



LORNAY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

PROOF OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON THE
REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI**

April 2025

Consultant:

Michelle Naylor | Env. Consultant | M.Sc., Pr. Sci. Nat., EAPASA
cell: 083 245 6556 | michelle@lornay.co.za | www.lornay.co.za
Unit 5/1F, Hemel & Aarde Wine Village, Hermanus
Lornay Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd | Reg 2015/445417/07

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Public Participation Process was conducted in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations as promulgated in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations promulgated in Government Gazette No. 38282 and Government Notice R983, R984 and R985 on 4 December 2014 (as amended). All potential interested and affected parties (I&APS) and applicable organs of state were notified of the DRAFT / pre-application Basic Assessment Report (BAR). The DRAFT BAR was made available for a 30-day period to I&APS and organs of state, to register and comment. Noticeboards were placed on site and a newspaper advertisement was placed in the local newspaper. All comments were recorded in a comments and response report and a register for I&APS was opened. Once the 30-day public participation on the DRAFT BAR was complete, all comments made were responded to and the final BAR was distributed to all Register I&AP's and Organs of State for a 30 day period.

2. LIST OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES AND ORGANS OF STATE

In line with the requirements of NEMA, all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APS) were notified of the project and provided with an opportunity to comment. This included applicable organs of state. See list of I&AP's identified for the project:

PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
WC Government Env Affairs & Dev Planning Development Management D'mitri Matthews Registry Office 1st Floor, Utilitas Building 1 Dorp Street 8001	Overberg District Municipality F. Kotze / R. Volschenk Private Bag x 22 Bredasdorp 7280 F. Kotze Email
Cape Nature Rhett Smart rsmart@capenature.co.za	Overstrand Municipality Chester Arendse PO Box 26 Gansbaai 7200 gbenvironmental@overstrand.gov.za
National Department of Public Works Director General Frederick Johnson Private Bag x65 Pretoria 0001 frederick.johnson@dpw.gov.za 02 1402 2338 Letter	National Department of Public Works Chief Town Planner Basson Geldenhuys National Dept of Public Works Cape Town Regional Office Room 1419, Customs House Lower Heerengracht Street, Cape Town Basson.Geldenhuys@dpw.gov.za 021 404 2174 Letter
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Sustainable Aquaculture Management Michelle Pretorius Private Bag x2 Roggebaai Cape Town 8012 021 430 7034 michellePR@daff.gov.za	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Land Management Cor van Der Walt Private Bag x 1 Elsenburg 7607 CorvdW@elsenburg.com Letter Tel: 021 808 5099 Fax: 021 808 5092

WC Government Env Affairs & Dev Planning

Transport and Public Works

Provincial Roads

Vanessa Stoffels

PO Box 2603

Cape Town

8000

Ref: 17/1/11/B

Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

GDA Authorisation

For Att. X. Myanga

xmyanga@dffe.gov.za

RMolale@dffe.gov.za

Overstrand Municipality

Operational Manager

Ricardo Andrews

PO Box 20

Hermanus

7220

randrew@overstrand.gov.za

T 028 384 8326

F 028 384 0241

Email

Whale Coast Conservation

Att: Pat Miller

Chair: Whale Coast Conservation

Tel: (028) 313-0093

pat.miller7@outlook.com

Overstrand Heritage & Aesthetics Committee

Att: E. A Lowings

elowings@overstrand.gov.za

WC Government Env Affairs & Dev Planning

Spatial Planning & Coastal Impact Mgmt

Mercia Liddle / Lynn Jacobs

Registry Office

1st Floor, Utilitas Building

1 Dorp Street

8001

021 483 3370

Mercia.Liddle@westerncape.gov.za

Cape Nature Head office Lease agreement

accounts@capenature.co.za

DEFF Oceans and Coasts: Coastal Conservation Strategies

Funanani Ditinti

2 East Pier Building,

East Pier Road

Victoria and Alfred Waterfront

Cape Town

8001

fditinti@environment.gov.za

Ward Councillor 2

Ald A Nqinata

nnqinata@overstrand.gov.za

David Mostert

david@romansbaai.co.za

Interested and Affected Parties

Erf 70

Bolus Family Trust

Cr MGM Bolus

bolusmgm@telkomsa.net

RE/ 210

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY - COMMONAGE

enquiries@overstrand.gov.za

Erf: RE/448

DANGER POINT ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT CO
accounts@lomond.co.za

Erf 191

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf: 81

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf: 80

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf: 79

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf: 78

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf 77

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf 76

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf 75

Lukel Randal Shearer
shearer.luke@gmail.com

Erf 74

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf 73

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

Erf 72

Thys Geyser

thys@fractions.co.za
werner@rainmakers.io

Erf 71

Joseph Owen Roux
roux@profengineers.com

Erf 190

Not registered
Romansbaai Beach Estate

3. WRITTEN NOTICE TO I&APS AND ORGANS OF STATE OF DRAFT BAR:

The I&AP's identified above were given written notice of the proposed development, via registered mail or courier, as appropriate. The written notice included details of the applicable legislation, the proposed expansion and means to provide comment or register as I&AP. See written notice below:



NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF NEMA

Notice is hereby provided, in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, as stipulated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) as published in Government Gazette No. 38282, Government Notice R983, R984, and R985, on 4 December 2014, to register as a Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and provide comments on the Pre-application Basic Assessment Report for the *Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm on Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Gansbaai, Caledon Rd.*

DEA&DP REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23

LORNAY REF: RB/D1

APPLICANT: Terrasan Group (Pty) Ltd

LOCATION: Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Romansbaai, Gansbaai, Overstrand Municipality

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm is proposed. This includes expansion of the pumphouse, installation of additional of water pipelines, expansion of production area and addition of abalone grow out tanks, addition of ground mounted solar array and installation of seawater holding reservoir.

LISTED ACTIVITIES: The following Listed Activities are applied for in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations:

- **Listing Notice 1 (GN R983):** Activities 1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19A, 27, 28, 30, 34, 41, 43, 45, 46, 52, 54
- **Listing Notice 3 (GN R985):** Activities 2, 12

A copy of the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report is available for public review and download on our website, or upon request. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register and/or provide comments on the application during the public participation period from **09 October 2024 to 07 November 2024**.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Please register or submit your comment via the following details:

Lornay Environmental Consulting

For Att: Michelle Naylor

Tel: 083 245 6556

Email: michelle@lornay.co.za

Website: www.lornay.co.za

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act, 2023), by registering and commenting as an I&AP your name and comments will be made public.



*Environmental Impact Assessments | Basic Assessments | 24G
Applications | Water Use License Applications | Environmental
Audits*

4. PROOF OF NOTICE TO I&APS AND ORGANS OF STATE

Written notice was provided to I&APs and Organs of State via registered mail or courier, as indicated in the proofs below:

michelle@lornay.co.za

From: michelle@lornay.co.za
Sent: Wednesday, 09 October 2024 10:18
To: Dmitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za; Rulien Volschenk; Rhett Smart; 'Chester Arendse'; Penelope Aplon; 'frederick.johnson@dpw.gov.za'; Basson.Geldenhuijs@dpw.gov.za; 'MPretorius@environment.gov.za'; Cor Van der Walt; 'Brandon.Layman@westerncape.gov.za'; 'Vanessa Stoffels'; 'Mercia J Liddle'; 'leptieshaam Bekko'; 'xmyanga@dfpe.gov.za'; 'Rueben Molale'; 'accounts@capenature.co.za'; 'randrew@overstrand.gov.za'; 'fditinti@environment.gov.za'; 'pat.miller7@outlook.com'; Sheraine Van Wyk
Cc: 'nnqinata@overstrand.gov.za'; 'elowings@overstrand.gov.za'
Subject: Notice of Public Participation | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD
Attachments: Notice of PPP RB1 091024.pdf

Dear Organ of State

DEA&DP Ref. No. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23
Lornay Ref. No. RB/D1

DEADP – D. Matthews
ODM – R. Volschenk
Cape Nature – R. Smart
Overstrand Municipality – C. Arendse / P. Aplon
DPW – F. Johnson
DPW – B. Geldenhuijs
DFFE Sustainable Aquaculture – M. Pretorius
DOA – C. van der Walt
WCG Transport & PW – V. Stoffels
DEADP Spatial Planning & Coastal Mgmt – I. Bekko / M. Liddle
DFFE Authorisation – R. Molale / X. Myanga
Cape Nature Coastal Lease agreement – Accounts
Overstrand Municipality Operations – R. Andrews
DFFE Coastal Conservation Strategies – F. Ditinti
Whale Coast Conservation – P. Miller / S. Van Wyk
Overstrand Heritage & Aesthetics Comm – E. Lowings
Ward Councillor – T. Nqinata

Please see attached notice of public participation for the proposed expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm,

Should you have no further comment, please ignore this notice.

Kind regards,

michelle@lornay.co.za

From: michelle@lornay.co.za
Sent: Wednesday, 09 October 2024 10:20
To: 'david@romansbaai.co.za'
Subject: Notice of Public Participation | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD
Attachments: Notice of PPP RB1 091024.pdf

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

DEA&DP Ref. No. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23
Lornay Ref. No. RB/D1

Please see attached notice of public participation for the proposed expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm,

Should you have no further comment, please ignore this notice.

Kind regards,



LORNAY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Michelle Naylor

M.Sc.; Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13., EAPASA, 2019/698, Cand. APHP., IAIAsa

Hemel & Aarde Wine Village – Unit 3A

PO Box 1990, Hermanus, 7200, South Africa

T +27 (0) 83 245 6556

E michelle@lornay.co.za | W www.lornay.co.za

Reg No. 2015/445417/07

michelle@lornay.co.za

From: michelle@lornay.co.za
Sent: Wednesday, 09 October 2024 20:23
To: 'bolusmgm@telkomsa.net'; 'enquiries@overstrand.gov.za'; 'accounts@lomond.co.za'; 'shearer.luke@gmail.com'; 'thys@fractions.co.za'; 'werner@rainmakers.io'; 'roux@profengineers.com'
Cc: 'david@romansbaai.co.za'; 'thys@romansbaai.co.za'
Subject: Notice of Public Participation | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD
Attachments: Notice of PPP RB1 091024.pdf

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

DEA&DP Ref. No. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23
Lornay Ref. No. RB/D1

Please see attached notice of public participation for the proposed expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm,

Should you have no further comment, please ignore this notice.

Kind regards,



LORNAY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Michelle Naylor
M.Sc.; Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13., EAPASA. 2019/698, Cand. APHP., IAIAsa
Hemel & Aarde Wine Village – Unit 3A
PO Box 1990, Hermanus, 7200, South Africa
T +27 (0) 83 245 6556
E michelle@lornay.co.za | W www.lornay.co.za
Reg No. 2015/445417/07

5. NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

An advertisement was placed in the local newspaper, the Hermanus Times, regarding the proposed development:

5 Hermanus Times SKOLE SKOOL 9 Oktober 2024

Leerders dans by Kunstekaap

Mitzi Buys

Vyf leerders van Swartberg Primêr vertel aan *Hermanus Times*: "Ons het die Kunstekaap se kunsfees vir skole deelgeneem."

Casey Keet van Swartberg Primêr vertel aan *Hermanus Times*: "Ons het die Kunstekaap se kunsfees vir skole deelgeneem. Ons moet 'n opsomming skryf oor waarom ons wil deelneem en wat dit vir ons sal beteken, en moes dit saam met ons inskrywing aanstuur. Gelukkig is ons gekies om saam met ander skole aan hierdie geleentheid deel te neem."

"Die meisies het self hul dans choreografeer – ek het maar net gemonitor en hie en daar 'n bietjie raad gegee. Die meisies het baie hard gewerk en het elke pose en ook na skool gegee. Hulle het ook self hul uitrustings gekies."

Swartberg Primêr was die enigste skool wat van so ver gekom het om deel te neem en was een van 16 skole wat by die Kunstekaap se skole deelgeneem het.

Die vyf meisies – Liphwe Mphanda, Shandukani Mugivi, Lithapelo Sam, Tholwane Stuurman en Sizophwe Mhazane – noem aan *Hermanus Times* dit was vir hulle 'wonderlike ervaring' wat hulle geweldig baie geniet het.

Stylvol en uniek

Mitzi Dunsdon se stylvolle goet uitrusting het die aandag getrek by die Hoërskool Hermanus se matriekafskied. Sy skamerkele-geleentheid is vooraf by Die Lapa in Hawston gehou.

Bursary opportunities for Overberg youth

Mitzi Buys

The Globeleq Scholarship Fund (GSF) celebrates a decade of investment into South Africa's youth this year and has supported 40 Western Cape students to date.

