

PROOF OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Proposed Agricultural Expansion through the Establishment of Additional Cultivation Blocks on Erf 1995, McGregor, Robertson RD

May 2025

Consultant:

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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 attended to and the Final BAR was amended as required. The Application for Environmental Authorisation was then submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), and the mandatory fee payment was made.

Please note that a Notice of Intent to Develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. Heritage Western Cape confirmed that no further Heritage assessment is required.

The BAR was circulated to all registered I&APS and organs of state for a further 30-day public participation period. All comments received during this period were recorded and responded to in the Comments and Response Report and Register for I&AP's. This document serves as proof of the public participation carried out in line with Section 41 of the EIA Regulations (2014).

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:

DEADP BOCMA Tarryn Mouries/ Melanese Schippers Mashudu Mmbadi-Muligidi Private Bag X9086 mmmbadi@bocma.co.za Cape Town 8000 Cape Nature Utilitas Building Rhett Smart 1 Dorp Street Private Bag x5014 8001 Stellenbosch Tarryn.Mouries@westerncape.gov.za 7599 Janduse@capenature.co.za Cape Winelands District Municipality Municipal Manager Ward S Mr Henry Prince Maria Oostendorff-Kraukamp mm@capewinelands.gov.za Mkraukamp@langeberg.gov.za Langeberg Municipality Tracy Brunnings DOA Cor van der Walt / Brandon Layman IBAPS Erf 333 Post Olyvendal Smuts Plase Pty Ltd PO Box 6 Klaasvoogds Ashton 6707 Erf 334 post Koningsrivier Trust Posbus 517 Robertson 6705 RE/158 post OW Von Elgg Hutharia Farm	DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION			
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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 establishment of new vineyard blocks on Erf 1995, McGregor, Robertson RD*.

DEA&DP REFERENCE: 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1304/24

LORNAY REF: E-1995

APPLICANT: Imperative Link Trade 22 cc

LOCATION: Erf 1995, McGregor, Robertson RD

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The establishment of two additional vineyard blocks on the existing agriculturally zoned land of Erf 1995, McGregor, Voortrekker Road, Robertson RD.

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

Listing Notice 1 (GN R983): Activity; 27
 Listing Notice 3 (GN R985): Activity; 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 15 January 2025 to 14 February 2025.

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.

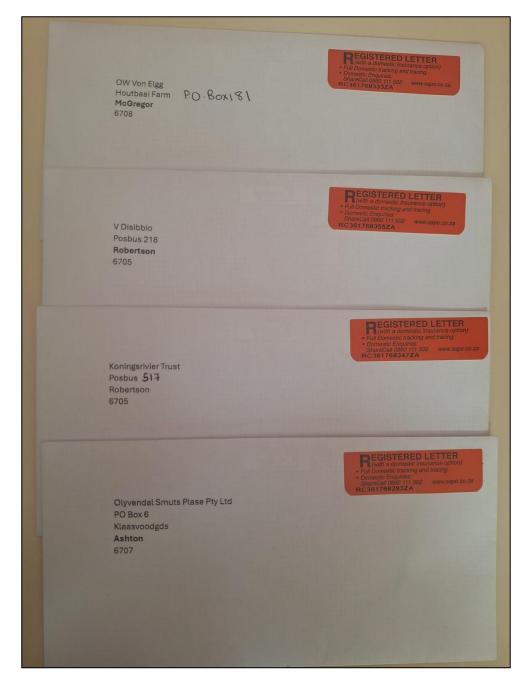


Environmental Impact Assessments | Basic Assessments | 24G Applications | Water Use License Applications | Environmental Audits

Lornay Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd | Reg 2015/445417/07 Unit 5/1F, Hemel & Aarde Wine Village, Hermanus

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:
 Tuesday, 14 January 2025 13:55

To: 'Tarryn.Mouries@westerncape.gov.za'; 'Melanese Schippers'; 'Mashudu Mmbadi-

Muligidi'; Rhett Smart; Cor Van der Walt; 'Brandon Layman' DEADP EIA Admin; 'mm@capewinelands.gov.za'; 'Tracy Brunings';

'Mkraukamp@langeberg.gov.za'

Subject: Notice of Public participation | Erf 1995, McGregor, Robertson RD, Langeberg

Municipality Dear

Attachments: Notice of PPP Erf 1995 McGregor.pdf

Dear Organ of State and / or I&AP,

DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1304/24

Kindly see attached notice of public participation for the proposed addition of vineyard blocks to the subject property.

