



EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B1/14/1021/19
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000586/2019
ENQUIRIES: Lorretta Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: 2020-02-04

The Board of Directors
Le Chasseur Boerdery (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 432
ROBERTSON
6705

Attention: Mr F Roux

Cell: 084 626 2116
E-mail: roux@breede.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND THE ADOPTION OF A MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ("MMP") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKUILTE DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND CULTIVATION ACTIVITIES ON FARM NO. 55 AND PORTION 17 OF FARM NO. 88, ROBERTSON

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation and to **adopt** the Maintenance Management Plan, 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) Ms L Speirs (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Mr S Mokweni (Langeberg Municipality)
(3) Ms P Huntly (CapeNature)
(4) Ms E Rossouw (Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency)
(5) Mr C Meintjies (Department of Agriculture)

E-mail: Lindsay@dougjeff.co.za
Fax: (023) 615 8001
Fax: (021) 866 1523
Fax: (023) 347 2012
E-mail: chrism@elsenburg.com



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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND THE ADOPTION OF A MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ("MMP") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKUILTE DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND CULTIVATION ACTIVITIES ON FARM NO. 55 AND PORTION 17 OF FARM NO. 88, ROBERTSON

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 Design Alternative A10 and Site Alternative A, described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIAR"), dated September 2019.

In terms of the NEMA, viz, the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and (Listing Notice 1 of 2014 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 7 April 2017) the Competent Authority hereby **adopts the MMP** for the development of Skuilte Dam and associated infrastructure and cultivation activities on Farm no. 55 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 88, Robertson included as part of the Operational Environmental Management Programme as Appendix 8A in the EIAR dated September 2019.

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
Le Chasseur Boerdery (Pty) Ltd

6th Floor, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001
Tel: +27 21 483 3696 Fax: +27 21 483 3098
E-mail: Lorretta.Osborne@westerncape.gov.za

Private Bag X9086, Cape Town, 8000
www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp

% Mr F Roux
 PO Box 432
ROBERTSON
 6705

Cell: 084 626 2116
 E-mail: roux@breede.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

Listed Activity	Activities/Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014 –</p> <p>Activity Number: 12</p> <p>The development of -</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs -</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; -</p> <p>excluding -</p> <p>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</p> <p>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</p> <p>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or</p> <p>(ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and</p>	<p>The development footprint of the pipeline will cross a watercourse (Central Tributary) and will be more than 100 square metres in extent.</p>

<p>where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</p>	
<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 19</p> <p><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—</i></p> <p>(i) a watercourse;</p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</i></p> <p>(d) will occur behind a development setback;</p> <p>(e) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</p> <p>(f) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(g) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</p> <p>(h) 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.</p>	<p>The construction of the pipeline will require the infilling, depositing and excavation of more than 10 cubic metres of material taking place within a watercourse.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 2 of 2014 –</p> <p>Activity Number: 15</p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more indigenous vegetation is required for-</i></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 approximately 25 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 2 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 16</p> <p><i>The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.</i></p>	<p>The dam wall will be 12 metres high with a development footprint of 9.7 hectares.</p>

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 development of an off-stream dam with a storage capacity of 540 000m³ and cultivation activities on Farm No. 55 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 88, Robertson. The dam wall will be 12m in height with a surface area of 9.7ha. Two areas (Site 1 is approximately 10ha and Site 2 is approximately 5ha) will be cleared for cultivation purposes. A pipeline of approximately 1km with a diameter of 315mm and a borrow pit of 1ha will be constructed as part of the development. The pipeline route will cross a stream and the borrow pit will be located outside of the wider valley bottom wetland of the Breede River. Access to the site will be gained via existing farm roads.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Farm No. 55 and Portion 17 on Farm No. 88, Robertson.

