



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/E2/26/1010/25
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001614/2025
DATE: 11 AUGUST 2025

The Municipal Manager
Overstrand Municipality
Infrastructure Services
PO Box 20
HERMANUS
7200

Attention: Mr. S. Muller

Tel: (028) 313 8019
Email: smuller@overstrand.gov.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014: THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE EXISTING MAIN PUMP STATION ON REMAINDER OF ERF NO. 2702 AND INSTALLATION OF A SUB-SURFACED SEWAGE PIPELINE, ONRUS

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation and **adopt** the Maintenance Management Plan, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties ("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 Appeal Regulations 2025, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc: (1) Mr. C Dippenaar (GNEC (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Ms. C Becker (GNEC (Pty) Ltd)
(3) Ms. P Aplon (Overstrand Municipality)
(4) Ms. R Volschenk (Overberg District Municipality)
(5) Mr. R Smart (CapeNature)

Email: christoff@gnec.co.za
Email: carina@gnec.co.za
Email: paplon@overstrand.gov.za
Email: rvolschenk@odm.org.za
Email: rsmart@capenature.co.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/E2/26/1010/25
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001614/2025
ENQUIRIES: Samornay Smidt
DATE OF ISSUE: 11 AUGUST 2025

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 PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE EXISTING MAIN PUMP STATION ON REMAINDER OF ERF NO. 2702 AND INSTALLATION OF A SUB-SURFACED SEWAGE PIPELINE, ONRUS

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

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the Preferred Alternative, as described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), received on 30 April 2025.

In terms of the NEMA, viz, the EIA Regulations, 2014 (Listing Notices 1 and 3 of 2014 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 7 April 2017) the Competent Authority hereby adopts the Maintenance Management Plan for watercourse related maintenance activities for the Proposed upgrade of the existing main pumping station on the remainder of Erf No. 2702, as well as the installation of a sub-surfaced sewage pipeline, Onrus,

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

Overstrand Municipality
Infrastructure Services
c/o Mr. S Muller
PO Box 20
HERMANUS
7200

Tel.: (028) 313 8019
 Email: smuller@overstrand.gov.za

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

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activities	Activities/Project Description
<p>EIA Regulations 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 a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</i></p> <p>(a) <i>will occur behind a development setback;</i> (b) <i>is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i> (c) <i>falls within the ambit of activities 21 in this Notice, in which case that activities applies;</i> (d) <i>occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i> (e) <i>where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activities 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</i></p>	<p>The proposed upgrade of the existing main pump station will require the movement of more than 10 cubic metres of soil and material in a watercourse.</p>
<p>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 –</p> <p>Activity Number: 19A</p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from—</p> <p>(i) the seashore; (ii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater; or (iii) the sea; -</p> <p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving -</p> <p>(f) will occur behind a development setback; (g) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</p>	<p>The proposed upgrade of the existing main pump station will require the movement of more than 10 cubic metres of soil and material within 100m of an estuary.</p>

<p>(h) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(i) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</p> <p>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>EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 –</p> <p>Activity Number: 12</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas; iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister. 	<p>More than 300m² of indigenous vegetation will be cleared with the installation of the proposed pipeline.</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 development entails the upgrade of the existing Onrus Main sewage pump station (“OMSPS”) and the installation of a sub-surfaced sewer pipeline from the pump station to an existing transition manhole situated within the road reserve of Schulphoek Road (as indicated in the Site Plan attached as Annexure 2). The upgrades will include the following:

1. Pump station Structures:
A wet well pump station structure will be constructed. The pump station will operate with a total of four pumps (two pumps per stream) running in parallel. Inflow into the pump station will be managed using a splitter chamber and sluice gates.
2. Valve and Water Chamber:
A valve chamber will be constructed to house isolation valves, non-return valves, and a flow meter necessary for the proper operation and control of the pump station. A second flow meter chamber is proposed at the end of the rising main.
3. Sewers and Pipelines:
The two main incoming sewage pipelines will be re-routed to provide sufficient space for the construction of the new infrastructure. Overflow pipes and drainpipes will be constructed to link the pump station and rising main with the proposed emergency overflow storage structure and to pump sewage back from the overflow structures.
4. MCC room:
The existing MCC room and generator room will be expanded to meet Occupational Health and Safety requirements and to accommodate a larger MCC and generator. A walkway will be developed around the MCC room building.
5. Stormwater Pipe:
A 375mm diameter stormwater pipe will be installed to convey stormwater from the existing access road (Park Lane Road) to the river. A stormwater outlet structure will be developed at the point where the stormwater enters the Onrus River.
6. Overflow structure:
An underground emergency overflow storage structure with a capacity of 450kℓ will be constructed. The disturbed area will be revegetated with suitable indigenous vegetation.
7. Site Level, paving and fencing:
The pump station site level will be raised above the 1:100-year flood level, to ensure safety and minimise flood risk. Portions of the upgraded pump station site will be paved, and the site will be fenced, if required.
8. Sewage Pipeline
A 400mm diameter sub-surfaced sewage pipeline will be installed to transport the sewage from the pump station to the existing transition manhole located in the road reserve of Schulphoek Road. The sub-surfaced sewage pipeline will traverse several erven and will be approximately 3.45km in length. Majority of the pipeline route will be aligned within the road reserve and the pipeline will be attached to an existing bridge where it crosses the Onrus River.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The pump station upgrade will be undertaken on the remainder of Erf No. 2702, and the sewage pipeline will be routed along several erven in Onrus, as listed below.

The SG21 digit codes are:

Remainder of Erf No. 2702	C01300160000270200000
Park Lane Road Reserve	C01300160000289100000
Old main Road Onrus Road	C01300000000058100000
Main Road Reserve	C01300000000058100364
Erf No. 581/366	C01300000000058100366
Erf No. 581/368	C01300000000058100368
Erf No. 581/363	C01300000000058100363
Erf No. 1291	C01300200000129100000
Erf No. 2834	C01300200000283400000
Erf No. 2633	C01300200000263300000
Erf No. 1447	C01300200000144700000
Main Road Reserve	C01300160000557000000
Erf No. 2064	C01300200000206400000
Erf No. 2152	C01300200000215200000
Erf No. 2861	C01300200000286100000
Erf No. 1450	C01300200000145000000
Erf No. 2829	C01300200000282900000
Erf No. 1748	C01300200000174800000
Schulphoek Road Reserve	C01300130000024300000

Co-ordinates:

Pump station co-ordinates			
Latitude (S)	34°	24'	49.30"
Longitude (E)	19°	10'	37.76"

Sewage pipeline route:			
Starting point co-ordinates			
Latitude (S)	34°	24'	49.34"
Longitude (E)	19°	10'	38.20"
Middle point co-ordinates			
Latitude (S)	34°	24'	39.87"
Longitude (E)	19°	11'	36.25"
End point co-ordinates			
Latitude (S)	34°	24'	54.95"
Longitude (E)	19°	12'	36.04"

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

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
c/o Mr. Christoff Dippenaar
PO Box 2632
PAARL
7620

Tel: 021 870 1874
Email: christoff@gnec.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 the Preferred Alternative, as described in the BAR received on 30 April 2025 on the site as described in Section C above and indicated in the Site Plan attached as Annexure 2.
2. The holder must commence with, and conclude, the listed activities within the stipulated validity period which this Environmental Authorisation is granted, or this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority.
This Environmental Authorisation is granted for-
 - (a) A period of **ten (10) years** from the date of issue, during which period the holder must commence with the authorised listed activities.
 - (b) A period of **ten (10) years**, from the date the holder commenced with the authorised listed activities, during which period the authorised listed activities must be concluded.
3. 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.
4. 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

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

Conditions: 6, 7 and 11.

Notification and administration of appeal

6. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 6.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties (“I&APs”) of –
 - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 6.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 6.2 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, 2025 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
 - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
 - 6.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder, and
 - 6.4.6 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 2025 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).
7. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activities

8. The draft Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”) submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.

9. The Maintenance Management Plan ("MMP") adopted as part of this Environmental Authorisation must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO") before commencement of any land clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
12. The ECO must report on compliance with the EMPr to this Department and the relevant authorities, in writing, every second month during the construction phase.
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 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** (other than the ECO appointed in terms of condition 11 above or the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The holder must undertake one environmental audit and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Department three months after the construction phase commenced. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Department within three months of the completion of the construction phase.