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

Kind regards

Cc:



LORNAY

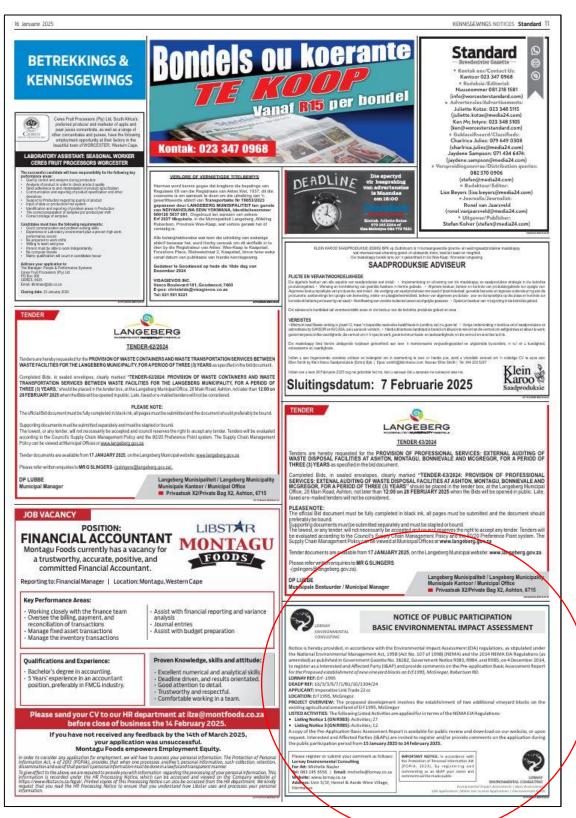
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Michelle Naylor
M.Sc.; Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13., EAPASA. 2019/698, Cand. APHP., IAIAsa
Hemel & Aarde Wine Village – Unit 5/1F
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 | Vat. Reg. 429 031 9468

5. NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

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

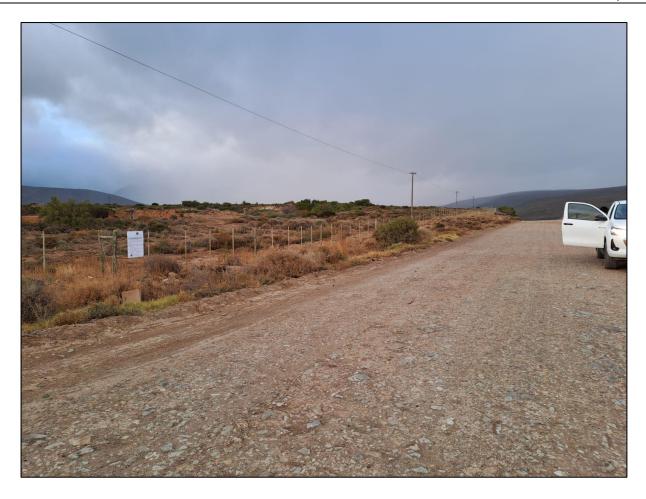


6. NOTICEBOARDS

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: ERF	1995 McGregor					
NAME:	ORGANISATION :	POSTAL ADDRESS:	TEL:	EMAIL:	COMMENT:	DATE & REF:
Tracy Brunings	Langeberg Municipality	3 Piet Retief Street, MONTAGU 6720	023 614 8001	tbrunings@langeberg.gov.z a	Email dated 15 January 2025 Hello Michelle, I confirm the zoning as Agricultural Zone I in terms of the Langeberg Integrated Zoning Scheme, 2018. There is no objection to the proposal from a land use planning point of view.	Ref number; DATE:
Samantha Mahlalela	восма			smahlalela@bocma.co.za	Email dated 10 February 2025 COMMENTS: DRAFT PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ERF 1995, MCGREGOR, ROBERTSON RD. The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) has received the application notification as indicated	

above on 16 January 2025. BOCMA has assessed the information provided and supports the proposed development with subject to the following: 1. According to WARMS there are registered water uses for groundwater abstraction of 10863m² per year only. 2. No water use in excess of the lawful water use may be used within the properties without authorisation by the responsible authority. 3. The proposed vineyards should be at least 100m away from the foot of the dam. **General conditions:** • All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to. No water use must be taken from a water resource for any purpose without environmental authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). No pollution of surface water or groundwater resources may occur. Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorisations where needed from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorisation for. This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries. Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so.