The SG21 digit codes are: C065000030000005500000,
C06500030000008800017,

Co-ordinates of Site 1:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 50' 22.71"	19° 41' 07.92"

Co-ordinates of Site 2:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 50' 44.21"	19° 40' 58.31"

Co-ordinates of dam site:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 50' 38.76"	19° 41' 09.24"

Co-ordinates of pipeline:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Start	33° 50' 13.57"	19° 41' 18.53"
Middle	33° 50' 29.00"	19° 41' 14.49"
End	33° 50' 38.92"	19° 41' 17.84"

Co-ordinates of borrow pit:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 50' 07.63"	19° 41' 43.00"

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

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
% Ms L Speirs
PO Box 44
KLAPMUTS
7625

Tel.: (021) 875 5272
E-mail: Lindsay@dougjeff.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with, and restricted to, Design Alternative A10 and Site Alternative A, described in the EIAR dated September 2019 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on the site within a period of **five years** from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. 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 clearing and construction activities. The notice must:
 - 6.1 make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above; and
 - 6.2 also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8, 12, 18 and 19.

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; and
 - 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 activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. 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 activities

9. The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") dated 18 July 2019 submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The MMP adopted as part of this Environmental Authorisation must be implemented.
11. The EMPr and MMP must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

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

13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, MMP, 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 on a publicly accessible website.
14. 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

15. 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, MMP, and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental 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 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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The development area must be clearly demarcated prior to commencement of clearing and construction activities. All areas outside the development footprint must be treated as no-go areas.
19. A Search and Rescue operation must be conducted within the development footprint and representatives of *Eriospermum bowieanum* and *Brianhuntleya intrusa*, must be relocated to adjacent natural areas of similar habitat south of the farm. This relocation must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced botanical specialist prior to commencement of clearing and confirmation thereof submitted to CapeNature. The relocation must be conducted during or late winter and the relocation area must be treated as a no-go area.

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 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

- A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 2659, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this 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 ZAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 04/02/2020

CC: (1) Ms L Speirs (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Mr S Mokweni (Langeberg Municipality)
(3) Ms P Huntly (CapeNature)
(4) Ms E Rossouw (Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency)
(5) Mr C Meintjies (Department of Agriculture)