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 paleontological 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 paleontologist 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 relevant requirements with respect to occupational health and safety must be adhered to at all times.

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 those activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

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

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

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

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 (Government Notice No. R. 5985 in Government Gazette No. 52269 of 13 March 2025. Please note the provisions of Regulation 1(2) & (3) of the National Appeal Regulations 2025 when calculating the period of days.

1. The holder (applicant) of this decision must submit an appeal to the Appeal Administrator, any registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's), and the decision maker (Competent Authority who issued the decision) within **20 calendar days** from the date this decision was sent by the decision maker.
2. The I&AP's (not the holder of this decision) must submit an appeal to the Appeal Administrator, the holder (applicant) of the decision, and the decision maker within **20 calendar days** from the date this decision was sent to the registered I&AP's by the holder (applicant) of the decision.
3. All appeals submitted must:
 - a. be in writing in the appeal form obtainable from the Departmental website;
 - b. include supporting documents referred to in the appeal; and
 - c. include proof of payment of the prescribed non-refundable appeal fee, if prescribed.
4. The holder (applicant) of the decision must:
 - a. notify registered I&AP's and affected organs of state of any appeal received, and make the appeal available to them, within 5 calendar days after the 20-day appeal period ends.
 - b. Submit proof of this notification to the Appeal Administrator within **5 calendar days** after sending the last notification.
5. The applicant, where applicable, the decision-maker, or any person notified under regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 may submit a Responding Statement within **20 calendar days** from the date they received the appeal, in the form obtainable from the Department website to the Appeal Administrator and to the appellant, where the appellant is not the applicant.
6. Appeals, Responding Statements and supporting documents must be submitted to the Appeal Administrator by means of one of the following methods:
 - a. **By e-mail:**
DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or
 - b. **By hand** where that person submitting does not hold an electronic mail account:
Attention: Mr Marius Venter
Room 809, 8th Floor Utilitas Building,
1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: You are also requested to submit an electronic copy (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Administrator via email or to the address listed above.

A prescribed appeal form, responding statement form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the relevant website of the appeal authority: <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp> or the office of the Minister at: Tel. (021) 483 3721 or email DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

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)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE OF DECISION: 11 AUGUST 2025

Cc: (1) Mr. C Dippenaar (GNEC (Pty) Ltd)
(2) Ms. C Becker (GNEC (Pty) Ltd)
(3) Ms. P Aplon (Overstrand Municipality)
(4) Ms. R Volschenk (Overberg District Municipality)
(5) Mr. R Smart (CapeNature)

Email: christoff@gnec.co.za
Email: carina@gnec.co.za
Email: paplon@overstrand.gov.za
Email: rvolschenk@odm.org.za
Email: rsmart@capenature.co.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN



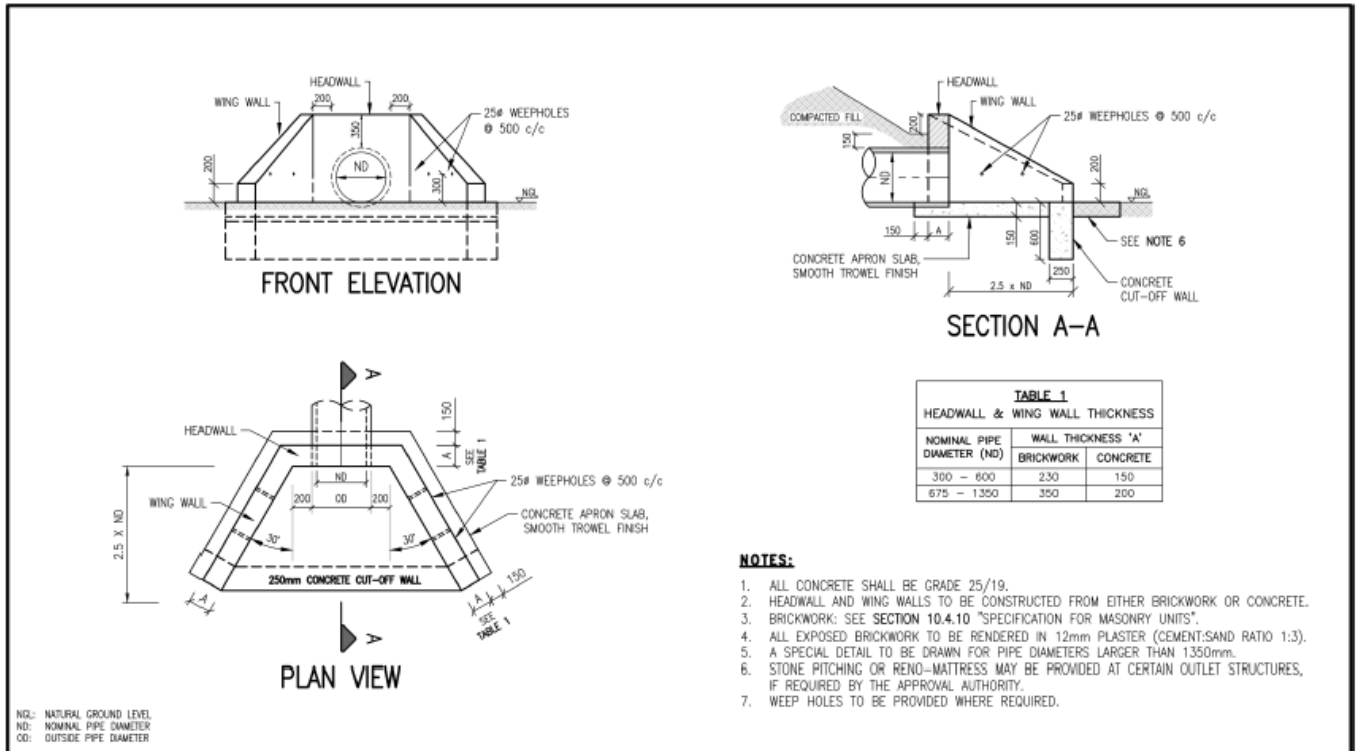
PUMP STATION LOCATION



SEWAGE PIPELINE ROUTE



STORMWATER OUTLET DESIGN



SEWAGE PIPELINE ROUTE



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 11 February 2025 and the EMPr submitted together with final BAR received on 30 April 2025 and the additional information received on 5 August 2025.
- 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 received on 30 April 2025; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

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

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- fixing notice boards at the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken and public areas on 23 October 2024;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Hermanus Times' on 23 October 2024;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 23 October 2024;
- circulating the pre-application draft BAR to I&APs from 23 October 2024; and
- circulating the in-process draft BAR to I&APs from 10 March 2025.

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

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

2. Alternatives

Preferred Alternative (Herewith authorised)

The preferred alternative entails the proposed upgrade of the existing Onrus Main sewage pump station and the installation of a sub-surfaced sewer pipeline that will transport sewage from the pump station to an existing transition manhole situated within the road reserve of Schulphoek Road (as indicated in the Site Plan attached as Annexure 2). The upgrades will include the following:

1. Pump station Structures:

A wet well pump station structure will be constructed. The pump station will operate with a total of four pumps (two pumps per stream) running in parallel. Inflow into the pump station will be managed using a splitter chamber and sluice gates.

2. Valve and Water Chamber:

A valve chamber will be constructed to house isolation valves, non-return valves, and a flow meter necessary for the proper operation and control of the pump station. A second flow meter chamber is proposed at the end of the rising main.

3. Sewers and Pipelines:

The two main incoming sewage pipelines will be re-routed to provide sufficient space for the construction of the new infrastructure. Overflow pipes and drainpipes will be constructed to link the pump station and rising main with the proposed emergency overflow storage structure and to pump sewage back from the overflow structures.

4. MCC room:

The existing MCC room and generator room will be expanded to meet Occupational Health and Safety requirements and to accommodate a larger MCC and generator. A walkway will be developed around the MCC room building.

5. Stormwater Pipe:

A 375mm diameter stormwater pipe will be installed to convey stormwater from the existing access road (Park Lane Road) to the river. A stormwater outlet structure will be developed at the point where the stormwater enters the Onrus River.

6. Overflow structure:

An underground emergency overflow structure with a capacity of 450kℓ will be constructed. The disturbed area will be revegetated with suitable indigenous vegetation.