Mouries erncape.gov.zaReference:MelansesSubject: Re: Comment on DBAR - Erf 1995, Mc16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Mouries Melanses Subject: Re: Comment on DBAR - Erf 1995, Mc 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1 304/24 Dear Mr. Alwyn Llewellyn Krull, Attached please find the correspondence from this Directorate concerning Erf 1995, Mc Gregor. Vriendelike Groete / Kind Regards / Ngomkhulu Umbuliso, COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("ELA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR PROPOSED CULTIVATION BLOCKS FOR VINEYARDS ON ERF 1995, Mc GREGOR. 1. The electronic copy of the Draft BAR and associated	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
2025 and this Directorate's acknowledgement thereof dated 24 January 2025, refer. 2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, the following is noted: 2.1. The proposal entails the clearance of indigenous vegetation for the proposed establishment of vineyards on Erf 1995, Mc Gregor. - Block 1 is approximately 1.7 ha (17 000m²) - Block 2 is approximately 2.1 ha (21 000m²) 2.2. The site is zoned Agriculture, and is located outside	Mouries Melanses Schippers		Subject: Re: Comment on DBAR - Erf 1995, Mc Gregor_1304/24 Dear Mr. Alwyn Llewellyn Krull, Attached please find the correspondence from this Directorate concerning Erf 1995, Mc Gregor. Vriendelike Groete / Kind Regards / Ngomkhulu Umbuliso, COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR PROPOSED CULTIVATION BLOCKS FOR VINEYARDS ON ERF 1995, MC GREGOR. 1. The electronic copy of the Draft BAR and associated documents received by the Directorate on 16 January 2025 and this Directorate's acknowledgement thereof dated 24 January 2025, refer. 2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, the following is noted: 2.1. The proposal entails the clearance of indigenous vegetation for the proposed establishment of vineyards on Erf 1995, Mc Gregor. - Block 1 is approximately 1.7 ha (17 000m²) - Block 2 is approximately 2.1 ha (21 000m²) 2.2. The site is zoned Agriculture, and is located outside	Reference: 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1
the urban area of Mc Gregor.			and an early an early and	

3.1. Activity description
3.1.1. Page 13 of the draft BAR refers to the
placement of irrigation pipelines. However, no
details of what this will entail have been
included in the activity description.
3.1.2. The activity description must include details of
the proposed development and its associated
infrastructure which must also be included in
the site development plan.
3.1.3. Clarity must also be provided whether the
proposed development will require the erection
of shade netting.
-
3.2. Applicable listed activities
3.2.1. It is noted that Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 of
the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be
applied for.
3.2.2. According to the botanical specialist report, the
vegetation found on the proposed site is
classified as a least threatened ecosystem.
3.2.3. The applicability of the abovementioned listed
activity must be confirmed in the BAR.
3.3. Proof of water rights
3.3.1. Page 20 of the draft BAR indicates that water
rights for the proposed expansion is pending,
and page 26 of the draft BAR indicates that the
farm has existing water rights. Clarity must be
provided whether additional water is required
for the proposed development.
3.3.2. Should additional water be required, the water
use license from the water authority must be
obtained and included in the final BAR.
2.4 In torms of Dogulation 24 of the NICAGA FIA
3.4. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA
Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct
environmental audits to determine compliance with
the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation,
the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports
to the Competent Authority. The Environmental

	T			
			Audit Report must be prepared by an independent	
			person and must contain all the information	
			required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations,	
			2014. Please advise what the estimated duration of	
			the construction phase will be. In addition, you are	
			required to recommend and motivate the frequency	
			at which the environmental audits must be	
			conducted by an independent person.	
			3.5. In addition to the above, please ensure that the	
			signed and dated applicant, Environmental	
			Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") and Specialist	
			declarations are also submitted with the final BAR	
			for decision-making.	
			_	
			This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw any	
			comments or request further information from you based on	
			any information received.	
Rhett Smart	Cape Nature	rsmart@capenature.co.za	Email dated 14 February 2025	
	Cape Hatare	<u></u>		
		cc:	Subject: Pre-Application BAR: Cultivation, Erf 1995, McGregor	
		vhudson@capenature.co.za	Subject The Application State cultivation, En 1999, Medicing	
		viiduson@capenature.co.za	Dear Michelle	
			Dear Wichelie	
			Please find attached comment from CapeNature on the Pre-	
			Application Basic Assessment Report for Proposed Cultivation	
			Areas on Erf 1995, McGregor.	
			Danasala	
			Regards	
			Dhott	
			Rhett	
			Due Application Posis Assessment Deposit for Ducascad	
			Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for Proposed	
			Cultivation Areas on Erf 1995, McGregor	
			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.	
			Two cultivation blocks are proposed north of the existing	

cultivation on the property. The remaining natural area is mapped as Ecological Support Area 1 (ESA) in the current official version of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) as of 13 December 2024. This area was mapped as Other Natural in the previous 2017 version of the BSP. The vegetation present is Robertson Karoo listed as least concern. There are no freshwater features present on this section of the property.