E-mail: Lindsay@dougjeff.co.za

Fax: (023) 615 8001

Fax: (021) 866 1523

Fax: (023) 347 2012

E-mail: chrism@elsenburg.com

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

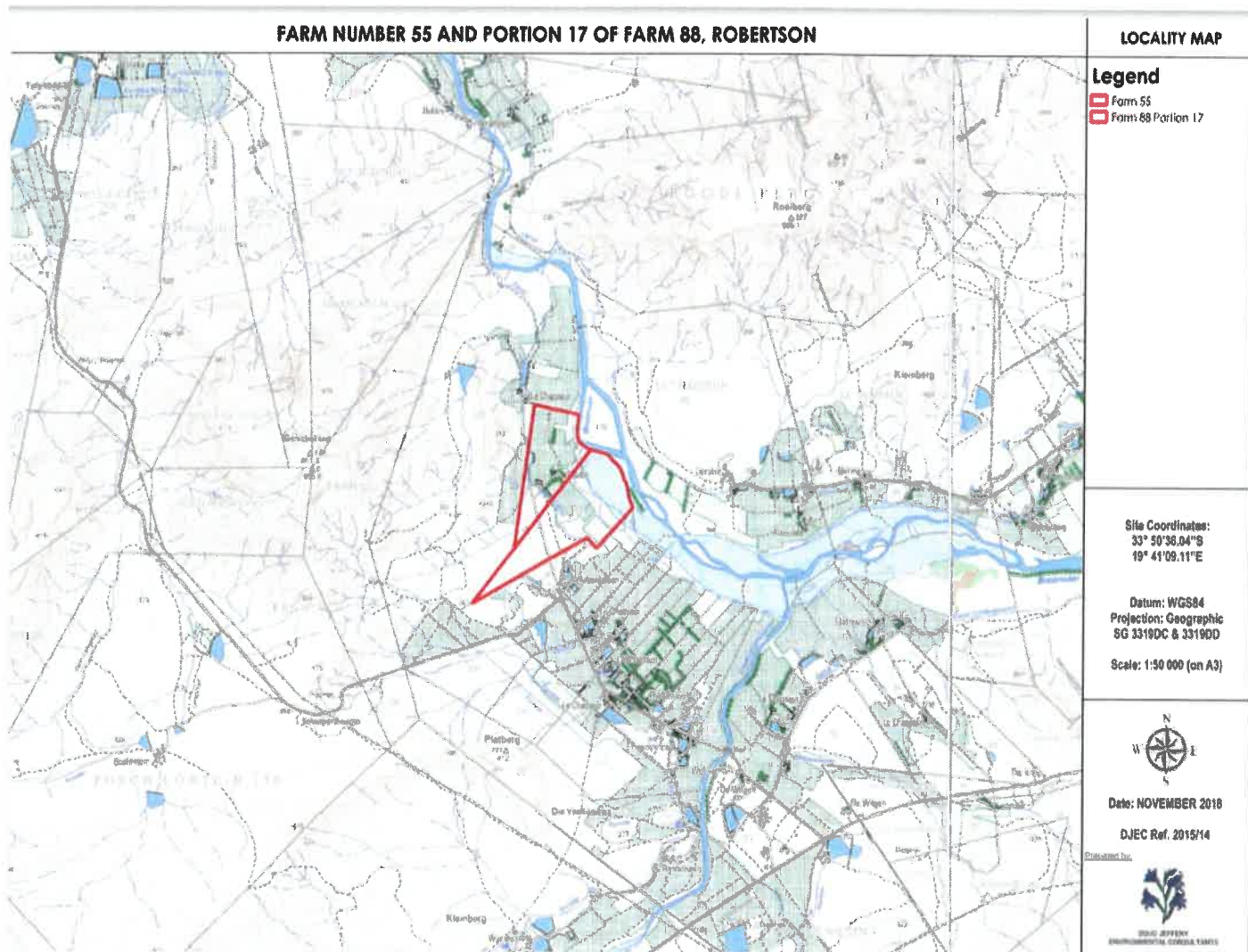


Figure 1: Locality map of Farm No. 55 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 88, Robertson

ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



Figure 2: Site Plan of the areas to be cleared for cultivation and the dam site on Farm No. 55 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 88, Robertson

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, amongst others, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form submitted on 9 April 2019, the Scoping Report dated April 2019, the EIAR dated September 2019, the EMPr and the MMP submitted together with the EIAR on 27 September 2019;
- 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 EIAR dated September 2019;
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures; and
- f) The site visit conducted by officials from this Department on 3 February 2020.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account during 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:

- 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 activities on 15 January 2019;
- Placing a newspaper advertisement in the "Breederivier Gazette" newspaper on 15 January 2019;
- Placing site notices on 16 January 2019;
- Copies of the pre-application Scoping Report for public review at the Robertson Library and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's website: www.dougjeff.co.za;
- Circulating the pre-application Scoping Report to I&APs for public review from 17 January 2019;
- Circulating the in-process Scoping Report to I&APs for public review from 11 April 2019; and
- Circulating the in-process EIAR for comment to I&APs for public review from 12 August 2019.

All the concerns raised by I&APs were responded to, and adequately addressed during the public participation process. Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation, MMP and in the EMPr, in order to adequately address the concerns raised.

The Competent Authority notes the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's responses to the issues raised during the public participation process and has included appropriate conditions in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr.

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

2. Alternatives

Two sites (Site A and Site B) for the Skuilte Dam were assessed during the initial process. Site A was considered more financially feasible compared to Site B since the storage capacity would not be reached within the site limit of Site B. Initially nine dam design options were considered on Site A. From the nine options assessed on Site A, option A6 was recommended and chosen as the preferred option. It was found to be the most economical option with a better water/ wall ratio. However, a tenth design option was assessed, which would not encroach onto a watercourse and is preferred from a freshwater perspective. One borrow pit area was assessed as part of the initial process. However, it was not considered to be environmentally feasible. As such, an alternative borrow pit was recommended by the Freshwater Ecologist, which will be located outside of the wider valley bottom wetland of the Breede River. The following alternative was considered to be feasible:

Design Alternative A10 and Site Alternative A (Herewith authorised):

This alternative entails the development of an off-stream dam with a storage capacity of 540 000m³ and cultivation activities on Farm No. 55 and Portion 17 of Farm No. 88, Robertson. The dam wall will be 12m in height with a surface area of 9.7ha. Two areas (Site 1 is approximately 10ha and Site 2 is approximately 5ha) will be cleared for cultivation purposes. A pipeline of approximately 1km with a diameter of 315mm and a borrow pit of 1ha will be constructed as part of the development. The pipeline route will cross a stream and the borrow pit will be located outside of the wider valley bottom wetland of the Breede River. Access to the site will be gained via existing farm roads.

