation on the Remainder of the Farm No. 472, Worcester, comprising of 6ha within Site 1 (with a 32m buffer between the site and watercourse), 9ha within Site 2, which include a 5.5ha and 3.5ha area with a 32m wide buffer on either side of the ephemeral watercourse that traverses the site, and 3ha within the north-western portion of Site 3 between Eilandia Road and the vegetable field. This layout is preferred from an environmental perspective since it has a reduced footprint that excludes the majority of the high sensitivity areas and from an ecological point of view since the impact on the upland-lowland corridor is less in comparison to Option 1 and Option 2.

### "No-Go" Alternative

The 'no-go' alternative was considered but is not preferred. The applicant wishes to expand and diversify the current cultivation footprint to improve the economic viability of the farm. This option will therefore not provide an opportunity to increase the economic viability of the farm. The opportunity to create job opportunities and to conserve the sensitive areas on the farm will also be lost.

### 3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

#### 3.1 Activities need and desirability

One of the objectives of the Western Cape Spatial Development Framework is sustainability and resilience whereby agricultural resources should be protected and that existing agricultural activity and soils with high grazing and cultivation capabilities be retained to ensure agriculture's key position in the regional economy. The site is located outside the urban edge in a prime agricultural area, is zoned for agricultural use and the required infrastructure, equipment and operational processes for successful cultivation processes are in place and can be easily expanded to accommodate the proposed development. The preferred site and layout alternative have also been amended to take the environmental constraints into consideration and limit the potential impacts.

#### 3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The Remainder of Farm No. 472 in Worcester stretches from the R60 southward across the Aasvoëlberge towards the Breede River, bordering the river along its southern boundary. Developed areas on the farm are limited to the low-lying areas in the Eilandia area, directly north of the Breede River. A baseline botanical assessment, dated 10 April 2017 was conducted by Johlene Krige on three sites (approximately 48ha in extent) to identify the main biodiversity constraints related to each site and inform the consideration of alternatives. The baseline botanical assessment confirmed the following:

**Site 1** (approximately 6 ha) does not comprise endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld, as indicated in the South African Vegetation Map, but rather least threatened Robertson Karoo, which is in a fairly good condition. The site is bordered by an unnamed natural watercourse along its south-eastern boundary, with non-seasonal/episodic flow. Olive groves occur further south and east. A manmade drainage furrow separates the site from a natural koppie north of the site. The entire site is recognised as a terrestrial Ecological Support Area ("ESA") and is important since it supports the functioning of the watercourse bordering the site and the associated ecological processes.

**Site 2** (approximately 11ha) also comprises Robertson Karoo vegetation, but has been subjected to previous disturbances. The north-western portion is degraded with very little vegetation remaining. "Heuweltjies" were levelled throughout the remainder of the site, resulting in significant disturbances. The site is bordered by olive groves towards the west and by Eilandia Road and cultivated areas towards the south. A small natural watercourse (non-seasonal/episodic flow) traverses the site and a small unnamed natural watercourse runs along the eastern border of the site. The northern portion of the site is characterised as a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area ("CBA") and the aforementioned watercourses are regarded as aquatic ESAs, which are important biodiversity process areas. The most significant biodiversity feature associated with the site is its contribution to the protection and functioning of watercourses within and adjacent to the site and the associated ecosystem services.

**Site 3** (approximately 30ha) comprises Robertson Karoo vegetation in the northern portion, while the southern portion contains a sandy habitat with transitional vegetation (karoo, renosterveld and sand fynbos) and not just Breede Sand Fynbos, as mapped. The site is bordered by Eilandia Road towards the north, natural areas towards the east, the Breede River towards the south and cultivated areas towards the west. The entire site is classified as a terrestrial CBA. The most significant biodiversity feature associated with the site is that it forms part of a natural link between the Breede River and natural areas towards the north, forming a corridor between the Breede River and Langeberge. Transitional habitats area also of high conservation value.

Due to the limited area suitable for agricultural expansion on the property, the transformation of CBAs and ESAs is unavoidable and all the areas available or suitable for cultivation currently fall within ESAs or CBAs. Based on the findings of the baseline botanical assessment Sites 1 and 2 are suitable for development subject to the exclusion of watercourses crossing and bordering the sites. A 32m buffer along the affected watercourses have therefore been incorporated into the layout within these sites. Cultivation within Site 3 has been adjusted from 18ha (Site and Layout Option 1) to 3ha (Site and Layout Option 3) restricted to development within the north-western corner of site between Eilandia Road and the vegetable field. The remaining natural areas located within Site 3, adjacent to the Breede River, will be considered as a natural corridor between the river and the natural areas towards the north.

A follow-up spring survey was also conducted in September 2017 on all of the sites to establish if Species of Conservation Concern ("SCC") occurs within the target areas and to re-evaluate the layout plan recommended during the initial assessment in order to provide further recommendations based on any new findings. The follow-up survey confirmed that the findings of the initial assessment. 117 plant species were recorded during the follow-up survey. None of the potential SCC that is known to occur within the type of habitat present on site were recorded during the March/April or the September surveys and no Red Data List plant species were recorded.

A meeting was conducted with the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency to confirm the requirements in terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) ("NWA"). A freshwater impact assessment and risk matrix was subsequently completed to apply for a General Authorisation in terms of the NWA via the e-WULAAS system. This process is pending and will further consider and address the potential watercourse-related impacts. It should however be noted that all the affected watercourses have been excluded from the proposed layout with 32m wide buffers on either side of the watercourses.

**Negative Impacts:**

- The expansion of the cultivated areas will have an impact on the natural vegetation.
- Temporary construction phase related impacts, such as dust, noise, increased heavy vehicle traffic, waste and pollution.

**Positive impacts:**

- The portion of the upland-lowland corridor connecting the Langeberg Mountain Protected Areas in the north with lowland areas towards the Breede River that crosses the farm will be conserved.
- The development will ensure the economic viability of the farm and provide additional employment opportunities.

The conditions of the environmental authorisation contained herein and the EMPr, approved as part of this environmental authorisation, addresses these impacts adequately.

**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 activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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