The good news is that the GSF for 2025 is now open for bursary applications, specifically for the youth of the Overberg living within 50 km of the Klipheuwel Wind Farm, just outside Caledon. This means that youths located in Caledon, Genadendal, Botrivier, Grabouw and Hermanus can now apply for the bursaries.

The fund has been an important supporter of students in this region, helping to break down financial barriers to higher education. The GSF continues its commitment to the above-mentioned communities by offering bursary opportunities for aspiring students seeking to further their studies.

Hlangwe Radebe, Economic Development Director at Globeleq South Africa Management Services and Klipheuwel Wind Farm, said the scholarship programme addresses multiple objectives and meets the growing demand for education, bridging gaps that state funding alone cannot fill.

"As a vehicle for tertiary education funding, it plays a role in advancing the country's transformation agenda," said Radebe.

The GSF's holistic approach goes beyond academic performance, taking into account financial need, location and gender, reflecting its mission to diversify the engineering sector and uplift women in STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

With an annual budget of approximately R4 million, the GSF aims to nurture the skills essential for the renewable energy industry while enhancing the sustainability of the communities it serves.

Students from within local communities in the Western Cape can apply to one of two categories:

- The GSF Engineering Sciences bursary, open to all students nationwide, pursuing an engineering-related qualification full-time in 2025.
- The GSF Communities bursary, which supports students living in communities within 50 km of the wind farm, pursuing any tertiary qualification in 2025.

The application deadline is 31 October 2024. Interested candidates can apply online at www.globeleq.saurams.app or contact support@saurams.app

Curro-paar steel kollig

By Curro Hermanus se matriekafskied het Ryan Bantam en sy metgesel, Chaudene Bantam, baie elegant in hul uitrustings gelyk.

Foto: Olivia Dickson

Uitgevat vir hul groot dag

Gansbaai Akademie het onlangs sy matriekafskied gehou. Karla Hoffman, Tashney Richter (onderhoofmeisie) en Kaylin Minnaar was uitgevat vir hul groot dag. Foto: Olivia Dickson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AQUINON

Notice is hereby provided, in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, as stipulated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA (EIA) Regulations (as amended) as published in Government Gazette No. 38283, Government Notice R683, R684, and R685, on 4 December 2014, to register as a concerned and affected party (CAP) and provide comments on the Pre-application Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Expansion of Romanabai Abalone Farm on Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Gansbaai, Caledon Rd.

HEADLINE REFERENCE: 16/2/16/17/12/10/1628/23

LORNAY REF: R6/01

APPLICANT: Terman Group (Pty) Ltd

LOCATION: Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Romanabai, Gansbaai

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The expansion of Romanabai Abalone Farm is proposed. This includes expansion of the pumphouse, installation of additional water pipelines, expansion of production area and addition of abalone grow out tanks, addition of ground mounted solar arrays and installation of seawater holding reservoir.

LISTED ACTIVITIES: The following Listed Activities are applied for in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations:

- ◆ Listing Notice 1 (GN R683): Activities 1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19A, 27, 28, 30, 34, 41, 43, 45, 46, 52, 54
- ◆ Listing Notice 2 (GN R683): Activities 2, 12

A copy of the Pre-application Basic Assessment Report is available for public review and download on our website, or upon request. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register and/or provide comments on the application during the public participation period from 01 October 2024 to 08 November 2024.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Please register or submit your comment via the following details:

Lornay Environmental Consulting
For info: Michelle Naylor
Tel: 083 245 6556
Email: michelle@lornay.co.za
Website: www.lornay.co.za

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), 2023, by registering and commenting as an I&AP your name and comments will be made public.

LORNAY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
Environmental Impact Assessments | Basic Assessments | 24G Applications
(Water Use License Applications | Environmental Audits)

All kids love to learn through play.

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The LEGO Foundation

idea
Inspiring Young People to Innovate

BLIND SA

6. NOTICEBOARDS

Noticeboards were placed on site, as required in terms of the legislation:



7. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT AND REGISTER FOR I&APS

A Register was opened during the first round of public participation, to list all I&APs which wished to be registered as such. The Register included contact details, date and comment made.

A Comments and Response report was also opened at the onset of the public participation. This report contains the comment made by the I&AP, as well as formal response by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).



REGISTER FOR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

PROJECT: Portion 2 of the Farm 711						
NAME:	ORGANISATION:	POSTAL ADDRESS:	TEL:	EMAIL:	COMMENT:	DATE & REF:
E.A Lowings on Behalf of Heritage and Aesthetic committee	Heritage and Aesthetic committee			elowings@overtsr.and.gov.za	<p>Letter dated 11 April 2024</p> <p>Gansbaai: Erf 711 PORTION 2 OF FARM KLIPFONTEIN: PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ABALONE FARM: TP APPLICATION FORM FROM J KAPLAN (HPOZ)</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>HIA authorised by Lornay Environmental Consulting dated April 2024 scrutinized. Supported.</p> <p>HWC to provide electronic drawing and minute to</p>	-

					elowings@overtstrand.gov.za	
					<p>Actions:</p> <p>Submit to Heritage Western Cape.</p>	
David Mostert	Private			david@mosterts.co.za	<p>Email dated 10 October 2024</p> <p>Subject: Re: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Morning Michelle</p> <p>Please register the Romansbaai HOA as an "Interested and affected party"</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>David</p>	10 October 2024
Dr MGM	Erf 70			bolusmgm@telkomsa.net	<p>Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Ms Naylor</p> <p>Thank you for attached mail.</p> <p>This is rather an alarming development for us as owners of Erf 70, which is the immediate adjoining erf on Romansbaai! Could you please provide more detail on the proposed expansion with regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timelines (start and duration of build) 2. Area of expansion ie to the east or west, further inland or out to sea. A layout of proposed plan would be good to see. 3. Possible visual impact with height of proposed structures, roads,etc. We note solar installation - at what level would these be? 4. Potential noise pollution and ocean water quality impact 	10 October 2024

					<p>– would there still be the need for generators?</p> <p>We thank you for your time and await your speedy reply anxiously!</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Mike and Doro Bolus Owners of erf 70, Romansbaai</p>	
Vanessa Stoffels	Department of Infrastructure - Roads			vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za	<p>RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>We acknowledge receipt of your email regarding the abovementioned matter and wish to confirm that the matter is receiving attention.</p>	11 October 2024
Chester Arendse	Overstrand Municipality			carendse@overstrand.gov.za	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024 Good afternoon, Michelle.</p> <p>Hope that this mail finds you well.</p> <p>With regards to the application of the expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Farm 711 Ptn 2, Gansbaai, <u>the Environmental Management & Conservation Division has no objection towards this application.</u></p> <p>Taken into account that all the necessary and relevant documents are submitted to the DEA&DP for their approval and reconsideration, the only condition from our office is that the applicant meet the necessary requirements in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, as stipulated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) as published in Government Gazette No. 38282, Government Notice R983, R984, and R985, on 4 December 2014.</p>	07 November 2024

					<p>Hope that the above is in order.</p> <p>Regards</p>	
Mercia Liddle	DEADP:C MU			Mercia.Liddle@westerncape.gov.za	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024</p> <p>RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENT FROM THE SUB-DIRECTORATE: COASTAL MANAGEMENT ON THE PRE-APPLICATION DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI, CALEDON ROAD.</p> <p>Good Day Madam,</p> <p>Your request for comment from the Sub-directorate: Coastal Management on the above-mentioned pre-application basic assessment report received on 09 October 2024, refers.</p> <p>1. CONTEXT</p> <p>1.1. The Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("NEM: ICMA") is a Specific Environmental Management Act under the umbrella of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"). The NEM: ICMA sets out to manage the nation's coastal resources, promote social equity and best economic use of coastal resources whilst protecting the natural environment. In terms of Section 38 of the NEM: ICMA, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ('the Department') is the provincial lead agency for coastal management in the Western Cape as well as the competent authority for the administration of the "Management of public launch sites in the coastal zone (GN No. 497, 27 June 2014) "Public Launch Site Regulations".</p> <p>1.2. The Department, in pursuant of fulfilling its mandate, is implementing the Provincial Coastal Management Programme ("PCMP"). The PCMP is a five (5) year strategic document, and its purpose is to provide all departments and organisations with an integrated, coordinated and uniform approach to</p>	

					<p>coastal management in the Province. The Department has developed the next generation PCMP that includes priority objectives for the next 5 years. This PCMP was adopted on 19 May 2023 and is available upon request.</p> <p>1.3. A key priority of the PCMP is the Estuary Management Programme, which is implemented in accordance with the NEM: ICMA and the National Estuarine Management Protocol ("NEMP"). Relevant guidelines, Estuarine Management Plans, Mouth Management Plans need to be considered when any listed activities are triggered in the Estuarine Functional Zone. The Department is in the process of approving a series of Estuarine Management Plans.</p> <p>1.4. The facilitation of public access to the coast is an objective of the NEM: ICMA as well as a Priority in the WC PCMP. The Department developed the Provincial Coastal Access Strategy and Plan, 2017 ("PCASP") and commissioned coastal access audits per municipal district to assist municipalities with identifying existing, historic, and desired public coastal access. These coastal access audits also identify hotspots or areas of conflict to assist the municipalities with facilitating public access in terms of Section 18 of the NEM: ICMA. The PCASP as well as the coastal access audits are available upon request.</p> <p>2. COMMENT</p> <p>2.1 The sub-directorate: Coastal Management ("SD: CM") has reviewed the information as specified above and have the following commentary: 2.1.1. The proposal entails the expansion of the existing production and grow out area to increase the production output by 300 tons / annum in order to meet the growing market demands on Farm 2/711. The SD: CM notes that the existing pumphouse is said to increase in size to allow for the abstraction of seawater, additionally seawater lines will also be used to transport the seawater from the farm. A lined seawater reservoir is also proposed to temporarily hold seawater which can be used during peak</p>	
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					<p>electricity tariff periods or during electricity outages.</p> <p>2.1.2. The applicant accurately noted the subject property in relation to critical biodiversity and ecological support areas in accordance with the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017.</p> <p>2.1.3. The applicant has depicted the subject property relation the Coastal Protection Zone ("CPZ") as defined in Section 16 of the NEM: ICMA and it should be noted that the purpose of the CPZ is to avoid increasing the effect or severity of natural hazards in the coastal zone and to protect people and properties from risks arising from dynamic coastal processes, including the risk of sea level risks. Due to the subject property's location within the CPZ, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered where an authorisation is required in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA. Furthermore, Section 62 of the NEM: ICMA obliges all organs of state that regulates the planning of land to apply that legislation in a manner that gives effect to the purpose of the CPZ. As such, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered by local authorities for land use decision making.</p> <p>2.1.4. The applicant adequately considered the subject property in relation to the Overberg District Coastal Management Line ("CML"). The technical delineation of the CML was to ensure that development is regulated in a manner appropriate to risks and sensitivities in the coastal zone. The CML was informed by various layers of information including biodiversity, estuarine functionality, risk flooding, wave run-up modelling, <i>inter alia</i> and was delineated in conjunction with and supported by organs of state. The principal purpose of the CML is to protect coastal public property, private property, and public safety; to protect the coastal protection zone; and to preserve the aesthetic value of the coastal zone. The use of CMLs is of particular importance in response to the effects of climate change, as it involves both the quantification of risks and pro-active planning for future development.</p>	
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					<p>2.1.5. The SD: CM confirms that the majority of the proposed expansion on Farm 2/711 will occur landward of the CML however a portion of the pipeline will occur seaward of the CML, below the highwater mark and within the littoral active zone. The SD: CM notes the very nature of this pipeline requires it to be located in this area and that the bulk infrastructure including the production area for the expansion is strategically placed on elevated ground above the 10m-contour line and the new production area beyond the 30m-contour line. It is noted that this proposed layout specifically considered climate change, sea-level rise, storm surges and coastal erosion.</p> <p>2.1.6. The SD: CM also notes that the applicant is in the process of obtaining a lease agreement with CapeNature for a section of the channel that is located within the littoral active zone.</p> <p>2.1.7. The SD: CM notes from the Pre-App DBAR that the expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse and thus result in an increase in effluent water discharge. According to the Pre-App DBAR ecologically, the operation of the abalone farm can be considered to be a low impact activity with negligible impact on the environment compared with other land-based agricultural activities.</p> <p>2.1.8. The effluent water, which is circulated seawater and gets discharged back into the marine environment, has been found to have a negligible to zero impact on the marine environment. Be advised that the SD: CM does not support any activities that will alter the seawater temperature, as such the SD: CM advises the applicant to have appropriate measures in place to ensure that temperature changes would not negatively affect the receiving environment.</p> <p>2.1.9. According to the Western Cape Provincial Coastal Access Audit for the Garden Route Municipal District (2019), the subject stretch has ample vehicle access to the coast to the</p>	
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					<p>coast. Be advised that in accordance with Section 13 of the NEM: ICMA, the proposed development and associated activities may in no way impede the general public's ability to access coastal public property now or in the future. Furthermore, the applicant should be informed that they may not create any formal or informal walkways/pathways to the coast through the littoral active zone, with any future developments on the subject property as this is an active area that performs an important ecological function.</p> <p>2.1.10. It is further noted that the discharge is undertaken in line with the DFFE General Discharge Authorisation ("GDA") issued to the applicant in terms of Section 69(2) of the NEM: ICMA and no amendment to the GDA is required to accommodate the increased seawater discharge.</p> <p>2.1.11. The applicant indicated that coastal access will not be affected during the construction or operational phases of the proposed expansion and access to the coast will be retained as the general public currently has unrestricted access along the subject coastline.</p> <p>2.1.12. Considering the location of the subject property, the applicant must be informed of risk pertaining to the loss of property should the highwater mark of the sea move inland of the property boundary. In this regard, Section 14 of the NEM: ICMA and the Advisory Note from the Office of the Chief Surveyor-General dated 15 October 2021, is applicable.</p> <p>2.1.13. The SD: CM notes that the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm falls within the realm of aquaculture which was identified as one of the components of the rural economy in the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework. It is further noted in the DBAR that aquaculture is deemed as a compatible activity that does not compromise biodiversity, farming activities or cultural and scenic landscapes as the development fits into the context of rural landscapes while contributing to the economic growth of these areas.</p>	
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					<p>2.1.14. Based on all the abovementioned items, the SD: CM does not object to the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm (Farm 2/711) as it aligns with the PSDF, Priority Areas of the PCMP (2022) as well as the MSDF (2024) and Municipal IDP (2020).</p> <p>3. The applicant must be reminded of their general duty of care and the remediation of environmental damage, in terms of Section 28(1) of NEMA, which, specifically states that: <i>"...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..."</i> together with Section 58 of the NEM: ICMA which refers to one's duty to avoid causing adverse effects on the coastal environment.</p> <p>4. The SD: CM reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information from you based on any information that may be received.</p>	
Rhett Smart	Cape Nature			rsmart@capenature.co.za	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024</p> <p>Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm, Remainder of Portion 2 of Farm Klipfonteyn 711, Gansbaai</p> <p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.</p> <p>Desktop Information</p>	<p>Ref: LS14/2/6/1/7/2/71 1- 2_aquaculture_Gansbaai</p> <p>Date: 07 Nov 2024</p>