From an engineering perspective this alternative is preferred, since it has a better water/ wall ratio. The location of the preferred borrow pit will not encroach on the wetland. This alternative was preferred since it will not result in the loss of orchards and houses.

"No-Go" Alternative

The 'no-go' alternative was considered. However, it is not preferred since it will not provide an opportunity to increase the economic viability of the farm. In addition, little to no rehabilitation will take place, efficient and sustainable water use on the farm will also not be realized.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activities need and desirability

The proposed development entails the cultivation of land zoned for Agriculture. Cultivation of the development areas will increase the production capacity and economic viability of the farm, which in turn will sustain existing and future employment opportunities. Furthermore, the development is consistent with the surrounding land use and is therefore in line with the objectives of the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework. The proposed development of the dam is primarily to increase the efficiency of water storage on the abovementioned farms

and to ensure that there will be sufficient supply and storage of irrigation water for the cultivation of land.

3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

The development areas comprise Bonnievale Renosterveld Thicket (Gwarrieveld) vegetation, which is classified as least threatened in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2014 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA"). Two species of conservation concern were recorded on the site, namely *Eriospermum bowieanum* and *Brianhantleya intrusa*. None of the recorded species is currently listed as endangered or critically endangered in the SANBI Red List. A Botanical Impact Assessment was conducted by Ms Johlene Krige, dated 14 September 2018. According to the Assessment, the development area does not form part of a corridor and is mapped as terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Areas ("CBAs") and Ecological Support Areas ("ESAs"). The potential impacts on vegetation that may result from the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation and the mitigation measures in the EMPr (accepted in Section E, Condition 9).

Freshwater features within the study area consist of the Breede River, a valley bottom wetland, a number of minor tributaries and drainage lines of the Breede River. According to the Freshwater Assessment, dated July 2019, compiled by BlueScience, the site is located within a sub-catchment mapped as a Phase 2 Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area ("FEPA") and the wider Breede River corridor is mapped as a FEPA wetland. The borrow pit will be located outside of the wetland area adjacent to the Breede River. The borrow pit area will be rehabilitated once removal of sand is completed. A 15m buffer area between the development footprint and the delineated watercourses is incorporated into the preferred site layout plan. The pipeline will cross the Central Tributary, however, the potential impacts on aquatic features that may result from the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, the maintenance measures of the MMP and the mitigation measures in the EMPr.

In addition, a Water Use Licence Application ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998) has been submitted to the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, for the development of Skuilte Dam and associated infrastructure, who will further investigate the watercourse related impacts.

Furthermore, a MMP has also been compiled to address routine maintenance activities taking place in the affected stretch of the watercourses. The maintenance of the structures authorised in this Environmental Authorisation forms part of this MMP. It must be noted that the accepted maintenance activities only relate to the activities described in the MMP. Should any new activities and associated infrastructure, not included in the MMP, require maintenance and if any of the applicable listed activities are triggered, an Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to the undertaking of such activities. It remains the responsibility of the proponent to determine if any other listed activities are triggered and to ensure that the necessary Environmental Authorisation is obtained.

The fact that the MMP is adopted by the Competent Authority does not absolve the applicant from its general "duty of care" set out in Section 28(1) of the NEMA, which states that "Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or

degradation of the environment." (Note: When interpreting their "duty of care" responsibility, cognisance must be taken of the principles of sustainability contained in Section 2 of NEMA).

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- The development will result in the loss of natural vegetation during site preparation and construction period for associated infrastructure.
- The development will result in construction related impacts such as dust, noise and visual intrusion during the clearance of vegetation.

Positive impacts:

- The sensitive botanical aspects will be demarcated as no-go areas during development and operation.
- A Search and Rescue operation of two species of conservation concern will be conducted within the development footprint prior to the commencement of construction activities.
- The development will ensure the economic viability of the farm and provide additional 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, compliance with the EMPr and the MMP, 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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