The results from the screening tool indicate a medium sensitivity for animal species and plant species and low sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity. The site sensitivity verification report motivates that the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes are addressed in a botanical assessment. No aquatic biodiversity study was undertaken as there are no freshwater features on site and a study addressing the animal species theme is not considered necessary due to the existing disturbances surrounding the proposed cultivation areas and only a portion of the natural area will be developed. We recommend that the site sensitivity verification report should more closely reference the requirements of the protocols to align with the legislation. We are willing to accept the motivation regarding the fauna, but wish to note the camera trap data from the applicant website and that further reference should be made to the species listed in the screening tool.

The botanical assessment supports the mapping of the vegetation on site as Robertson Karoo, with the central section consisting of rocky areas with shallow soils and deeper soils elsewhere. Two plant species of conservation concern (SCCs) were recorded (vulnerable and near threatened), with a substantial population of the near threatened species on site.

The sensitivity mapping of the site maps a large proportion of the site as high sensitivity incorporating the rocky sections and the SCC populations with two patches of medium sensitivity in the west in the deeper soils and in the north in the historical mining area. We wish to query the brush-cut area mapped as high sensitivity, as the shrub cover would be impacted by the

activity, although the geophytes and annual are enhanced as described.

Two project alternatives are presented, with Alternative 1 consisting of two blocks in the south-west and south-east and Alternative 2 consisting of two blocks in the south-west and north. Only Alternative 1 is assessed in the botanical assessment and it is stated that the applicant is unwilling to consider other alternatives. The south-west block is in the medium sensitivity area and the south-east block is in the high sensitivity area.

The impact assessment rates the impact as medium negative significance both before and after mitigation. The mitigation measures proposed are ensuring no encroachment beyond the delineated boundaries and search and rescue of plant specimens with a focus on the near threatened species and another succulent species. We agree that these two mitigation measures will not reduce the significance level substantially. Although monitoring of post environmental authorisation conditions such as the success of search and rescue only occurs for a small proportion of cases, for those where it has taken place for search and rescue has revealed more failures than successes, even for growth forms considered more amenable to this mitigation (e.g. geophytes and succulents).

The residual significance after mitigation of medium significance is within the thresholds which require a biodiversity offset. However, the mitigation hierarchy is a core principle of biodiversity offsets that must be exercised before an offset can be considered. The conclusion of the botanical assessment states that if only the south-western block is cultivated the significance is reduced to low-medium which is below the offset thresholds. Alternative 2 was not assessed and was presumably developed after the botanical assessment was compiled.

The description of the alternatives in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) includes Alternative 2 as described above with both the proposed cultivation blocks in the medium sensitivity

area. The impact significance associated with this alternative is provided in the BAR as low-medium significance, however we note that the impact rating was not assigned by the botanical specialist. Despite the higher impact on terrestrial biodiversity, the overall project preferred alternative is Alternative 1. The reason provided is that the soils are not suitable for cultivation for Alternative 2, thereby rendering this alternative unfeasible.

Offsets are discussed in the BAR under the section dealing with application of the mitigation hierarchy. It states that offsets are not applicable in terms of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (the guidelines) as the vegetation is classified as least concern. In this regard, there are two methods of calculating the required offset ratios in accordance with the guidelines namely the threat status of the vegetation type and a combination of the remaining extent and protection level of the vegetation. The highest ratio for the two options should be selected. The look-up table in the appendix to the guidelines provides the basic offset ratios using this methodology for which Robertson Karoo is 0 for both. Criteria for adjustment of the ratio include the presence of CBAs, which are not present within the proposed cultivation areas. In terms of the basic ratio, we agree with the recommendation as stated above, however we recommend that the detail provided herewith is included in the BAR.

We do however wish to note the following from the guideline: "However, residual negative impacts on biodiversity cannot always be easily specified in terms of area. Residual negative impacts on species of conservation concern, ecological processes or ecosystem services, are examples of such instances. In those cases, the size of the biodiversity offset must be determined based on the advice of an appropriate specialist, or specialists (pg 34 Section 7.2)." As the proposed development will impact on an SCC, we recommend that further advice is obtained from the specialist.

The conclusions and recommendations of the botanical assessment recommend that the applicant should make a

donation to Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve managed by CapeNature. While this action will contribute towards biodiversity conservation it is not directly linked to the impacts associated with the proposed development and is not framed within the context of a biodiversity offset. Any donations in support of the nature reserve should therefore be considered independent of this application and will have no bearing on the outcome.