					<p>The application is for the expansion of an existing aquaculture facility. We wish to note that the conditions of approval for both environmental and municipal planning approvals for the establishment of the facility and the first expansion remain relevant.</p> <p>The property contains Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA) in the north-east corner as mapped in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) with the remainder consisting of Other Natural. We wish to note that the BSP has been updated and the final version will be gazetted within the next few months. In the updated version of the BSP, the property is mapped as CBA 1 apart from (some) existing development footprints.</p> <p>The vegetation type mapped for the property is Overberg Dune Strandveld which is listed as endangered in the revised 2022 listing. This vegetation type was previously listed as least threatened and the increase in the threat status is likely one of the reasons for the increase in the amount of CBA on the site. We further wish to note that there have been recent amendments to the National Vegetation Map, which includes the introduction of five new strandveld types which have been mapped with associated descriptions (SANBI 2024). In the updated map, the property is mapped as Southwestern Strandveld (Cowling et al 2023). Threat statuses have not been determined for the new vegetation types.</p> <p>Screening Tool and Site Sensitivity Verification Report</p> <p>The screening tool results indicate very high sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity, high sensitivity for animal species and medium sensitivity for plant species. The site sensitivity verification report indicates that a botanical assessment will be undertaken which addresses the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes.</p> <p>For animal species, it states that the site is already impacted by the existing facility and therefore a specialist study is not required. It refers to the site being stocked with small antelope, however the botanical assessment refers to large game species.</p>	
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				<p>The two species flagged as high sensitivity are black harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>) and African Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus ranivorus</i>) with several species flagged as medium sensitivity. While the lack of wetlands means that it is unlikely that African Marsh Harrier is present, the intact strandveld is suitable habitat for Black Harriers although the surrounding urban development does reduce the suitability. CapeNature therefore recommends that as a minimum an animal species compliance statement is undertaken. We recommend that problem causing animals for the aquaculture facility should also be addressed e.g. gulls.</p> <p>For aquatic biodiversity, the response is that there are no freshwater features mapped for the site or which were found during site visits by the environmental assessment practitioner and the botanist. We wish to note that if the proposed development footprint was used for the screening tool, the results would have indicated a low sensitivity, as the very high sensitivity is in the north-western corner of the property outside the footprint. CapeNature is satisfied that an aquatic biodiversity assessment is not required.</p> <p>Botanical Assessment</p> <p>The botanical assessment reports that the fieldwork was undertaken in a sub-optimal time of year, namely autumn, however there is a high confidence in the findings and recommendations due to the dominance of perennial species in this habitat and good knowledge of the area. The vegetation occurring on site is confirmed to consist of Overberg Dune Strandveld. The threat status of this vegetation type is queried due to the high percentage remaining extent and under formal protection. The revised threat status is as a result of the methodology used for the 2022 revised threat status adapted from the IUCN methodology and is related to the level of alien invasive species infestation, however the queries from the specialist are acknowledged as valid.</p> <p>We recommend that the botanical assessment should review the revised mapping of the 2024 beta National Vegetation Map and include a discussion in this regard in the botanical</p>	
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					<p>assessment. The assessment should further indicate whether this results in any changes regarding the outcome of the assessment. CapeNature can be contacted for access to the referenced literature if required.</p> <p>The vegetation occurring on site is considered to generally be in a good condition with a very low level of occurrence of alien invasive species. The sensitivity mapping of the expansion footprint to the east of the existing facility indicates high sensitivity in the north and south and medium sensitivity in the central section, with low sensitivity in the areas subject to edge effects from the existing facility. The mapping of the BSP is queried with the recommendation that all the habitat east of the existing facility should be mapped the same as per the sensitivity mapping. In this regard, the update to the BSP should be referred to as discussed above.</p> <p>Five species of conservation concern (one subspecies level) were recorded on the site although none are endangered or critically endangered. The two near threatened species are common across the site and the other vulnerable species of scattered occurrence. As the fieldwork was undertaken in a sub-optimal time of year, ideally this should be supplemented by a spring survey. If additional fieldwork is not undertaken this needs to be motivated and should indicate the likelihood of any species occurring on the footprint and recommend appropriate precautionary mitigation measures. We wish to highlight that the botanical assessment for the previous expansion dated March 2008 can be used to supplement the findings from the current study (while taking into consideration changes that have since occurred) and was undertaken by the same specialist.</p> <p>It should be noted that the protocols require that the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline must be adhered to for the plant species theme. The Species Environmental Assessment Guideline indicates that the site ecological importance (SEI) must be calculated for any SCCs encountered. We therefore recommend that the botanical assessment must be amended to include the SEI calculations (SANBI 2020).</p>	
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					<p>Condition 18 of the environmental authorisation for the expansion required that the mitigation measures in the botanical assessment must be complied with (included as Appendix A to the EA) and are still relevant for the current application. Although we will not repeat the mitigation measures, we wish to note the reference to a limestone outcrop and milkwood thickets which must be avoided, and which are not referred to in the current botanical assessment, and therefore presumably outside of the current proposed expansion footprint. Search and rescue of <i>Lampranthus fergusoniae</i> was recommended and is one of the SCCs which were encountered in the current botanical assessment. In general, CapeNature recommends that an audit of the existing EA should be undertaken before the current application is considered for approval.</p> <p>There are two alternative layouts presented, however the layout assessed in the botanical assessment differs from both and is assumed to have been a previous version which was screened out. The significance of the impact of the loss of habitat for each of the project components is assessed for the botanical assessment layout, and in all cases the significance remained the same both before and after mitigation, with the motivation that there is little that can mitigate the loss of habitat and SCCs.</p> <p>The impact significance after mitigation is used to determine the requirement for a biodiversity offset. A biodiversity offset is necessary to remedy residual impacts of medium significance or higher after following the mitigation hierarchy. In this regard, Phase 2 and the dam are of medium and medium to high significance respectively and therefore a biodiversity offset would be required for the loss of habitat in these two footprints.</p> <p>We wish to note that spillage of seawater and associated salinisation of the affected habitat should be included as another potential impact associated with the seawater dam. It is noted that the assessment took into account that the vegetation would only be brush-cut within the footprint of the</p>	
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					<p>solar photovoltaic array and therefore would not result in complete loss of vegetation and therefore does not exceed the thresholds despite being partly located within the high sensitivity area.</p> <p>However, the two development layouts presented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) differ from the layout assessed in the botanical assessment and therefore the impact significance would need to be re-assessed for both layouts. It is also essential that the mitigation hierarchy is followed and must include investigation of alternative locations for project components which result in an impact significance of medium or higher.</p> <p>The proposed mitigation measures are supported. The applicant must confirm that the mitigation measures associated with the solar PV array can be implemented. We also recommend that the impacts associated with the solar PV array should also be evaluated in the context of the alternative of connecting to the local electricity grid.</p> <p>It should be noted that the original approval for the aquaculture facility which was for consent use included a condition of approval that the development of the site should be confined to the area on the site plan and the remainder should be managed as a nature reserve. The approval was granted by the Overberg Regional Services Council in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) in 1996 prior to the gazetting of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) when conservation measures needed to be included in the planning approvals. We note that we referred to this condition in our comment on the municipal planning application, however conditions related to biodiversity conservation are more appropriate to NEMA applications since its promulgation. We therefore recommend that the existing condition must be taken into account and comment obtained from the Overstrand Municipality Spatial Planning component in this regard. This existing condition would then link in with any biodiversity offset requirements.</p>	
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					<p>Coastal and Marine Environment</p> <p>A major gap in the screening tool is the coastal and marine environment. The proposed project includes an expansion of the pumphouse which abstracts water from the sea. The impact on the coastal and marine ecosystems must be evaluated in a separate specialist study.</p> <p>The increase in capacity will result in an increase in the volumes of water abstracted and effluent discharged. According to the BAR, the discharge volumes are within the General Discharge Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEM:ICMA) and no amendments are required. We wish to query the legislation which would be relevant for storage of seawater, as storage of freshwater is a water use in terms of the National Water Act. We therefore recommend that comment must be obtained from Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) Oceans and Coasts, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Coastal Management and the Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) regarding the abstraction and storage of seawater and discharge of effluent. Any additional legislative processes should proceed concurrently with the Basic Assessment process. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Mervyn Burton, Prof Denver Hendricks, Dr Colin Johnson, Mr Paul Slack</p> <p>Structures below the high water mark of the sea require a Sea Shore Lease from CapeNature in terms of the Sea Shore Act. The expansion of the pumphouse is located well below the high water mark as indicated on the DFFE and DEA&DP Coastal Viewers and therefore requires a Sea Shore Lease. The Sea Shore Lease application will only be processed once an environmental authorisation is issued, however it can be applied for before then. Any other structures on the property which are below the high water mark and which currently don't have a Sea Shore Lease should be included in the application.</p>	
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					<p>Conclusion</p> <p>In conclusion, CapeNature recommends that the following must be addressed before the application can be considered for approval:</p> <p>The botanical assessment should be amended to: Assess the impact significance of the two layout alternatives included in the BAR including the individual project components and determine whether a biodiversity offset is required for any project components.</p> <p>Ideally an additional spring survey must be conducted, unless adequately motivated.</p> <p>The updated BSP and National Vegetation Map must be discussed and used to inform the assessment.</p> <p>The SEI must be calculated for the plant SCCs.</p> <p>Where the impact significance of project components exceeds offset thresholds additional locations with a lower impact must be investigated in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>The animal species theme must be addressed by a specialist in accordance with the protocols.</p> <p>A coastal and marine ecological specialist study must be undertaken to assess the impacts associated with the expansion of the pumphouse, abstraction of seawater and discharge of effluent.</p> <p>The existing NEMA and municipal planning approvals need to be taken into account before the current application is considered for approval. Existing conditions remain relevant unless an amendment is applied for.</p> <p>Regards</p>	
D'mitri Matthews	DEA&DP			D'mitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za	<p>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) ("EIA") FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI</p>	08 Nov 2024