7. Site Level, paving and fencing:

The pump station site level will be raised above the 1:100-year flood level, to ensure safety and minimise flood risk. Portions of the upgraded pump station site will be paved, and the site will be fenced, if required.

8. Sewage Pipeline

A 400mm diameter sub-surfaced sewage pipeline will be installed to transport the sewage from the pump station to the existing transition manhole located in the road reserve of Schulphoek Road. The sub-surfaced sewage pipeline will traverse several erven and will be approximately 3.45km in length. Majority of the pipeline route will be aligned within the road reserve and the pipeline will be attached to an existing bridge where it crosses the Onrus River.

A wet well pump station structure was selected as the preferred option, as a negative visual impact and unacceptable noise levels are associated with a dry well, above ground pump station. The MCC room will be located along the western border of the site next to the existing MCC and generator room, to limit the visual impact on the residents located to the north of the existing pump station. The paving has been reduced and will be installed only within the areas where paving is required to limit surface hardening. The paving surrounding the proposed underground overflow structure has been replaced with rehabilitation with suitable indigenous vegetation to assist with stabilising the site and limit potential soil erosion impacts. The preferred alternative incorporates the specialist input and comments received and is considered the best practical environmental option.

Layout and Technology Alternatives

The alternative layout includes positioning the MCC room in the northeastern corner of the site, which will have a negative visual impact on the residents to the north of the site. The new pump station will be constructed on the eastern side of the existing facility, while the emergency overflow storage tank will occupy the site of the current pump station. The location of the emergency overflow storage tank does not allow the construction of the overflow structure in parallel with the other items which increases the construction period and associated cost. With this option, the entire area will be paved, resulting in an increased disturbance to the natural environment and eliminating any opportunity for rehabilitation with endemic vegetation.

A drywell pump station was considered as an alternative technology. This option has many advantages from an operation and maintenance perspective, but it was not the preferred option due to the negative visual impact it would have and noise nuisance during normal operation.

"No-Go" Alternative

The No-Go alternative will result in the existing pump station being unable to effectively accommodate and transfer sewage to the WWTW in response to the growing demand. The no-go alternative is therefore not preferred, since it will not address the issues with regards to the potential sewage overflows and resultant pollution. In addition, the opportunity for job creation during the construction phase will also be lost.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activities need and desirability

The OMSPS forms a critical component of the Greater Hermanus sewer infrastructure, receiving sewage from the Vermont and Onrus drainage areas. Effluent from these areas gravitates to the OMSPS, from where it is pumped to a transition manhole in Mount Pleasant and subsequently transported via gravity to the Hermanus WWTW located in Zwelihle, Hermanus. The need to upgrade the existing pump station and associated infrastructure was identified due to the increase in surrounding urban development and the occurrence of pump station failures leading to sewage spills into the estuary. This proposed upgrade will improve the operational efficiency and reliability of the sewer system. The upgraded infrastructure will accommodate higher peak flows (especially during holiday seasons) and manage stormwater from rainstorms. Enhancing the capacity of the pump station and associated pipeline infrastructure will mitigate the risk of system failures and potential sewage overflows, thereby contributing to improved public health, environmental protection, and service delivery within the Greater Hermanus area. This is in line with the Western Cape Provincial Coastal Management Programme, which aims to minimise the impact of pollution on the coastal environment, through the promotion of appropriate mechanisms to alleviate potential pollution and the improvement of the water quality of the coastal environment. The

proposed upgrades also align with the Provincial Spatial Development Framework, the National Development Plan, the Strategic Provincial Plan, the Overstrand Municipal Integrated Development Plan, and the Municipal Spatial Development Framework, as it will improve basic services and service delivery, reduce the potential risk of sewage spills and create job opportunities during the construction phase. Furthermore, the preferred development proposal was informed by specialist input and comments received during the public participation process and is considered the best practical environmental option.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The existing OMSPS is located adjacent to the Onrus Lagoon within the Overstrand Municipality, approximately 7 km west of Hermanus. The site is mapped to contain Hangklip Sand Fynbos and Overberg Sandstone Fynbos, classified as critically endangered and endangered vegetation types, respectively. The majority of the pipeline route is transformed as it is located within an urban area. A few short sections of the route are fringed by fynbos regrowth, mainly occupied by pioneer species. The section of the pipeline route across the Onrus River is also highly degraded. Two near threatened plant species were encountered along the proposed pipeline route, however, good populations of these two species occur in the natural vegetation within the broader vicinity of the pipeline. Based on the findings of the Botanical Impact Assessment, dated 12 August, compiled by MD Botanical Surveys, the impacts associated with the loss of habitat and loss of species are both rated as low significance before and after mitigation. The recommended mitigation measures include search and rescue and implementation of a rehabilitation plan. The proposed development is therefore deemed acceptable from a botanical impact perspective.