With regards to the investigation of alternatives, the motivation that Alternative 2 is not suitable must be supported by an agricultural potential study which must include a map of the agricultural potential across the site. We recommend that further alternatives must be investigated and presented to the botanical specialist for an impact assessment. The botanical specialist will need to advise regarding the need for biodiversity offsets with regards to the SCCs in accordance with the biodiversity offset guideline as quoted above, with the preferred option of avoidance of the SCC populations.

We further note the organic practices undertaken by landowner which fall broadly under the concept of conservation agriculture. While organic practices will not reduce the extent of habitat loss from cultivation it will reduce the edge effects and additional impacts as a result of cultivation. We recommend that information regarding the practices is presented to the botanical specialist as additional mitigation measures for consideration.

In conclusion, the following must be undertaken and presented before the application is considered further:

- Agricultural potential study including maps
- Additional feasible layout alternatives which reduce the residual impact
- Updated botanical assessment assessing all feasible development layouts and the need for an offset due to the impact on SCCs

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and

			request further information based on any additional	
			information that may be received.	
			Regards	
Cor Van der	DoA	Cor.VanderWalt@westernc	Email dated 16 April 2025	
Walt		ape.gov.za		
			PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL VINEYARD	
			BLOCKS: DIVISION ROBERTSON ERF NO 1995	
			Your application of 15 January 2025 has reference.	
			The Western Cape 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.	

IN PROCESS PPP



	COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT					
PROJECT: Erf 1995						
	DRAFT BAR / PRE-AI					
NAME:	COMMENT:	RESPONSE:	DATE & REF:			
Tracy Brunings	Email dated 15 January 2025	Noted.				
Langberg Municipality	Hello Michelle,					
	I confirm the zoning as Agricultural Zone I in terms of the Langeberg Integrated Zoning Scheme, 2018.					
	There is no objection to the proposal from a land use planning point of view.					
Samantha Mahlalela	Email dated 10 February 2025	Noted.	Date: 10/02/25			
	COMMENTS: DRAFT PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ERF 1995, MCGREGOR, ROBERTSON RD.					
	The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) has received the application notification as indicated above on 16 January 2025.					
	BOCMA has assessed the information provided and supports the proposed development with subject to the following:					
	 4. According to WARMS there are registered water uses for groundwater abstraction of 10863m² per year only. 5. No water use in excess of the lawful water use may be used within the 					

	properties without authorisation by the responsible authority. 6. The proposed vineyards should be at least 100m away from the foot of the dam.	
	General conditions:	
	 All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to. No water use must be taken from a water resource for any purpose without environmental authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). No pollution of surface water or groundwater resources may occur. Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorisations where needed from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorisation for. This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries. Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so. Yours faithfully, 	
Tarryn Mouries Melanses Schippers	Email dated 14 February 2025 Subject: Re: Comment on DBAR - Erf 1995, Mc Gregor_1304/24	Date: 14/02/25 Reference: 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1304/24
(DEADP)	Dear Mr. Alwyn Llewellyn Krull,	
	Attached please find the correspondence from this Directorate concerning Erf 1995, Mc Gregor.	
	Vriendelike Groete / Kind Regards / Ngomkhulu Umbuliso,	
	COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF	
	COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF	

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR PROPOSED CULTIVATION BLOCKS FOR VINEYARDS ON ERF 1995, MC GREGOR.

- The electronic copy of the Draft BAR and associated documents received by the Directorate on 16 January 2025 and this Directorate's acknowledgement thereof dated 24 January 2025, refer.
- 2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, the following is noted:
- 2.1. The proposal entails the clearance of indigenous vegetation for the proposed establishment of vineyards on Erf 1995, Mc Gregor.
 - Block 1 is approximately 1.7 ha (17 000m²)
 - Block 2 is approximately 2.1 ha (21 000m²)
- 2.2. The site is zoned Agriculture, and is located outside the urban area of Mc Gregor.
- 3. This Directorate's comments are as follow:
- 3.1. Activity description
- 3.1.1. Page 13 of the draft BAR refers to the placement of irrigation pipelines. However, no details of what this will entail have been included in the activity description.
- 3.1.2. The activity description must include details of the proposed development and its associated infrastructure which must also be included in the site development plan.
- 3.1.3. Clarity must also be provided whether the proposed development will require the erection of shade netting.
- 3.2. Applicable listed activities
- 3.2.1. It is noted that Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be applied for.
- 3.2.2. According to the botanical specialist report, the vegetation found on the proposed site is classified as a least threatened ecosystem.
- 3.2.3. The applicability of the abovementioned listed activity must be confirmed in the BAR.