					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The draft BAR dated 2 October 2024, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as “this Directorate”) on 9 October 2024, refers. 2. Following review of the information submitted to this Department, the Department notes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following: 3. Increase in Production Capacity <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The expansion will be executed in two phases, each targeting an annual production increase of 150 tons (wet weight).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Phase 1:</p> 4. Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha) 5. Production additions: 6. Production capacity increase: 150 tons (wet weight) 7. Number of tanks: 1 850 8. Number of baskets: 12 950 9. Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour 10. Aeration fans / blower room: 4 units 11. Split/grading station: 1 unit <p style="text-align: center;">Phase 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha) 13. Production additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Production capacity: 150 tons (wet weight) ○ Number of tanks: 1 850 ○ Number of baskets: 12 950 ○ Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour ○ Aeration fans blower room: 4 units ○ Split/grading station: 1 unit <p>Construction of a lined seawater reservoir: Storage capacity: 41 000 m³ Surface area: 20 000 m² (2 ha) Coverage footprint: 20000 m² (2 ha)</p>	
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					<p>Solar Power Array:</p> <p>Power generation capacity: 4 MW (backup)</p> <p>Coverage footprint: 40000 m² (4 ha)</p> <p>Expansion of the existing pumphouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing pumphouse will be expanded by approximately 140 m² to accommodate additional infrastructure for increased water intake. A total of 4 new pumps and 4 pipelines will be installed at the pumphouse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new pump and 1 new pipeline will be fitted within the existing pumphouse. 3 new pumps and 3 pipelines will be installed within the proposed expanded pumphouse. Coverage footprint: 140 m² Installation of additional pipelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new pipelines will be installed from the pumphouse to connect the new lined seawater reservoir directly to the production area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each pipeline will be 600 meters long and 500 mm in diameter. The combined water extraction rate will be 1600 m³ per hour. Pipeline installation will not require major ground excavation, as they will be laid alongside the existing pipeline in a previously disturbed area Seawater Intake and Discharge Systems <p>The expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse. The additional seawater intake will</p> 	
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					<p>therefore result in an increase in effluent water discharge.</p> <p>Departmental comments on the draft BAR:</p> <p>3.1 The applicant must ensure that the proposed expansion does not contradict any specific conditions that are contained in the Environmental Authorisation issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).</p> <p>3.2 Since a new entity owns the existing facility, an amendment application must be submitted to the Department to transfer the rights and obligations of the EA issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).</p> <p>3.3 An extensive list of activities has been included as part of the proposed expansion. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner must filter this list to include only the relevant listed activities applicable to the proposed expansion.</p> <p>3.4 It is noted that the recommendations of the botanical specialist regarding the offset have not been included in the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr"). It is therefore requested to provide reasons/motivations why this recommendation has not been included as part of the mitigation measures, since there will be unavoidable impacts within an ecosystem listed as critically endangered, in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA").</p> <p>The applicant Regulatory Requirements: 4.1 Proof of the notifications sent to registered I&APs for the commenting purposes must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.2 A dated photograph of erecting a site notice must be provided.</p>	
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					<p>4.3 Proof of placing an advertisement must be provided.</p> <p>4.4 Any new representations and comments received in connection with the application must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.5 Any new responses by the EAP to the aforementioned representations and comments must be tabulated in a comments and response report that must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.6 The minutes of any meetings held by the environmental assessment practitioner ("EAP") with I&AP's and other role players which record the views of the participants must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.7 Please be advised that the signed and dated applicant declaration is required to be submitted with the BAR during the formal application process to this Department for decision-making. It is important to note that by signing this declaration, the applicant is confirming that they are aware and have taken cognisance of the contents of the report submitted for decision-making. Furthermore, through signing this declaration, the applicant is making a commitment that they are both willing and able to implement the necessary mitigation, management and monitoring measures recommended within the report with respect to this application.</p> <p>4.8 In addition to the above, please ensure that the signed and dated EAP and specialist declarations are also submitted with the BAR during the formal application process for decision-making.</p> <p>4.9 You are furthermore reminded that the BAR must contain all the information outlined in Appendix 1 and 4 of the Environmental Impacts Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>1. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p>	
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					<p>1. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p>	
Michelle Pretorius	DFFE	Forestrust Building Foreshore Martin Hammerschlag way CAPE TOWN	(021) 402 3413 066 4711 318	MPretorius@dffe.gov.za	<p>Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>Thanks for the notice please register myself other colleagues will send their own registration requests.</p> <p>Kindest Regards</p>	18 November 2024
Vanessa Stoffels –	DOA		021 483 4669	Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za	<p>Email received 19 November 2024</p> <p>Attention: Ms M Lornay Dear Madam</p> <p>PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE, REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF FARM 711, GANSBAAI: COMMENTS ON PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT</p> <p>1. Your email to this Branch dated 09 October 2024 refers.</p> <p>2. The subject property is located 150m south of Gansbaai and takes access off Divisional Road 1214.</p> <p>3. This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely</p>	<p>Date: 19 November 2024 Ref: DOI/CFS/RN/LU/RE Z/SUB-21/297 (Application no: 2024-10-0065)</p>
Michelle Pretorius	DFFE			MPretorius@dffe.gov.za	<p>Email dated 24 January 2025</p> <p>Subject: Re: Notice of Public Participation Proposed</p>	

					<p>Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>Compliments of the season to you for 2025, I was just catching up on emails and came across your email.</p> <p>I see that your original email sent in Oct 2024 was not received due to the incorrect email address for myself . However, your follow up email of Nov 2024 caught me in a very busy time, and I was not able to review the documents.</p> <p>Please can you update your database to include my colleagues in Environmental interaction's cc'd herein, who are to review EIAs for aquaculture. I have since moved to the Phakisa Delivery unit and so no longer comment on EIAs.</p> <p>Kindest regards Michelle</p>	
Cor Van der Walt	Department of Agriculture			Cor.VanderWalt@westerncape.gov.za	<p>Email dated 04 February 2025</p> <p>PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM: DIVISION CALEDON PORTION 2 IF THE FARM NO. 711</p> <p>Your application of 09 October 2024 has reference.</p> <p>The Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) has no objection to the proposed application.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. • The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and requests further information based on the information received. 	Date: 04/02/25

					Yours sincerely Mr CJ van der Walt LAND USE MANAGER: LANDUSE MANAGEMENT	
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COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

PROJECT: Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone

DRAFT BAR / PRE-APPLICATION

NAME:	COMMENT:	RESPONSE:	DATE & REF:
E.A Lowings on Behalf of Heritage and Aesthetic committee	<p>Letter dated 11 April 2024</p> <p>Gansbaai: Erf 711 PORTION 2 OF FARM KLIPFONTEIN: PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ABALONE FARM: TP APPLICATION FORM FROM J KAPLAN (HPOZ)</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>HIA authorised by Lornay Environmental Consulting dated April 2024 scrutinized. Supported.</p> <p>HWC to provide electronic drawing and minute to elowings@overtstrand.gov.za</p> <p>Actions:</p>	Noted	

	Submit to Heritage Western Cape.		
David Mostert	<p>Morning Michelle</p> <p>Please register the Romansbaai HOA as an "Interested and affected party"</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>David</p>	Noted.	10 October 2024
Dr MGM Bolus	<p>Email dated 10 October</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Ms Naylor</p> <p>Thank you for attached mail.</p> <p>This is rather an alarming development for us as owners of Erf 70, which is the immediate adjoining erf on Romansbaai! Could you please provide more detail on the proposed expansion with regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timelines (start and duration of build) 2. Area of expansion i.e. to the east or west, further inland or out to sea. A layout of proposed plan would be good to see. 3. Possible visual impact with height of proposed structures, roads, etc. We note solar installation - at what level would these be? 4. Potential noise pollution and ocean water quality impact – would there still be the need for generators? <p>We thank you for your time and await your speedy reply anxiously!</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Mike and Doro Bolus Owners of erf 70, Romansbaai</p>	<p>The Basic Assessment report has covered these issues and detailed information addressing each point raised, including timelines, a layout plan, an assessment of visual impacts, and clarification on noise and water quality impacts. These details are also incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>The proposed site layout plan is attached as Appendix B2.</p> <p>The solar array will be placed on the Northeast of the farm, the solar will be screened from the public view and will not be visible to adjacent properties.</p> <p>Noise pollution is expected during the construction phase of the development; however, the impacts are minimum.</p>	10 October 2024

Vanessa Stoffels	<p>Letter dated 11 October 2024</p> <p>RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>We acknowledge receipt of your email regarding the abovementioned matter and wish to confirm that the matter is receiving attention.</p>	Noted.	11 October 2024
<p>Chester Arendse</p> <p>Overstrand Municipality</p>	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024</p> <p>Good afternoon, Michelle.</p> <p>Hope that this mail finds you well.</p> <p>With regards to the application of the expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Farm 711 Ptn 2, Gansbaai, the Environmental Management & Conservation Division has no objection towards this application.</p> <p>Taken into account that all the necessary and relevant documents are submitted to the DEA&DP for their approval and reconsideration, the only condition from our office is that the applicant meet the necessary requirements in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, as stipulated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) as published in Government Gazette No. 38282, Government Notice R983, R984, and R985, on 4 December 2014.</p> <p>Hope that the above is in order.</p> <p>Regards</p>	Noted.	07 November 2024
Mercia Liddle	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024</p> <p>RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENT FROM THE SUB-DIRECTORATE: COASTAL MANAGEMENT ON THE PRE-APPLICATION DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI, CALEDON ROAD.</p> <p>Good Day Madam,</p>	Noted.	07 November 2024

