



**REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1004/17  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0000313/2017  
**ENQUIRIES:** Samornay Smidt  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 2018 -06- 18

The Trustees  
Stargrow Kwekery Trust  
PO Box 12536  
STELLENBOSCH  
7600

**Attention: Mr. A van der Westhuizen**

Tel: (021) 880 1882  
Fax: (021) 880 1485

Dear Sir

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE CLEARANCE OF NATURAL VEGETATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES ON FARM BO-ROSENDAL NO. 130, CERES**

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, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 2)  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Cc: (1) Susan de Kock (Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice)  
(2) H Taljaard (Witzenberg Municipality)  
(3) Mr R Smart (CapeNature)  
(4) Mr C van der Walt (Department of Agriculture)  
(5) Ms. E. Rossouw (BGCM)

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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): THE CLEARANCE OF NATURAL VEGETATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES ON FARM BO-ROSENDAL NO. 130, CERES

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 Layout Alternative 2, described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIAR"), dated 23 February 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 Trustees  
Stargrow Kwekery Trust  
% Mr. A van der Westhuizen  
PO Box 12536  
**STELLENBOSCH**  
7600

Tel: (021) 880 1882  
Fax: (021) 880 1485

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

**B. LIST OF ACTIVITY AUTHORISED**

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p>Government Notice No. 325 of 7 April 2017-</p> <p><b>Activity Number: 15</b></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -</p> <p>(i) <i>the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>52.7 ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared for cultivation.</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 52.7ha of natural vegetation on the remainder of Farm No. 130, Ceres for the establishment of orchards and nurseries. This layout comprises three intact blocks consisting of Area 1 (15ha), Area 2 (35.2ha) and Area 3 (2.5ha). The extension of the water pipeline between the main dam and the proposed cultivated areas is also required. The existing pipeline runs through a mapped Ecological Support Area ("ESA"), but the extended underground pipeline will be restricted to existing farm roads through areas mapped as "Other Natural Areas" on the CBA map, or lie within the target footprints proposed for cultivation.

**C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

The listed activity will be undertaken on the remainder of Farm Bo-Rosendal No. 130, Ceres

The SG21 digit code is: C01900000000013000000

Co-ordinates:

	Latitude	Longitude
Area 1	32° 51' 23.39"	19° 26' 04.02"
Area 2	32° 51' 58.20"	19° 26' 06.55"
Area 3	32° 51' 58.19"	19° 25' 33.43"

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

Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice (Pty) Ltd  
% Ms Susan de Kock  
PO Box 27  
**CITRUSDAL**  
7340

Tel.: (022) 921 3785  
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, Layout Alternative 2, described in the EIAR dated 23 February 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 clearing and construction activity. 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, 11 and 18

## 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 activity, 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 activity, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

## Management of activity

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

## Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any clearing or construction activity to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
12. The ECO must, as a minimum, conduct a site visit: **(1)** when clearing commences at each of the three authorised areas to ensure that the no-go areas are clearly demarcated; **(2)** at least once during clearing; and **(3)** once clearing has been completed.

13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activity, 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 and the EMPr 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 site 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 farm map must be developed in conjunction with CapeNature and the Department of Agriculture and finalised within one year from the date of this environmental authorisation. The farm map must be georeferenced and indicate current and authorised cultivated areas and the remaining natural areas set aside for conservation. A copy of the farm map must be submitted to this Department for record purposes.

## **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 a 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 HENRI FORTUIN**