3.3. Proof of water rights

The dripper lines will be located above ground in the vineyard and will be between 16-20 mm in diameter and irrigation will be via dripper lines, PVC and HDPE pipes

The schematic diagram showing the proposed irrigation pipelines has been added to the BAR

No shade netting will be installed for either block.

This has been amended in the report. And therefore Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 is not applicable.

	 3.3.1. Page 20 of the draft BAR indicates that water rights for the proposed expansion is pending, and page 26 of the draft BAR indicates that the farm has existing water rights. Clarity must be provided whether additional water is required for the proposed development. 3.3.2. Should additional water be required, the water use license from the water authority must be obtained and included in the final BAR. 3.4. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. Please advise what the estimated duration of the construction phase will be. In addition, you are required to recommend and motivate the frequency at which the environmental audits must be conducted by an independent person. 3.5. In addition to the above, please ensure that the signed and dated applicant, Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") and Specialist declarations are also submitted with the final BAR for decision-making. 4. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw any comments or 	These sections have been amended in the report. The farm's existing water rights for groundwater abstraction 10863 m³ (Appendix J) are sufficient, and no additional water use license application (WULA) is required	
Rhett Smart (Cape Nature)	request further information from you based on any information received. Email dated 14 February 2025 Subject: Pre-Application BAR: Cultivation, Erf 1995, McGregor Dear Michelle Please find attached comment from CapeNature on the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for Proposed Cultivation Areas on Erf 1995, McGregor. Regards Rhett Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report for Proposed Cultivation Areas on Erf 1995, McGregor CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the		Date: 14/02/25

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.

Two cultivation blocks are proposed north of the existing cultivation on the property. The remaining natural area is mapped as Ecological Support Area 1 (ESA) in the current official version of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) as of 13 December 2024. This area was mapped as Other Natural in the previous 2017 version of the BSP. The vegetation present is Robertson Karoo listed as least concern. There are no freshwater features present on this section of the property.

The results from the screening tool indicate a medium sensitivity for animal species and plant species and low sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity. The site sensitivity verification report motivates that the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes are addressed in a botanical assessment. No aquatic biodiversity study was undertaken as there are no freshwater features on site and a study addressing the animal species theme is not considered necessary due to the existing disturbances surrounding the proposed cultivation areas and only a portion of the natural area will be developed. We recommend that the site sensitivity verification report should more closely reference the requirements of the protocols to align with the legislation. We are willing to accept the motivation regarding the fauna, but wish to note the camera trap data from the applicant website and that further reference should be made to the species listed in the screening tool.

The botanical assessment supports the mapping of the vegetation on site as Robertson Karoo, with the central section consisting of rocky areas with shallow soils and deeper soils elsewhere. Two plant species of conservation concern (SCCs) were recorded (vulnerable and near threatened), with a substantial population of the near threatened species on site.

The sensitivity mapping of the site maps a large proportion of the site as high sensitivity incorporating the rocky sections and the SCC populations with two patches of medium sensitivity in the west in the deeper soils and in the north in the historical mining area. We wish to query the brush-cut area mapped as high sensitivity, as the shrub cover would be impacted by the activity, although the geophytes and annual are enhanced as described.

This area is part of the proposed vineyards. It should be noted that mitigation measures such as

Two project alternatives are presented, with Alternative 1 consisting of two blocks in the south-west and south-east and Alternative 2 consisting of two blocks in the south-west and north. Only Alternative 1 is assessed in the botanical assessment and it is stated that the applicant is unwilling to consider other alternatives. The south-west block is in the medium sensitivity area and the south-east block is in the high sensitivity area.

The impact assessment rates the impact as medium negative significance both before and after mitigation. The mitigation measures proposed are ensuring no encroachment beyond the delineated boundaries and search and rescue of plant specimens with a focus on the near threatened species and another succulent species. We agree that these two mitigation measures will not reduce the significance level substantially. Although monitoring of post environmental authorisation conditions such as the success of search and rescue only occurs for a small proportion of cases, for those where it has taken place for search and rescue has revealed more failures than successes, even for growth forms considered more amenable to this mitigation (e.g. geophytes and succulents).

The residual significance after mitigation of medium significance is within the thresholds which require a biodiversity offset. However, the mitigation hierarchy is a core principle of biodiversity offsets that must be exercised before an offset can be considered. The conclusion of the botanical assessment states that if only the south-western block is cultivated the significance is reduced to low-medium which is below the offset thresholds. Alternative 2 was not assessed and was presumably developed after the botanical assessment was compiled.