	<p>Your request for comment from the Sub-directorate: Coastal Management on the above-mentioned pre-application basic assessment report received on 09 October 2024, refers.</p> <p>1. CONTEXT</p> <p>1.1. The Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("NEM: ICMA") is a Specific Environmental Management Act under the umbrella of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"). The NEM: ICMA sets out to manage the nation's coastal resources, promote social equity and best economic use of coastal resources whilst protecting the natural environment. In terms of Section 38 of the NEM: ICMA, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ('the Department') is the provincial lead agency for coastal management in the Western Cape as well as the competent authority for the administration of the "Management of public launch sites in the coastal zone (GN No. 497, 27 June 2014) "Public Launch Site Regulations".</p> <p>1.2. The Department, in pursuant of fulfilling its mandate, is implementing the Provincial Coastal Management Programme ("PCMP"). The PCMP is a five (5) year strategic document, and its purpose is to provide all departments and organisations with an integrated, coordinated and uniform approach to coastal management in the Province. The Department has developed the next generation PCMP that includes priority objectives for the next 5 years. This PCMP was adopted on 19 May 2023 and is available upon request.</p> <p>1.3. A key priority of the PCMP is the Estuary Management Programme, which is implemented in accordance with the NEM: ICMA and the National Estuarine Management Protocol ("NEMP"). Relevant guidelines, Estuarine Management Plans, Mouth Management Plans need to be considered when any listed activities are triggered in the Estuarine Functional Zone. The Department is in the process of approving a series of Estuarine Management Plans.</p> <p>1.4. The facilitation of public access to the coast is an objective of the NEM: ICMA as well as a Priority in the WC PCMP. The Department developed the Provincial Coastal Access Strategy and Plan, 2017 ("PCASP") and commissioned coastal access audits per municipal district to assist municipalities with identifying existing, historic, and desired public coastal access. These coastal access audits</p>		
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	<p>also identify hotspots or areas of conflict to assist the municipalities with facilitating public access in terms of Section 18 of the NEM: ICMA. The PCASP as well as the coastal access audits are available upon request.</p> <p>2. COMMENT</p> <p>2.1 The sub-directorate: Coastal Management ("SD: CM") has reviewed the information as specified above and have the following commentary: 2.1.1. The proposal entails the expansion of the existing production and grow out area to increase the production output by 300 tons / annum in order to meet the growing market demands on Farm 2/711. The SD: CM notes that the existing pumphouse is said to increase in size to allow for the abstraction of seawater, additionally seawater lines will also be used to transport the seawater from the farm. A lined seawater reservoir is also proposed to temporarily hold seawater which can be used during peak electricity tariff periods or during electricity outages.</p> <p>2.1.2. The applicant accurately noted the subject property in relation to critical biodiversity and ecological support areas in accordance with the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017.</p> <p>2.1.3. The applicant has depicted the subject property relation the Coastal Protection Zone ("CPZ") as defined in Section 16 of the NEM: ICMA and it should be noted that the purpose of the CPZ is to avoid increasing the effect or severity of natural hazards in the coastal zone and to protect people and properties from risks arising from dynamic coastal processes, including the risk of sea level risks. Due to the subject property's location within the CPZ, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered where an authorisation is required in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA. Furthermore, Section 62 of the NEM: ICMA obliges all organs of state that regulates the planning of land to apply that legislation in a manner that gives effect to the purpose of the CPZ. As such, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered by local authorities for land use decision making.</p> <p>2.1.4. The applicant adequately considered the subject property in relation to the Overberg District Coastal Management Line ("CML"). The technical delineation of the CML was to ensure that development is regulated in a manner appropriate to risks and sensitivities in the coastal zone. The CML was informed by various layers of information including biodiversity, estuarine functionality, risk flooding, wave run-up modelling, <i>inter alia</i> and was delineated in conjunction with and</p>		
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	<p>supported by organs of state. The principal purpose of the CML is to protect coastal public property, private property, and public safety; to protect the coastal protection zone; and to preserve the aesthetic value of the coastal zone. The use of CMLs is of particular importance in response to the effects of climate change, as it involves both the quantification of risks and pro-active planning for future development.</p> <p>2.1.5. The SD: CM confirms that the majority of the proposed expansion on Farm 2/711 will occur landward of the CML however a portion of the pipeline will occur seaward of the CML, below the highwater mark and within the littoral active zone. The SD: CM notes the very nature of this pipeline requires it to be located in this area and that the bulk infrastructure including the production area for the expansion is strategically placed on elevated ground above the 10m-contour line and the new production area beyond the 30m-contour line. It is noted that this proposed layout specifically considered climate change, sea-level rise, storm surges and coastal erosion.</p> <p>2.1.6. The SD: CM also notes that the applicant is in the process of obtaining a lease agreement with CapeNature for a section of the channel that is located within the littoral active zone.</p> <p>2.1.7. The SD: CM notes from the Pre-App DBAR that the expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse and thus result in an increase in effluent water discharge. According to the Pre-App DBAR ecologically, the operation of the abalone farm can be considered to be a low impact activity with negligible impact on the environment compared with other land-based agricultural activities.</p> <p>2.1.8. The effluent water, which is circulated seawater and gets discharged back into the marine environment, has been found to have a negligible to zero impact on the marine environment. Be advised that the SD: CM does not support any activities that will alter the seawater temperature, as such the SD: CM advises the applicant to have appropriate measures in place to ensure that temperature changes would not negatively affect the receiving environment.</p> <p>2.1.9. According to the Western Cape Provincial Coastal Access Audit for the Garden Route Municipal District (2019), the subject stretch has ample vehicle access to the coast to the coast. Be advised that in accordance with Section 13 of</p>	<p>There is an existing lease agreement with Cape Nature.</p>	
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	<p>the NEM: ICMA, the proposed development and associated activities may in no way impede the general public's ability to access coastal public property now or in the future. Furthermore, the applicant should be informed that they may not create any formal or informal walkways/pathways to the coast through the littoral active zone, with any future developments on the subject property as this is an active area that performs an important ecological function.</p> <p>2.1.10. It is further noted that the discharge is undertaken in line with the DFFE General Discharge Authorisation ("GDA") issued to the applicant in terms of Section 69(2) of the NEM: ICMA and no amendment to the GDA is required to accommodate the increased seawater discharge.</p> <p>2.1.11. The applicant indicated that coastal access will not be affected during the construction or operational phases of the proposed expansion and access to the coast will be retained as the general public currently has unrestricted access along the subject coastline.</p> <p>2.1.12. Considering the location of the subject property, the applicant must be informed of risk pertaining to the loss of property should the highwater mark of the sea move inland of the property boundary. In this regard, Section 14 of the NEM: ICMA and the Advisory Note from the Office of the Chief Surveyor-General dated 15 October 2021, is applicable.</p> <p>2.1.13. The SD: CM notes that the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm falls within the realm of aquaculture which was identified as one of the components of the rural economy in the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework. It is further noted in the DBAR that aquaculture is deemed as a compatible activity that does not compromise biodiversity, farming activities or cultural and scenic landscapes as the development fits into the context of rural landscapes while contributing to the economic growth of these areas.</p> <p>2.1.14. Based on all the abovementioned items, the SD: CM does not object to the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm (Farm 2/711) as it aligns with the PSDF, Priority Areas of the PCMP (2022) as well as the MSDF (2024) and Municipal IDP (2020).</p> <p>3. The applicant must be reminded of their general duty of care and the</p>		
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	<p>remediation of environmental damage, in terms of Section 28(1) of NEMA, which, specifically 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...” together with Section 58 of the NEM: ICMA which refers to one’s duty to avoid causing adverse effects on the coastal environment.</p> <p>4. The SD: CM reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information from you based on any information that may be received.</p>		
<p>Rhett Smart Cape Nature</p>	<p>Letter dated 07 November 2024</p> <p>Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm, Remainder of Portion 2 of Farm Klipfonteyn 711, Gansbaai</p> <p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.</p> <p>Desktop Information</p> <p>The application is for the expansion of an existing aquaculture facility. We wish to note that the conditions of approval for both environmental and municipal planning approvals for the establishment of the facility and the first expansion remain relevant.</p> <p>The property contains Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA) in the north-east corner as mapped in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) with the remainder</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Ref: LS14/2/6/1/7/2/711-2_aquaculture_Gansbaai Date: 07 Nov 2024</p>

<p>consisting of Other Natural. We wish to note that the BSP has been updated and the final version will be gazetted within the next few months. In the updated version of the BSP, the property is mapped as CBA 1 apart from (some) existing development footprints.</p> <p>The vegetation type mapped for the property is Overberg Dune Strandveld which is listed as endangered in the revised 2022 listing. This vegetation type was previously listed as least threatened and the increase in the threat status is likely one of the reasons for the increase in the amount of CBA on the site. We further wish to note that there have been recent amendments to the National Vegetation Map, which includes the introduction of five new strandveld types which have been mapped with associated descriptions (SANBI 2024). In the updated map, the property is mapped as Southwestern Strandveld (Cowling et al 2023). Threat statuses have not been determined for the new vegetation types.</p> <p>Screening Tool and Site Sensitivity Verification Report</p> <p>The screening tool results indicate very high sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity, high sensitivity for animal species and medium sensitivity for plant species. The site sensitivity verification report indicates that a botanical assessment will be undertaken which addresses the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes.</p> <p>For animal species, it states that the site is already impacted by the existing facility and therefore a specialist study is not required. It refers to the site being stocked with small antelope, however the botanical assessment refers to large game species.</p> <p>The two species flagged as high sensitivity are black harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>) and African Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus ranivorus</i>) with several species flagged as medium sensitivity. While the lack of wetlands means that it is unlikely that African Marsh Harrier is present, the intact strandveld is suitable habitat for Black Harriers although the surrounding urban development does reduce the suitability. CapeNature therefore recommends that as a minimum an animal species compliance statement is undertaken. We recommend that problem causing animals for the aquaculture facility should also be addressed e.g. gulls.</p> <p>For aquatic biodiversity, the response is that there are no freshwater features mapped for the site or which were found during site visits by the environmental assessment practitioner and the botanist. We wish to note that if the proposed development footprint was used for the screening tool, the results would have</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Terrestrial Animal Site Sensitivity Verification Report and Compliance Statement was undertaken and is attached in the BAR.</p>
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	<p>indicated a low sensitivity, as the very high sensitivity is in the north-western corner of the property outside the footprint. CapeNature is satisfied that an aquatic biodiversity assessment is not required.</p> <p>Botanical Assessment</p> <p>The botanical assessment reports that the fieldwork was undertaken in a sub-optimal time of year, namely autumn, however there is a high confidence in the findings and recommendations due to the dominance of perennial species in this habitat and good knowledge of the area. The vegetation occurring on site is confirmed to consist of Overberg Dune Strandveld. The threat status of this vegetation type is queried due to the high percentage remaining extent and under formal protection. The revised threat status is as a result of the methodology used for the 2022 revised threat status adapted from the IUCN methodology and is related to the level of alien invasive species infestation, however the queries from the specialist are acknowledged as valid.</p> <p>We recommend that the botanical assessment should review the revised mapping of the 2024 beta National Vegetation Map and include a discussion in this regard in the botanical assessment. The assessment should further indicate whether this results in any changes regarding the outcome of the assessment. CapeNature can be contacted for access to the referenced literature if required.</p> <p>The vegetation occurring on site is considered to generally be in a good condition with a very low level of occurrence of alien invasive species. The sensitivity mapping of the expansion footprint to the east of the existing facility indicates high sensitivity in the north and south and medium sensitivity in the central section, with low sensitivity in the areas subject to edge effects from the existing facility. The mapping of the BSP is queried with the recommendation that all the habitat east of the existing facility should be mapped the same as per the sensitivity mapping. In this regard, the update to the BSP should be referred to as discussed above.</p> <p>Five species of conservation concern (one subspecies level) were recorded on the site although none are endangered or critically endangered. The two near threatened species are common across the site and the other vulnerable species of scattered occurrence. As the fieldwork was undertaken in a sub-optimal time of year, ideally this should be supplemented by a spring survey. If additional fieldwork is not undertaken this needs to be motivated and should indicate the</p>	<p>The botanical assessment has been updated.</p>	
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	<p>likelihood of any species occurring on the footprint and recommend appropriate precautionary mitigation measures. We wish to highlight that the botanical assessment for the previous expansion dated March 2008 can be used to supplement the findings from the current study (while taking into consideration changes that have since occurred) and was undertaken by the same specialist.</p> <p>It should be noted that the protocols require that the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline must be adhered to for the plant species theme. The Species Environmental Assessment Guideline indicates that the site ecological importance (SEI) must be calculated for any SCCs encountered. We therefore recommend that the botanical assessment must be amended to include the SEI calculations (SANBI 2020).</p> <p>Condition 18 of the environmental authorisation for the expansion required that the mitigation measures in the botanical assessment must be complied with (included as Appendix A to the EA) and are still relevant for the current application. Although we will not repeat the mitigation measures, we wish to note the reference to a limestone outcrop and milkwood thickets which must be avoided, and which are not referred to in the current botanical assessment, and therefore presumably outside of the current proposed expansion footprint. Search and rescue of <i>Lampranthus fergusoniae</i> was recommended and is one of the SCCs which were encountered in the current botanical assessment. In general, CapeNature recommends that an audit of the existing EA should be undertaken before the current application is considered for approval.</p> <p>There are two alternative layouts presented, however the layout assessed in the</p>	<p>The botanical assessment has been updated and the specialist added that:</p> <p><i>“No Site Ecological Importance (SEI) was calculated for the various Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) recorded on site as frankly I don’t believe in shoehorning ecological observations (which are never complete in terms of our recording of them or understanding of their abundance and ranges) into neat little boxes merely so that office-bound decision makers can say that this or that is now done. However, an estimate of the site abundance for each SoCC is provided, in the context of the development footprints, the study area, and the region and/or total ranges of these species, which I believe is an equally or even more useful approach, and doesn’t require an ecological shoehorn.”</i> Helme, (2025).</p> <p>Page 11 of the Botanical Assessment indicates that there are no milkwood thickets or limestone outcrops that will be impacted by the proposed expansion.</p> <p>It is important to note that the current layout (Alternative 4) represents the final preferred</p>	
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	<p>botanical assessment differs from both and is assumed to have been a previous version which was screened out. The significance of the impact of the loss of habitat for each of the project components is assessed for the botanical assessment layout, and in all cases the significance remained the same both before and after mitigation, with the motivation that there is little that can mitigate the loss of habitat and SCCs.</p> <p>The impact significance after mitigation is used to determine the requirement for a biodiversity offset. A biodiversity offset is necessary to remedy residual impacts of medium significance or higher after following the mitigation hierarchy. In this regard, Phase 2 and the dam are of medium and medium to high significance respectively and therefore a biodiversity offset would be required for the loss of habitat in these two footprints.</p> <p>We wish to note that spillage of seawater and associated salinisation of the affected habitat should be included as another potential impact associated with the seawater dam. It is noted that the assessment took into account that the vegetation would only be brush-cut within the footprint of the solar photovoltaic array and therefore would not result in complete loss of vegetation and therefore does not exceed the thresholds despite being partly located within the high sensitivity area.</p> <p>However, the two development layouts presented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) differ from the layout assessed in the botanical assessment and therefore the impact significance would need to be re-assessed for both layouts. It is also essential that the mitigation hierarchy is followed and must include investigation of alternative locations for project components which result in an impact significance of medium or higher.</p> <p>The proposed mitigation measures are supported. The applicant must confirm that the mitigation measures associated with the solar PV array can be implemented. We also recommend that the impacts associated with the solar PV</p>	<p>alternative. The positioning of proposed components has been carefully considered to align with existing operational areas of the farm, thereby minimizing further disturbance to the surrounding natural environment (<i>milkwood thickets</i>) on the property.</p> <p>The mitigation hierarchy has been applied, and minor adjustments have been made to the proposed site development plan accordingly. It is important to note that the current layout (Alternative 4) represents the final preferred alternative. The positioning of proposed components has been carefully considered to align with existing operational areas of the farm, thereby minimizing further disturbance to the surrounding natural environment on the property.</p> <p>The dam is lined with the with HDPE lining to prevent seawater leakage. Water is abstracted in line with CWDP and GDA the volumes of water abstracted are carefully monitored via pump capacities and volume of seawater required on the farm is known, should there be a malfunction of the lining the loss of water will be immediately evident.</p> <p>The mitigation hierarchy has been applied, and minor adjustments have been made to the proposed site development plan accordingly. It is important to note that the current layout (Alternative 4) represents the final preferred alternative. The positioning of proposed components has been carefully considered to align with existing operational areas of the farm, thereby minimizing further disturbance to the surrounding natural environment on the property.</p> <p>The mitigation measures associated with the Solar PV will be strictly adhered to and these are incorporated into the EMP. The high cost of electricity is one of the farm's largest expenses, the</p>	
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	<p>array should also be evaluated in the context of the alternative of connecting to the local electricity grid.</p> <p>It should be noted that the original approval for the aquaculture facility which was for consent use included a condition of approval that the development of the site should be confined to the area on the site plan and the remainder should be managed as a nature reserve. The approval was granted by the Overberg Regional Services Council in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) in 1996 prior to the gazetting of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) when conservation measures needed to be included in the planning approvals. We note that we referred to this condition in our comment on the municipal planning application, however conditions related to biodiversity conservation are more appropriate to NEMA applications since its promulgation. We therefore recommend that the existing condition must be taken into account and comment obtained from the Overstrand Municipality Spatial Planning component in this regard. This existing condition would then link in with any biodiversity offset requirements.</p>	<p>applicant had to look for alternative energy measures to ensure long-term financial viability of the farm through renewable energy measures.</p> <p>Application for consent use for aquaculture and amendment of the site development plan will be undertaken.</p> <p>Existing NEMA approval Botanical Assessment dated 2008 by Nick Helme contained these mitigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone outcrops should not be impacted • Milkwood's should be avoided. • Search and Rescue operations are undertaken in the grow out tanks' areas before development. • The Dune area to the west must be excluded from any future development. • Adequate ecological connectivity and a corridor of vegetation must be maintained between the eastern and western parts of the site along the northern boundary. About 40m wide. <p>Archeological Impact Assessment (2008) contained these mitigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The middens were identified on the southern portion of the farm and this area has been demarcated as a no-go. This mitigation is also included in the 2025 expansion application. <p>Conditions of Environmental Authorisation (2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 expansion application is in line with the conditions of the EA. <p>COMPLIANCE MONITORING CONDUCTED BY DEADP</p>	
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		<p>OFFICIAL IN 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The compliance monitoring was undertaken on 14 March 2024, and the response from the Department did not find any non-compliance issues, see Appendix K. <p>APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION DATED 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter was submitted to Overstrand Municipality for amendment of condition of approval in 2013 for the expansion of the farm. The letter dated September 2013 for applicability of the NEMA Regulations of the expansion of the farm from DEADP stated that the applicant does not require an environmental authorisation in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010 in order to expand the aquaculture farm, as long as the expansion work on the aquaculture farm remains consistent with the Description of activity section as well as the conditions of the aforementioned environmental authorisation. <p>Summary</p> <p>In summary, the 2025 expansion application has been developed with full consideration of the existing NEMA and municipal planning approvals. All relevant conditions from the 2008 assessments, 2009 Environmental Authorisation, and 2013 amendment correspondence remain applicable and are adhered to. The application for consent use and amendment the site development plan will be undertaken.</p>	
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	<p>Coastal and Marine Environment</p> <p>A major gap in the screening tool is the coastal and marine environment. The proposed project includes an expansion of the pumphouse which abstracts water from the sea. The impact on the coastal and marine ecosystems must be evaluated in a separate specialist study.</p> <p>The increase in capacity will result in an increase in the volumes of water abstracted and effluent discharged. According to the BAR, the discharge volumes are within the General Discharge Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEM:ICMA) and no amendments are required. We wish to query the legislation which would be relevant for storage of seawater, as storage of freshwater is a water use in terms of the National Water Act. We therefore recommend that comment must be obtained from Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) Oceans and Coasts, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Coastal Management and the Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) regarding the abstraction and storage of seawater and discharge of effluent. Any additional legislative processes should proceed concurrently with the Basic Assessment process. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Mervyn Burton, Prof Denver Hendricks, Dr Colin Johnson, Mr Paul Slack</p> <p>Structures below the high-water mark of the sea require a Sea Shore Lease from CapeNature in terms of the Sea Shore Act. The expansion of the pumphouse is located well below the high water mark as indicated on the DFFE and DEA&DP Coastal Viewers and therefore requires a Sea Shore Lease. The Sea Shore Lease application will only be processed once an environmental authorisation is issued, however it can be applied for before then. Any other structures on the property which are below the high-water mark and which currently don't have a Sea Shore Lease should be included in the application.</p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The SSVR was amended and includes reference to coastal and marine environment.</p> <p>A lease agreement with Cape Nature is already in place, see Appendix J.</p>	
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	<p>In conclusion, CapeNature recommends that the following must be addressed before the application can be considered for approval: The botanical assessment should be amended to: Assess the impact significance of the two layout alternatives included in the BAR including the individual project components and determine whether a biodiversity offset is required for any project components. Ideally an additional spring survey must be conducted, unless adequately motivated. The updated BSP and National Vegetation Map must be discussed and used to inform the assessment. The SEI must be calculated for the plant SCCs. Where the impact significance of project components exceeds offset thresholds additional locations with a lower impact must be investigated in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>The animal species theme must be addressed by a specialist in accordance with the protocols.</p> <p>A coastal and marine ecological specialist study must be undertaken to assess the impacts associated with the expansion of the pumphouse, abstraction of seawater and discharge of effluent.</p> <p>The existing NEMA and municipal planning approvals need to be taken into account before the current application is considered for approval. Existing conditions remain relevant unless an amendment is applied for.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	<p>The botanical assessment has been amended.</p> <p>An animal species assessment was conducted</p> <p>Application for consent use for aquaculture and amendment of the site development plan will be undertaken.</p>	
<p>D'mitri Matthews</p> <p>DEA&DP</p>	<p>Email dated 08 November 2024</p> <p>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) ("EIA") FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI</p> <p>1. The draft BAR dated 2 October 2024, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 9 October 2024, refers.</p>		<p>08 November 2025</p>