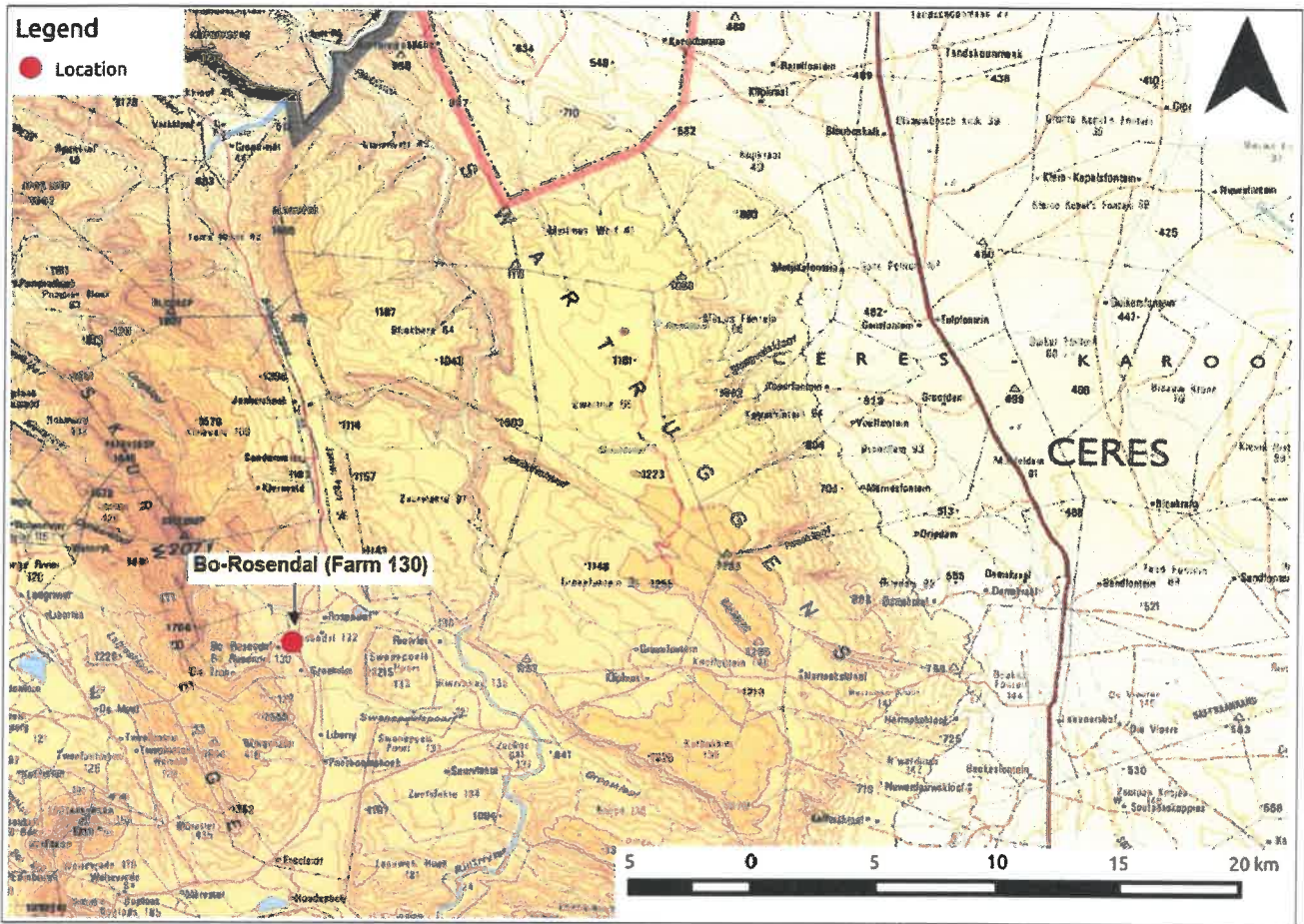
**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 2)**