The identified freshwater features that could potentially be impacted by the proposed activities include the Onrus River, as well as its floodplain wetland further downstream (forming part of the Onrus Estuary), a wet area associated with a small drainage line, and a reed-dominated wetland seep. Construction activities associated with the pump station upgrade will encroach into the buffer zone of the surrounding wetland areas, with some encroaching into the delineated wetlands. Most of these activities will however fall within highly degraded areas, where biodiversity has already been compromised. No wetlands or other freshwater features will be traversed by the proposed pipeline, apart from the Onrus River, where the pipeline will be attached to a bridge, to mitigate the potential impact. The section of the river affected by the proposed pipeline crossing is currently highly modified, primarily due to significant upstream water abstraction and the impacts of surrounding urban development, the historical bridge construction, and a high infestation of alien invasive trees. The findings of the Freshwater Assessment, dated August 2024 (updated December 2024), compiled by everWater Freshwater Consulting Services, confirmed that subject to the implementation of all the recommended mitigation measures, the impact of the proposed upgrade activities is expected to be short-term and of low negative significance for the affected sections of the Onrus River and surrounding wetland areas. It is therefore deemed as acceptable from a freshwater impact perspective.

The most recent National Biodiversity Assessment ("NBA") (2019) rated the condition or Present Ecological State ("PES") of the Onrus Estuary as a heavily modified. The development site falls within a highly sensitive area. It is located within the Estuarine Functional Zone ("EFZ") of an "Endangered" estuary type, a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area, the Cape Whale Coast Important Bird Area and near a Strategic Water Source Area. The development is also located below both the 1:50 and the 1:100-year flood lines of the system. Given that the September 2023 floods were considered a 1:200-year event, and in the context of a rapidly changing climate, there is the possibility of flooding of the site in the future. The preferred design of the proposed pump station upgrades

addresses this aspect by constructing the top slabs and floor levels of the structures above this 1:100-year flood energy level to ensure safety and minimise flood risk. Based on the findings of the Estuarine Impact Assessment dated February 2025, compiled by Anchor Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd, the identified impacts can be successfully mitigated to a low, very low and insignificant levels. Hence, with the implementation of and strict adherence to the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed development is deemed acceptable.

Given that the pump station upgrade is part of a broader plan to reduce sewage spills and improve the water quality of the Onrus Estuary, the project will have an overall medium positive impact on the wetland and estuary health in the long term, at a regional scale. This improvement will also reduce regular health risks for recreational water users of the estuary. The proposed development is therefore deemed acceptable from an aquatic impact perspective. The recommended mitigation measures have been incorporated into the preferred alternative and the project's EMPr.

An application for a Water Use Licence Authorisation ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998), that also considers the watercourse related impacts, is underway with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Furthermore, a MMP has also been compiled to address routine maintenance activities taking place in the affected stretch of the watercourse. 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).

Negative Impacts:

- The development will result in aquatic habitat loss and disturbance, flow and water quality impacts and terrestrial vegetation loss. The biophysical impacts and potential operational phase impacts will be mitigated to an acceptable level through the implementation of the preferred alternative, which has been informed by specialist input and comments received during the public participation process.
- Construction phase impacts associated with the development are likely to be present, including traffic impacts and elevated noise and dust levels. These impacts will be of temporary duration, and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the EMPr for implementation during the construction phase.

Positive impacts:

- The upgrade of the existing Onrus pump station and installation of the sewage pipeline will ensure adequate capacity and effective transfer of sewage from the pump station to the WWTW for treatment.
- Upgrading of the pump station will lead to the reduction in the risk of possible sewage overflows and resultant pollution.
- The proposed upgrades will also provide temporary employment opportunities during the construction phase and during future maintenance activities.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

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

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

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

-----END-----