	<p>2. Following review of the information submitted to this Department, the Department notes the following:</p> <p>a. The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following:</p> <p>3. Increase in Production Capacity</p> <p>The expansion will be executed in two phases, each targeting an annual production increase of 150 tons (wet weight).</p> <p>Phase 1:</p> <p>4. Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha)</p> <p>5. Production additions:</p> <p>6. Production capacity increase: 150 tons (wet weight)</p> <p>7. Number of tanks: 1 850</p> <p>8. Number of baskets: 12 950</p> <p>9. Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour</p> <p>10. Aeration fans / blower room: 4 units</p> <p>11. Split/grading station: 1 unit</p> <p>Phase 2:</p> <p>12. Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha)</p> <p>13. Production additions:</p> <p>a. Production capacity: 150 tons (wet weight)</p> <p>b. Number of tanks: 1 850</p> <p>c. Number of baskets: 12 950</p> <p>d. Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour</p> <p>e. Aeration fans blower room: 4 units</p> <p>f. Split/grading station: 1 unit</p> <p>Construction of a lined seawater reservoir:</p> <p>Storage capacity: 41 000 m³</p> <p>Surface area: 20 000 m² (2 ha)</p> <p>Coverage footprint: 20000 m² (2 ha)</p> <p>Solar Power Array:</p> <p>Power generation capacity: 4 MW (backup)</p> <p>Coverage footprint: 40000 m² (4 ha)</p> <p>Expansion of the existing pumphouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing pumphouse will be expanded by approximately 140 m² to 	<p>The development footprint for the new proposed production area has been reduced to 2 ha with the production capacity increase of 150 tons.</p>	
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	<p>accommodate additional infrastructure for increased water intake. A total of 4 new pumps and 4 pipelines will be installed at the pumphouse. ▪ 1 new pump and 1 new pipeline will be fitted within the existing pumphouse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 new pumps and 3 pipelines will be installed within the proposed expanded pumphouse. <p>Coverage footprint: 140 m²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of additional pipelines: 4 new pipelines will be installed from the pumphouse to connect the new lined seawater reservoir directly to the production area: Each pipeline will be 600 meters long and 500 mm in diameter. The combined water extraction rate will be 1600 m3 per hour. Pipeline installation will not require major ground excavation, as they will be laid alongside the existing pipeline in a previously disturbed area Seawater Intake and Discharge Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse. The additional seawater intake will therefore result in an increase in effluent water discharge. <p>Departmental comments on the draft BAR:</p> <p>3.1 The applicant must ensure that the proposed expansion does not contradict any specific conditions that are contained in the Environmental Authorisation issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).</p> <p>3.2 Since a new entity owns the existing facility, an amendment application must be submitted to the Department to transfer the rights and obligations of the EA issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).</p> <p>3.3 An extensive list of activities has been included as part of the proposed expansion. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner must filter this list to include only the relevant listed activities applicable to the proposed expansion.</p>	<p>The application for the expansion is in line with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation issued in 2009.</p>	
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	<p>3.4 It is noted that the recommendations of the botanical specialist regarding the offset have not been included in the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr"). It is therefore requested to provide reasons/motivations why this recommendation has not been included as part of the mitigation measures, since there will be unavoidable impacts within an ecosystem listed as critically endangered, in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA").</p> <p>The applicant Regulatory Requirements:</p> <p>4.1. Proof of the notifications sent to registered I&APs for the commenting purposes must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.2 A dated photograph of erecting a site notice must be provided.</p> <p>4.3 Proof of placing an advertisement must be provided.</p> <p>4.4 Any new representations and comments received in connection with the application must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.5 Any new responses by the EAP to the aforementioned representations and comments must be tabulated in a comments and response report that must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.6 The minutes of any meetings held by the environmental assessment practitioner ("EAP") with I&AP's and other role players which record the views of the participants must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>4.7 Please be advised that the signed and dated applicant declaration is required to be submitted with the BAR during the formal application process to this Department for decision-making. It is important to note that by signing this declaration, the applicant is confirming that they are aware and have taken cognisance of the contents of the report submitted for decision-making. Furthermore, through signing this declaration, the applicant is making a commitment that they are both willing and able to implement the necessary mitigation, management and monitoring measures recommended within the report with respect to this application.</p>	<p>This will be undertaken in due course</p>	
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	<p>4.8 In addition to the above, please ensure that the signed and dated EAP and specialist declarations are also submitted with the BAR during the formal application process for decision-making.</p> <p>4.9 You are furthermore reminded that the BAR must contain all the information outlined in Appendix 1 and 4 of the Environmental Impacts Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>2. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p> <p>2. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p>		
Michelle Pretorius	<p>Email dated 18 November 2024</p> <p>Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>Thanks for the notice please register myself other colleagues will send their own registration requests.</p> <p>Kindest Regards</p>	Noted.	
Vannessa Stoffels	<p>Letter dated 19 November 2024</p> <p>PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE, REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF FARM 711, GANSBAAI: COMMENTS ON PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT</p> <p>1. Your email to this Branch dated 09 October 2024 refers.</p> <p>2. The subject property is located 150m south of Gansbaai and takes access off Divisional Road 1214.</p>	Noted.	Date: 19/11/24

	<p>3. This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely</p>		
<p>Michelle Pretorius (DFFE)</p>	<p>Email dated 24 January 2025</p> <p>Subject: Re: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD</p> <p>Dear Michelle</p> <p>Compliments of the season to you for 2025, I was just catching up on emails and came across your email.</p> <p>I see that your original email sent in Oct 2024 was not received due to the incorrect email address for myself . However, your follow up email of Nov 2024 caught me in a very busy time, and I was not able to review the documents.</p> <p>Please can you update your database to include my colleagues in Environmental interaction's cc'd herein, who are to review EIAs for aquaculture. I have since moved to the Phakisa Delivery unit and so no longer comment on EIAs.</p> <p>Kindest regards Michelle</p>	Noted.	
<p>Cor Van der Walt (DoA)</p>	<p>Letter dated 04 February 2025</p> <p>PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANBAAI ABALONE FARM: DIVISION CALEDON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711</p> <p>Your application of 09 October 2024 has reference.</p>	Noted.	

	<p>The Western Cape Department of Agriculture Western Cape (WCDoA) has no objection to the proposed application.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindly note the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.• The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on the information received. <p>Yours sincerely.</p>		
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8. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING DRAFT / PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



THE HERITAGE AND AESTHETICS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday – 11th APRIL 2024

Time: 14h00 – 16h30

Mr N. Clark (Chair)

Mrs L. Fick (Vice chair)

Mr A. Greeff

Mr A. Finlayson

Mrs S. Titlestad

Mr J. Simson

Mr L. Smith

Mr C Roux

Mr J Kelley (Stanford Heritage)

Mr J Aling (Stanford Heritage)

In Attendance for Overstrand:

Mrs E.A. Lowings (Admin)

6.5 **GANSBAAI : ERF 711 PORT 2 OF FARM KLIPFONTEYN : PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO ABALONE FARM : TP APPLICATION FROM J KAPLAN (HPOZ)**

DISCUSSED.