DATE OF DECISION: 18-6-18

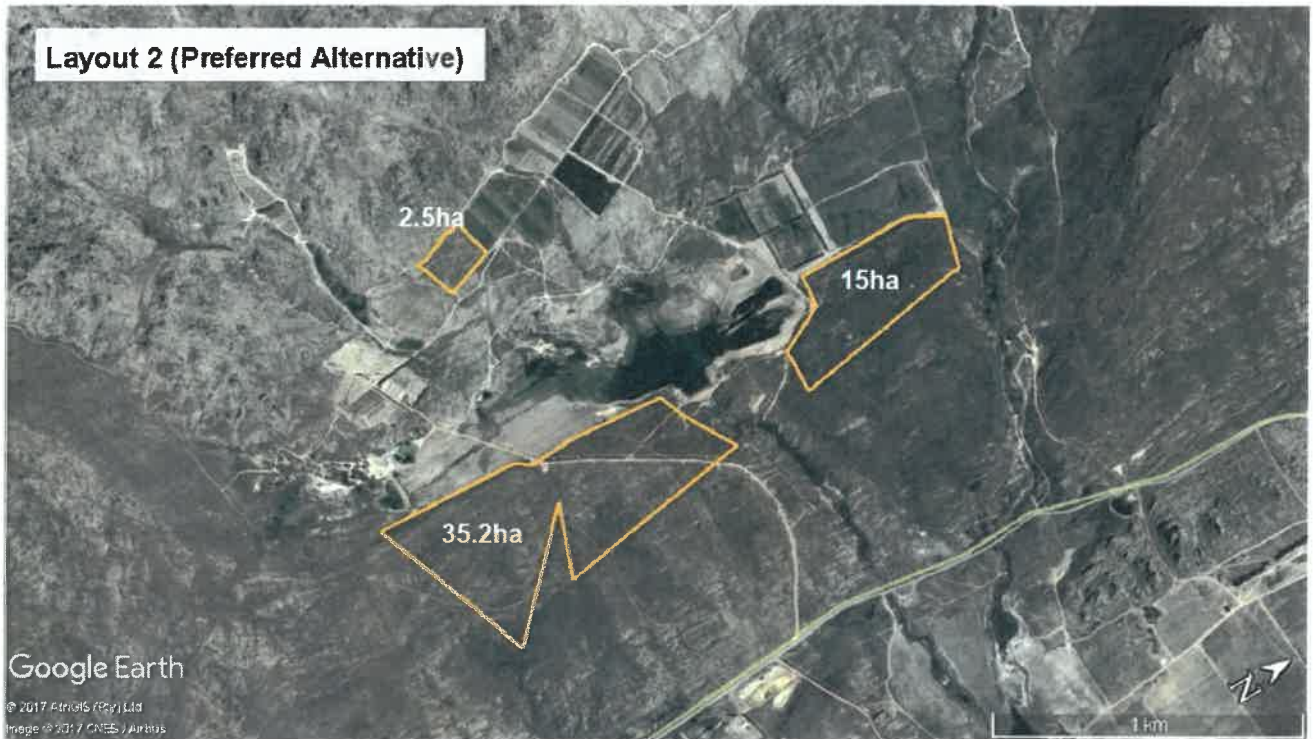
Cc: (1) Susan de Kock (Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice)  
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(3) Mr R Smart (CapeNature)  
(4) Mr C van der Walt (Department of Agriculture)  
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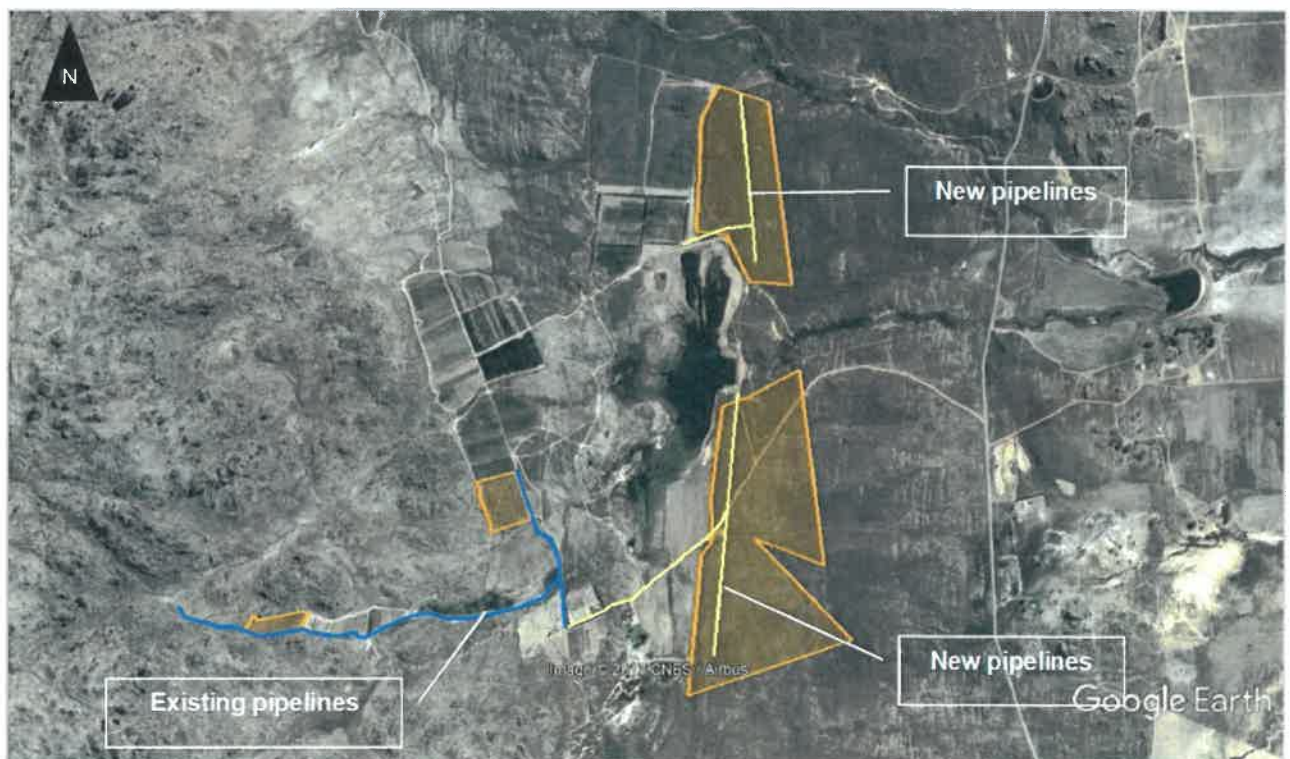
**ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP**



## ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



## PROPOSED PIPELINES



### **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 29 August 2017, and the EMPr submitted together with the EIAR on 27 February 2018, and the additional information received on 28 March 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 EIAR dated 23 February 2018 and the additional information received on 28 March 2018; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

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 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 activity on 9 May 2017;
- Placing site notices on 9 May 2017;
- Circulating the pre-application draft Scoping Report for comment to I&APs for public review from 9 May 2017;
- Placing a newspaper advertisement in the "*Witzenberg Herald*" on 11 May 2017;
- Circulating the in-process draft Scoping Report to I&APs for public review from 30 August 2017; and
- Circulating the draft EIAR for comment to I&APs from 22 January 2018.

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 and in the EMPr, in order to adequately address the concerns raised.

The Competent Authority concurs with 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.

## **2. Alternatives**

### Layout Alternative 1

This alternative entails the clearance of 74.3ha of natural vegetation across four sites on the remainder of the Farm No. 130, Ceres for the establishment of orchards and nurseries. The four areas consist of Area 1 (16ha), Area 2 (52ha), Area 3 (3ha) and Area 4 (3.3ha) and is located within or along the periphery of the Kouebokkeveld Mountain Catchment Area ("MCA"). This alternative is not supported since it is considered to have a significant environmental impact. Based on the findings of the Botanical Assessment dated 3 May 2017, compiled by Nick Helme Botanical Surveys, it will result in the loss of all the natural vegetation and most of the associated fauna and ecology in the development footprint. This layout includes the portions classified as high sensitivity areas and four Species of Conservation Concern will be lost if the entire proposed footprint is cleared.

### Layout Alternative 2 (Preferred alternative herewith authorised):

This alternative entails the clearance of 52.7ha of natural vegetation on the remainder of the Farm No. 130, Ceres for the establishment of orchards and nurseries. This layout comprises three blocks consisting of Area 1 (15ha), Area 2 (35.2ha) and Area 3 (2.5ha). This layout is preferred from an environmental perspective since it has a reduced footprint that excludes the majority of the high sensitivity areas and Area 4 that is located adjacent to a watercourse within the proclaimed MCA.