Comment:

HIA authored by Lornay Environmental Consulting dated April 2024 scrutinized. Supported.

HWC to provide electronic drawing & minute to elowings@overstrand.gov.za

Action:

Submit to Heritage Western Cape

MEETINGS : 16th MAY (due to holiday) & 13th JUNE & 11th JULY 2024.



LORNAY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Michelle Naylor

M.Sc.; Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13., EAPASA. 2019/698, Cand. APHP., IAIAA

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T +27 (0) 83 245 6556

E michelle@lornay.co.za | W www.lornay.co.za

Reg No. 2015/445417/07

From: Chester Arendse <carendse@overstrand.gov.za>

Sent: Thursday, 07 November 2024 12:43

To: michelle@lornay.co.za

Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD

Good afternoon, Michelle.

Hope that this mail finds you well.

With regards to the application of the expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Farm 711 Ptn 2, Gansbaai, **the Environmental Management & Conservation Division has no objection towards this application.**

Taken into account that all the necessary and relevant documents are submitted to the DEA&DP for their approval and reconsideration, the only condition from our office is that the applicant meet the necessary requirements in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, as stipulated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) as published in Government Gazette No. 38282, Government Notice R983, R984, and R985, on 4 December 2014.

Hope that the above is in order.

Regards



**Western Cape
Government**

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Mercia Liddle

Biodiversity and Coastal Management

Mercia.Liddle@westerncape.gov.za | Tel: 021 483 4627

DEA&DP Reference: 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/01628/23

CMU Reference: 17/1/8(CMU 102/2024)

The EAP
Lornay Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 1990
HERMANUS
7200

Attention: Ms Michelle Naylor

Tel: 083 245 6556

Email: michelle@lornay.co.za

RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENT FROM THE SUB-DIRECTORATE: COASTAL MANAGEMENT ON THE PRE-APPLICATION DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI, CALEDON ROAD.

Good Day Madam,

Your request for comment from the Sub-directorate: Coastal Management on the above-mentioned pre-application basic assessment report received on 09 October 2024, refers.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1. The Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("NEM: ICMA") is a Specific Environmental Management Act under the umbrella of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"). The NEM: ICMA sets out to manage the nation's coastal resources, promote social equity and best economic use of coastal resources whilst protecting the natural environment. In terms of Section 38 of the NEM: ICMA, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ('the Department') is the provincial lead agency for coastal management in the Western Cape as well as the competent authority for the administration of the "Management of public launch sites in the coastal zone (GN No. 497, 27 June 2014) "Public Launch Site Regulations".
- 1.2. The Department, in pursuant of fulfilling its mandate, is implementing the Provincial Coastal Management Programme ("PCMP"). The PCMP is a five (5) year strategic document, and its purpose is to provide all departments and organisations with an integrated, coordinated and uniform approach to coastal management in the Province. The Department has developed the next generation PCMP that includes priority

objectives for the next 5 years. This PCMP was adopted on 19 May 2023 and is available upon request.

- 1.3. A key priority of the PCMP is the Estuary Management Programme, which is implemented in accordance with the NEM: ICMA and the National Estuarine Management Protocol ("NEMP"). Relevant guidelines, Estuarine Management Plans, Mouth Management Plans need to be considered when any listed activities are triggered in the Estuarine Functional Zone. The Department is in the process of approving a series of Estuarine Management Plans.
- 1.4. The facilitation of public access to the coast is an objective of the NEM: ICMA as well as a Priority in the WC PCMP. The Department developed the Provincial Coastal Access Strategy and Plan, 2017 ("PCASP") and commissioned coastal access audits per municipal district to assist municipalities with identifying existing, historic, and desired public coastal access. These coastal access audits also identify hotspots or areas of conflict to assist the municipalities with facilitating public access in terms of Section 18 of the NEM: ICMA. The PCASP as well as the coastal access audits are available upon request.

2. COMMENT

- 2.1. The sub-directorate: Coastal Management ("SD: CM") has reviewed the information as specified above and have the following commentary:
 - 2.1.1. The proposal entails the expansion of the existing production and grow out area to increase the production output by 300 tons / annum in order to meet the growing market demands on Farm 2/711. The SD: CM notes that the existing pumphouse is said to increase in size to allow for the abstraction of seawater, additionally seawater lines will also be used to transport the seawater from the farm. A lined seawater reservoir is also proposed to temporarily hold seawater which can be used during peak electricity tariff periods or during electricity outages.
 - 2.1.2. The applicant accurately noted the subject property in relation to critical biodiversity and ecological support areas in accordance with the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017.
 - 2.1.3. The applicant has depicted the subject property relation the Coastal Protection Zone ("CPZ") as defined in Section 16 of the NEM: ICMA and it should be noted that the purpose of the CPZ is to avoid increasing the effect or severity of natural hazards in the coastal zone and to protect people and properties from risks arising from dynamic coastal processes, including the risk of sea level risks. Due to the subject property's location within the CPZ, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered where an authorisation is required in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA. Furthermore, Section 62 of the NEM: ICMA obliges all organs of state that regulates the planning of land to apply that legislation in a

manner that gives effect to the purpose of the CPZ. As such, Section 63 of the NEM: ICMA must be considered by local authorities for land use decision making.

- 2.1.4. The applicant adequately considered the subject property in relation to the Overberg District Coastal Management Line ("CML"). The technical delineation of the CML was to ensure that development is regulated in a manner appropriate to risks and sensitivities in the coastal zone. The CML was informed by various layers of information including biodiversity, estuarine functionality, risk flooding, wave run-up modelling, *inter alia* and was delineated in conjunction with and supported by organs of state. The principal purpose of the CML is to protect coastal public property, private property, and public safety; to protect the coastal protection zone; and to preserve the aesthetic value of the coastal zone. The use of CMLs is of particular importance in response to the effects of climate change, as it involves both the quantification of risks and pro-active planning for future development.
- 2.1.5. The SD: CM confirms that the majority of the proposed expansion on Farm 2/711 will occur landward of the CML however a portion of the pipeline will occur seaward of the CML, below the highwater mark and within the littoral active zone. The SD: CM notes the very nature of this pipeline requires it to be located in this area and that the bulk infrastructure including the production area for the expansion is strategically placed on elevated ground above the 10m-contour line and the new production area beyond the 30m-contour line. It is noted that this proposed layout specifically considered climate change, sea-level rise, storm surges and coastal erosion.
- 2.1.6. The SD: CM also notes that the applicant is in the process of obtaining a lease agreement with CapeNature for a section of the channel that is located within the littoral active zone.
- 2.1.7. The SD: CM notes from the Pre-App DBAR that the expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse and thus result in an increase in effluent water discharge. According to the Pre-App DBAR ecologically, the operation of the abalone farm can be considered to be a low impact activity with negligible impact on the environment compared with other land-based agricultural activities.
- 2.1.8. The effluent water, which is circulated seawater and gets discharged back into the marine environment, has been found to have a negligible to zero impact on the marine environment. Be advised that the SD: CM does not support any activities that will alter the seawater temperature, as such the SD: CM advises the applicant to have appropriate measures in place to ensure that temperature changes would not negatively affect the receiving environment.

- 2.1.9. According to the Western Cape Provincial Coastal Access Audit for the Garden Route Municipal District (2019), the subject stretch has ample vehicle access to the coast to the coast. Be advised that in accordance with Section 13 of the NEM: ICMA, the proposed development and associated activities may in no way impede the general public's ability to access coastal public property now or in the future. Furthermore, the applicant should be informed that they may not create any formal or informal walkways/pathways to the coast through the littoral active zone, with any future developments on the subject property as this is an active area that performs an important ecological function.
- 2.1.10. It is further noted that the discharge is undertaken in line with the DFFE General Discharge Authorisation ("GDA") issued to the applicant in terms of Section 69(2) of the NEM: ICMA and no amendment to the GDA is required to accommodate the increased seawater discharge.
- 2.1.11. The applicant indicated that coastal access will not be affected during the construction or operational phases of the proposed expansion and access to the coast will be retained as the general public currently has unrestricted access along the subject coastline.
- 2.1.12. Considering the location of the subject property, the applicant must be informed of risk pertaining to the loss of property should the highwater mark of the sea move inland of the property boundary. In this regard, Section 14 of the NEM: ICMA and the [Advisory Note from the Office of the Chief Surveyor-General](#) dated 15 October 2021, is applicable.
- 2.1.13. The SD: CM notes that the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm falls within the realm of aquaculture which was identified as one of the components of the rural economy in the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework. It is further noted in the DBAR that aquaculture is deemed as a compatible activity that does not compromise biodiversity, farming activities or cultural and scenic landscapes as the development fits into the context of rural landscapes while contributing to the economic growth of these areas.
- 2.1.14. Based on all the abovementioned items, the SD: CM does not object to the proposed expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm (Farm 2/711) as it aligns with the PSDF, Priority Areas of the PCMP (2022) as well as the MSDF (2024) and Municipal IDP (2020).
3. The applicant must be reminded of their general duty of care and the remediation of environmental damage, in terms of Section 28(1) of NEMA, which, specifically 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..."* together with Section 58 of the NEM: ICMA which refers to one's duty to avoid causing adverse effects on the coastal environment.

4. The SD: CM reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information from you based on any information that may be received.

Yours faithfully

**leptieshaam
Bekko**

Digitally signed by
leptieshaam Bekko
Date: 2024.11.07 20:01:17
+02'00'

**leptieshaam Bekko
CONTROL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
SUB-DIRECTORATE: COASTAL MANAGEMENT
DATE: 07 November 2024**



CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE: SOUTH

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email rsmart@capenature.co.za
reference LS14/2/6/1/7/2/711-2_aquaculture_Gansbaai
date 7 November 2024

Lornay Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 1990
Hermanus
7200

Attention: Michelle Naylor
By email: michelle@lornay.co.za

Dear Ms Naylor

Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Expansion of the Romansbaai Abalone Farm, Remainder of Portion 2 of Farm Klipfonteyn 711, Gansbaai

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.

Desktop Information

The application is for the expansion of an existing aquaculture facility. We wish to note that the conditions of approval for both environmental and municipal planning approvals for the establishment of the facility and the first expansion remain relevant.

The property contains Critical Biodiversity Area I (CBA) in the north-east corner as mapped in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) with the remainder consisting of Other Natural. We wish to note that the BSP has been updated and the final version will be gazetted within the next few months. In the updated version of the BSP, the property is mapped as CBA I apart from (some) existing development footprints.

The vegetation type mapped for the property is Overberg Dune Strandveld which is listed as endangered in the revised 2022 listing. This vegetation type was previously listed as least threatened and the increase in the threat status is likely one of the reasons for the increase in the amount of CBA on the site. We further wish to note that there have been recent amendments to the National Vegetation Map, which includes the introduction of five new strandveld types which have been mapped with associated descriptions (SANBI 2024). In the updated map, the property is mapped as Southwestern Strandveld (Cowling et al 2023). Threat statuses have not been determined for the new vegetation types.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Mervyn Burton, Prof Denver Hendricks, Dr Colin Johnson, Mr Paul Slack

Screening Tool and Site Sensitivity Verification Report

The screening tool results indicate very high sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity, high sensitivity for animal species and medium sensitivity for plant species. The site sensitivity verification report indicates that a botanical assessment will be undertaken which addresses the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes.

For animal species, it states that the site is already impacted by the existing facility and therefore a specialist study is not required. It refers to the site being stocked with small antelope, however the botanical assessment refers to large game species. The two species flagged as high sensitivity are black harrier (*Circus maurus*) and African Marsh Harrier (*Circus ranivorus*) with several species flagged as medium sensitivity. While the lack of wetlands means that it is unlikely that African Marsh Harrier is present, the intact strandveld is suitable habitat for Black Harriers although the surrounding urban development does reduce the suitability. CapeNature therefore recommends that as a minimum an animal species compliance statement is undertaken. We recommend that problem causing animals for the aquaculture facility should also be addressed e.g. gulls.

For aquatic biodiversity, the response is that there are no freshwater features mapped for the site or which were found during site visits by the environmental assessment practitioner and the botanist. We wish to note that if the proposed development footprint was used for the screening tool, the results would have indicated a low sensitivity, as the very high sensitivity is in the north-western corner of the property outside the footprint. CapeNature is satisfied that an aquatic biodiversity assessment is not required.