The extension of the water pipeline between the main dam and the proposed cultivated areas is also required. The existing pipeline runs through a mapped Ecological Support Area ("ESA"), but the extended underground pipeline will be restricted to existing farm roads through areas mapped as "Other Natural Areas" on the CBA map, or lie within the target footprints proposed for cultivation. This pipeline route is preferred since no additional vegetation will be disturbed during the construction phase of the pipeline, which will significantly decrease the potential environmental impact thereof.

### "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, the opportunity to conserve the remaining natural area on the property will be lost.

## **3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures**

### 3.1 Activity 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 and is currently zoned Agriculture Zone I. The cultivation of fruit orchards and nurseries will increase the production capacity and economic viability of the farm, which in turn will sustain existing and future employment opportunities.

### 3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

According to the Vegetation Map of South Africa, the site comprises of Ceres Sandstone Fynbos and Northern Inland Shale Band Vegetation forming a horseshoe shaped belt through the site.

Both vegetation types are listed as Least Threatened in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004).

The study area lies at the eastern edge of the Koue Bokkeveld region, within the Skurweberg Mountains and is essentially a southern extension of the well-known Cederberg. The Koue Bokkeveld flats (the study area is at the edge of these flats) are now intensively cultivated (mostly for fruit and vegetables) and virtually all remaining patches of natural vegetation within the lower lying portions of these valleys are of high regional conservation value, as less than 20% of the original natural vegetation in the valley floors remains intact.

Based on the findings of the Botanical Assessment dated 3 May 2017, compiled by Nick Helme Botanical Surveys, the three upper areas and the southern tip of Area 2 of the initial preferred layout were all located within the proclaimed Kouebokkeveld MCA. Approximately 32ha of the property is already cultivated within the mapped MCA. All of Area 1 is of Medium botanical sensitivity, 36% of Area 2 is of high sensitivity and the remainder is of Medium sensitivity. Approximately 50% of Area 3 is of Medium sensitivity, 15 % of high sensitivity and the remainder is of Low – Medium sensitivity. 60% of Area 4 is of high sensitivity, with the remainder of Medium Sensitivity.

Four Species of Conservation Concern ("SCC") were identified on the sites, of which two are located within Area 1, all four are located within Area 2, one is located within Area 4 and none was recorded within Area 3. Overall, the construction phase botanical impacts (i.e. loss of vegetation) for the entire footprint were considered to be of High negative significance before mitigation. This was reduced to Medium - Low negative significance through the exclusion of the majority of the high sensitivity areas from the development footprint and the commitment to conserve the remaining natural areas on the farm. Operational phase botanical impacts (i.e. habitat fragmentation, pesticide drift, disruption of the natural fire regime, reduction of reproductive fitness of rare species, and fertiliser runoff) were considered to be of high negative significance before mitigation, and also reduced to Medium - Low negative significance through the above-mentioned mitigation measures. Specifically, these mitigation measures include excluding: (1) a 1ha strip along the southern edge of Area 1 to allow ecological connectivity; (2) a 16.5ha high sensitivity area along the southern edge of Area 2; (3) a 0.4ha high sensitivity area along the southern edge of Area 3, and (4) Area 4, in its entirety. In addition, a Farm Plan will be developed in conjunction with CapeNature and the Department of Agriculture, which will georeference the developed areas (existing and herewith authorised), as well as the remaining natural areas that will be managed by the applicant for conservation. This has been included as a condition in the environmental authorisation.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

**Negative Impacts:**

- Transformation of land and loss of and disturbance to vegetation, habitat, fauna and ecological processes during the establishment of the orchards and nurseries.
- Temporary construction phase related impacts, such as dust, noise, visual, increased heavy vehicle traffic, waste and pollution.
- Operational phase impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, pesticide drift, disruption of the natural fire regime, reduction of reproductive fitness of rare species, and fertiliser runoff.

**Positive impacts:**

- The remainder of the natural areas on the property 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 activity (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 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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