Botanical Assessment

The botanical assessment reports that the fieldwork was undertaken in a sub-optimal time of year, namely autumn, however there is a high confidence in the findings and recommendations due to the dominance of perennial species in this habitat and good knowledge of the area. The vegetation occurring on site is confirmed to consist of Overberg Dune Strandveld. The threat status of this vegetation type is queried due to the high percentage remaining extent and under formal protection. The revised threat status is as a result of the methodology used for the 2022 revised threat status adapted from the IUCN methodology and is related to the level of alien invasive species infestation, however the queries from the specialist are acknowledged as valid.

We recommend that the botanical assessment should review the revised mapping of the 2024 beta National Vegetation Map and include a discussion in this regard in the botanical assessment. The assessment should further indicate whether this results in any changes regarding the outcome of the assessment. CapeNature can be contacted for access to the referenced literature if required.

The vegetation occurring on site is considered to generally be in a good condition with a very low level of occurrence of alien invasive species. The sensitivity mapping of the expansion footprint to the east of the existing facility indicates high sensitivity in the north and south and medium sensitivity in the central section, with low sensitivity in the areas subject to edge effects from the existing facility. The mapping of the BSP is queried with the recommendation that all the habitat east of the existing

took into account that the vegetation would only be brush-cut within the footprint of the solar photovoltaic array and therefore would not result in complete loss of vegetation and therefore does not exceed the thresholds despite being partly located within the high sensitivity area.

However, the two development layouts presented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) differ from the layout assessed in the botanical assessment and therefore the impact significance would need to be re-assessed for both layouts. It is also essential that the mitigation hierarchy is followed and must include investigation of alternative locations for project components which result in an impact significance of medium or higher.

The proposed mitigation measures are supported. The applicant must confirm that the mitigation measures associated with the solar PV array can be implemented. We also recommend that the impacts associated with the solar PV array should also be evaluated in the context of the alternative of connecting to the local electricity grid.

It should be noted that the original approval for the aquaculture facility which was for consent use included a condition of approval that the development of the site should be confined to the area on the site plan and the remainder should be managed as a nature reserve. The approval was granted by the Overberg Regional Services Council in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) in 1996 prior to the gazetting of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) when conservation measures needed to be included in the planning approvals. We note that we referred to this condition in our comment on the municipal planning application, however conditions related to biodiversity conservation are more appropriate to NEMA applications since its promulgation. We therefore recommend that the existing condition must be taken into account and comment obtained from the Overstrand Municipality Spatial Planning component in this regard. This existing condition would then link in with any biodiversity offset requirements.

Coastal and Marine Environment

A major gap in the screening tool is the coastal and marine environment. The proposed project includes an expansion of the pumphouse which abstracts water from the sea. The impact on the coastal and marine ecosystems must be evaluated in a separate specialist study.

The increase in capacity will result in an increase in the volumes of water abstracted and effluent discharged. According to the BAR, the discharge volumes are within the General Discharge Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEMA:ICMA) and no amendments are required. We wish to query the legislation which would be relevant for storage of seawater, as storage of freshwater is a water use in terms of the National Water Act. We therefore recommend that comment must be obtained from Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) Oceans and Coasts, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Coastal Management and the Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) regarding the abstraction and storage of seawater and discharge of effluent. Any additional legislative processes should proceed concurrently with the Basic Assessment process.

Structures below the high water mark of the sea require a Sea Shore Lease from CapeNature in terms of the Sea Shore Act. The expansion of the pumphouse is located well below the high water mark as indicated on the DFFE and DEA&DP Coastal Viewers and therefore requires a Sea Shore Lease. The Sea Shore Lease application will only be processed once an environmental authorisation is issued, however it can be applied for before then. Any other structures on the property which are below the high water mark and which currently don't have a Sea Shore Lease should be included in the application.

Conclusion

In conclusion, CapeNature recommends that the following must be addressed before the application can be considered for approval:

- The botanical assessment should be amended to:
 - Assess the impact significance of the two layout alternatives included in the BAR including the individual project components and determine whether a biodiversity offset is required for any project components.
 - Ideally an additional spring survey must be conducted, unless adequately motivated.
 - The updated BSP and National Vegetation Map must be discussed and used to inform the assessment.
 - The SEI must be calculated for the plant SCCs.
- Where the impact significance of project components exceeds offset thresholds additional locations with a lower impact must be investigated in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.
- The animal species theme must be addressed by a specialist in accordance with the protocols.
- A coastal and marine ecological specialist study must be undertaken to assess the impacts associated with the expansion of the pumphouse, abstraction of seawater and discharge of effluent.
- The existing NEMA and municipal planning approvals need to be taken into account before the current application is considered for approval. Existing conditions remain relevant unless an amendment is applied for.

Regards

RSmart

Rhett Smart

For: Manager: Landscape Conservation Intelligence South

cc. Rowena Crowe, CapeNature
D'mitri Matthews, DEA&DP
Schalk van der Merwe, Overstrand Municipality

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Mervyn Burton, Prof Denver Hendricks, Dr Colin Johnson, Mr Paul Slack



Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
D'mitri Matthews
Directorate: Development Management, Region 1
D'mitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za | Tel: 021 483 8350

REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23
DATE: 8 November 2024

The Board of Directors
Terrasan Group (Pty)Ltd
P. O. Box 1086
HERMANUS
7200

Attention: Ms. L. Schoonbee

Tel.: (028) 312 1106
Email: rowan@aquunion.co.za

Dear Madam

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) ("EIA") FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO. 711, GANSBAAI

1. The draft BAR dated 2 October 2024, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 9 October 2024, refers.
2. Following review of the information submitted to this Department, the Department notes the following:
 - 2.1 The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following:
 - Increase in Production Capacity
The expansion will be executed in two phases, each targeting an annual production increase of 150 tons (wet weight).

Phase 1:
 - Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha)
 - Production additions:
 - Production capacity increase: 150 tons (wet weight)
 - Number of tanks: 1 850
 - Number of baskets: 12 950
 - Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour
 - Aeration fans / blower room: 4 units
 - Split/grading station: 1 unit

Phase 2:
 - Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha)
 - Production additions:
 - Production capacity: 150 tons (wet weight)
 - Number of tanks: 1 850
 - Number of baskets: 12 950
 - Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour
 - Aeration fans blower room: 4 units



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Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

- Split/grading station: 1 unit
 - Construction of a lined seawater reservoir:
 - Storage capacity: 41 000 m³
 - Surface area: 20 000 m² (2 ha)
 - Coverage footprint: 20000 m² (2 ha)
 - Solar Power Array:
 - Power generation capacity: 4 MW (backup)
 - Coverage footprint: 40000 m² (4 ha)
 - Expansion of the existing pumphouse
 - The existing pumphouse will be expanded by approximately 140 m² to accommodate additional infrastructure for increased water intake.
 - A total of 4 new pumps and 4 pipelines will be installed at the pumphouse.
 - 1 new pump and 1 new pipeline will be fitted within the existing pumphouse.
 - 3 new pumps and 3 pipelines will be installed within the proposed expanded pumphouse.
 - Coverage footprint: 140 m²
 - Installation of additional pipelines:
 - 4 new pipelines will be installed from the pumphouse to connect the new lined seawater reservoir directly to the production area:
 - Each pipeline will be 600 meters long and 500 mm in diameter.
 - The combined water extraction rate will be 1600 m³ per hour.
 - Pipeline installation will not require major ground excavation, as they will be laid alongside the existing pipeline in a previously disturbed area
 - Seawater Intake and Discharge Systems

The expansion of the abalone farm will require the abstraction of more seawater which will be facilitated through the expansion of the pumphouse. The additional seawater intake will therefore result in an increase in effluent water discharge.
3. Departmental comments on the draft BAR:
- 3.1 The applicant must ensure that the proposed expansion does not contradict any specific conditions that are contained in the Environmental Authorisation issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).
 - 3.2 Since a new entity owns the existing facility, an amendment application must be submitted to the Department to transfer the rights and obligations of the EA issued on 3 March 2009 (Reference: E12/2/3/1-E2/11-0262/07).
 - 3.3 An extensive list of activities has been included as part of the proposed expansion. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner must filter this list to include only the relevant listed activities applicable to the proposed expansion.
 - 3.4 It is noted that the recommendations of the botanical specialist regarding the offset have not been included in the Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr"). It is therefore requested to provide reasons/motivations why this recommendation has not been included as part of the mitigation measures, since there will be unavoidable impacts within an ecosystem listed as critically endangered, in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA").

4. The applicant Regulatory Requirements:
 - 4.1 Proof of the notifications sent to registered I&APs for the commenting purposes must be included in the BAR.
 - 4.2 A dated photograph of erecting a site notice must be provided.
 - 4.3 Proof of placing an advertisement must be provided.
 - 4.4 Any new representations and comments received in connection with the application must be included in the BAR.
 - 4.5 Any new responses by the EAP to the aforementioned representations and comments must be tabulated in a comments and response report that must be included in the BAR.
 - 4.6 The minutes of any meetings held by the environmental assessment practitioner ("EAP") with I&AP's and other role players which record the views of the participants must be included in the BAR.
 - 4.7 Please be advised that the signed and dated applicant declaration is required to be submitted with the BAR during the formal application process to this Department for decision-making. It is important to note that by signing this declaration, the applicant is confirming that they are aware and have taken cognisance of the contents of the report submitted for decision-making. Furthermore, through signing this declaration, the applicant is making a commitment that they are both willing and able to implement the necessary mitigation, management and monitoring measures recommended within the report with respect to this application.
 - 4.8 In addition to the above, please ensure that the signed and dated EAP and specialist declarations are also submitted with the BAR during the formal application process for decision-making.
 - 4.9 You are furthermore reminded that the BAR must contain all the information outlined in Appendix 1 and 4 of the Environmental Impacts Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
5. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
6. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

pp
Marbe Coetzee
Digitally signed by
Marbe Coetzee
Date: 2024.11.08
09:43:07 +02'00'

HEAD OF COMPONENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES: REGION 1

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. M. Naylor (Lornay Environmental Consulting)
(2) Ms. P. Aplon (Overstrand Municipality)

Email: michelle@lornay.co.za
Email: paplon@overstrand.gov.za



**Western Cape
Government**

Department of Infrastructure

Vanessa Stoffels

Chief Directorate: Road Planning

Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za | Tel: 021 483 4669

Ref: DOI/CFS/RN/LU/REZ/SUB-21/297 (Application no: 2024-10-0065)

Lornay Environmental Consulting
P O Box 1990
HERMANUS
7200

Attention: Ms M Lornay

Dear Madam

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE, REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF FARM 711,
GANSBAAI: COMMENTS ON PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

1. Your email to this Branch dated 09 October 2024 refers.
2. The subject property is located 150m south of Gansbaai and takes access off Divisional Road 1214.
3. This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998.

Yours Sincerely

DD FORTUIN

For DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2024



LORNAY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Michelle Naylor

M.Sc.; Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13., EAPASA. 2019/698, Cand. APHP., IAIAsa

Hemel & Aarde Wine Village – Unit 5/1F

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E michelle@lornay.co.za | W www.lornay.co.za

Reg No. 2015/445417/07 | Vat. Reg. 429 031 9468

From: Michelle Pretorius <MPretorius@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Friday, 24 January 2025 12:27

To: michelle@lornay.co.za

Cc: Fatima Daya <FDaya@dffe.gov.za>; Maxhoba Jezile <MJezile@dffe.gov.za>; Alexis Osborne <AOsborne@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: Re: Notice of Public Participation | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm | Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD

Dear Michelle

Compliments of the season to you for 2025, I was just catching up on emails and came across your email.

I see that your original email sent in Oct 2024 was not received due to the incorrect email address for myself. However, your follow up email of Nov 2024 caught me in a very busy time, and I was not able to review the documents.

Please can you update your database to include my colleagues in Environmental interaction's cc'd herein, who are to review EIAs for aquaculture. I have since moved to the Phakisa Delivery unit and so no longer comment on EIAs.

Kindest regards
Michelle



**Western Cape
Government**

Cor Van Der Walt
LandUse Management
Email: Cor.VanderWalt@westerncape.gov.za
tel: +27 21 808 5099 fax: +27 21 808 5092

OUR REFERENCE : 20/9/2/4/2/038
YOUR REFERENCE : RB/D1
DEA&DP REFERENCE : 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23
ENQUIRIES : Cor van der Walt/Fadwa Mohammed

Lornay Environmental Consulting
Email: michelle@lornay.co.za

Att: Michelle Naylor

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM: DIVISION CALEDON
PORTION 2 OF THE FARM NO 711**

Your application of 09 October 2024 has reference.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) has no objection to the proposed application.

Please note:

- Kindly quote the above-mentioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.
- The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on the information received.

Yours sincerely

Mr. C.J. van der Walt

LANDUSE MANAGER: LANDUSE MANAGEMENT
2025-02-04

Copies:

Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning
1 Dorp Street
Cape Town
8000

Theewaterskloof Municipality
PO Box 24
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7230