The description of the alternatives in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) includes Alternative 2 as described above with both the proposed cultivation blocks in the medium sensitivity area. The impact significance associated with this alternative is provided in the BAR as low-medium significance, however we note that the impact rating was not assigned by the botanical specialist. Despite the higher impact on terrestrial biodiversity, the overall project preferred alternative is Alternative 1. The reason provided is that the soils are not suitable for cultivation for Alternative 2, thereby rendering this alternative unfeasible.

Offsets are discussed in the BAR under the section dealing with application of the mitigation hierarchy. It states that offsets are not applicable in terms of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (the guidelines) as the vegetation is

demarcation of the development area prior to construction, provided by the terrestrial specialist will be undertaken to prevent accidental damage to areas outside the approved development footprint.

Noted.

classified as least concern. In this regard, there are two methods of calculating the required offset ratios in accordance with the guidelines namely the threat status of the vegetation type and a combination of the remaining extent and protection level of the vegetation. The highest ratio for the two options should be selected. The look-up table in the appendix to the guidelines provides the basic offset ratios using this methodology for which Robertson Karoo is 0 for both. Criteria for adjustment of the ratio include the presence of CBAs, which are not present within the proposed cultivation areas. In terms of the basic ratio, we agree with the recommendation as stated above, however we recommend that the detail provided herewith is included in the BAR.

We do however wish to note the following from the guideline: "However, residual negative impacts on biodiversity cannot always be easily specified in terms of area. Residual negative impacts on species of conservation concern, ecological processes or ecosystem services, are examples of such instances. In those cases, the size of the biodiversity offset must be determined based on the advice of an appropriate specialist, or specialists (pg 34 Section 7.2)." As the proposed development will impact on an SCC, we recommend that further advice is obtained from the specialist.

A new preferred alternative was explored, which excludes the area mapped as habitat for plant species of conservation concern. Extract from the terrestrial biodiversity specialist: "The most obvious operational phase impact is likely to be increased habitat fragmentation and loss of current levels of terrestrial ecological connectivity across the cultivated parts of the currently natural study area. The overall intensity of this change is likely to be low in a regional context, as there will still be fairly good ecological connectivity in the central and northern part of the site. However, there is currently cultivation to the west, north and south of the site, so ecological connectivity in the overall study area has already been compromised and restricted.

The proposed cultivation will not result in the loss of any mapped CBAs, but most of it is mapped as ESA1 (Ecological Support Area).

The project is not likely to have a negative impact on ecological processes in the region, as it does not impact on any major ecological corridors, wetlands or climate change corridors."

Additionally, the vegetation type on the study area is Least Threatened

The conclusions and recommendations of the botanical assessment recommend

Note

that the applicant should make a donation to Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve managed by CapeNature. While this action will contribute towards biodiversity conservation it is not directly linked to the impacts associated with the proposed development and is not framed within the context of a biodiversity offset. Any donations in support of the nature reserve should therefore be considered independent of this application and will have no bearing on the outcome.

With regards to the investigation of alternatives, the motivation that Alternative 2 is not suitable must be supported by an agricultural potential study which must include a map of the agricultural potential across the site. We recommend that further alternatives must be investigated and presented to the botanical specialist for an impact assessment. The botanical specialist will need to advise regarding the need for biodiversity offsets with regards to the SCCs in accordance with the biodiversity offset guideline as quoted above, with the preferred option of avoidance of the SCC populations.

We further note the organic practices undertaken by landowner which fall broadly under the concept of conservation agriculture. While organic practices will not reduce the extent of habitat loss from cultivation it will reduce the edge effects and additional impacts as a result of cultivation. We recommend that information regarding the practices is presented to the botanical specialist as additional mitigation measures for consideration.

In conclusion, the following must be undertaken and presented before the application is considered further:

- Agricultural potential study including maps
- Additional feasible layout alternatives which reduce the residual impact.
- Updated botanical assessment assessing all feasible development layouts and the need for an offset due to the impact on SCCs.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

There is clear motivation on Section H of the BAR regarding the assessment of alternatives and other location are not practical of feasible for this type of development.

The mitigation measures recommended by the terrestrial biodiversity specialist involves demarcating of the approved development areas prior to site development so that no accidental disturbance outside the approved development areas should occur.

Refer to **Figure 3b** of the BAR for the areas surveyed on site.

There is clear motivation in Section H of the BAR regarding the assessment of alternatives and other location are not practical of feasible for this type of development

A new layout alternative with reduced botanical impact was explored.

The terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment was updated. The mitigation measures recommended by the terrestrial biodiversity specialist involves demarcating of the approved development areas

	Regards	prior to site development so that no accidental disturbance outside the approved development areas should occur.	
Cor Van der Walt (DoA)	Email dated 16 April 2025	Noted	Date: 16/04/25
	PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL VINEYARD BLOCKS: DIVISION ROBERTSON ERF NO 1995		
	Your application of 15 January 2025 has reference.		
	The Western Cape 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.		

8. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING DRAFT / PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

From: Tracy Brunings <tbrunings@langeberg.gov.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 17:52

To: michelle@lornay.co.za

Subject: RE: Notice of Public participation | Erf 1995, McGregor, Robertson RD, Langeberg Municipality Dear

Hello Michelle,

I confirm the zoning as Agricultural Zone I in terms of the Langeberg Integrated Zoning Scheme, 2018.

There is no objection to the proposal from a land use planning point of view.

Kind regards, Tracy Brunings Pr.Pln A/951/1997 MANAGER: TOWN PLANNING TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT



3 Piet Retief Street, MONTAGU 6720

Tel: 023 614 8001 🖈 tbrunings@langeberg.gov.za www.langeberg.gov.za (Website)



A. Corner Mountain Mill & Eastlake Road. Worcester, Western Cape. South Africa 6850

T. 023 346 8000

E. info@bocma.co.za

W. www.breedegouritzcma.co.za

Lornay Environmental Consulting PO Box 1990 Hermanus 7200 michelle@lornay.co.za

Attention: Michelle Naylor

COMMENTS: DRAFT PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESMENT REPORT ERF 1995, MCGREGOR, ROBERTSON RD.

The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) has received the application notification as indicated above on 16 January 2025.

BOCMA has assessed the information provided and supports the proposed development with subject to the following:

- According to WARMS the are registered water uses for groundwater abstraction of 10863m³ per year only.
- No water use in excess of the lawful water use may be used within the properties without authorisation by the responsible authority.
- 3. The proposed Vineyards should be at least 100m away from the foot of the dam.

General conditions:

- All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998(Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to.
- No water must be taken from a water resource for any purpose without authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
- No pollution of surface water or groundwater resources may occur.

Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorizations where needed from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorisation for.

This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries. Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so.

Yours faithfully,

JAN VAN STADEN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ACTING)

1



Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Tarryn Mouries | Melanses Schippers

Directorate: Development Management Region 1

Directorate: Development Management, Region 1 Melanese.Schippers@westerncape.gov.za

Tel: 021 483 8349

REFERENCE: 16/3/3//6/7/1/B1/10/1304/24

DATE OF ISSUE: 14 February 2025

The Proponent Imperative Link Trade 22 CC PO Box 662 EAST LONDON 5256

Attention: Mr. Alwyn Llewellyn Krull Cell: 082 854 3617

E-mail: johan@barvallei.co.za

Dear Sir,

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR PROPOSED CULTIVATION BLOCKS FOR VINEYARDS ON ERF 1995, MC GREGOR.

- The electronic copy of the Draft BAR and associated documents received by the Directorate on 16 January 2025 and this Directorate's acknowledgement thereof dated 24 January 2025, refer.
- Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, the following is noted:
 - The proposal entails the clearance of indigenous vegetation for the proposed establishment of vineyards on Erf 1995, Mc Gregor.
 - Block 1 is approximately 1.7 ha (17 000m²)
 - Block 2 is approximately 2.1 ha (21 000m²)
 - 2.2. The site is zoned Agriculture, and is located outside the urban area of Mc Gregor.
- This Directorate's comments are as follow:
 - 3.1. Activity description
 - 3.1.1. Page 13 of the draft BAR refers to the placement of irrigation pipelines. However, no details of what this will entail have been included in the activity description.
 - 3.1.2. The activity description must include details of the proposed development and its associated infrastructure which must also be included in the site development plan.

•

- Clarity must also be provided whether the proposed development will require the erection of shade netting.
- 3.2. Applicable listed activities
 - 3.2.1. It is noted that Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) will be applied for.
 - 3.2.2. According to the botanical specialist report, the vegetation found on the proposed site is classified as a least threatened ecosystem.
 - The applicability of the abovementioned listed activity must be confirmed in the BAR.
- 3.3. Proof of water rights
 - 3.3.1. Page 20 of the draft BAR indicates that water rights for the proposed expansion is pending, and page 26 of the draft BAR indicates that the farm has existing water rights. Clarity must be provided whether additional water is required for the proposed development.
 - 3.3.2. Should additional water be required, the water use license from the water authority must be obtained and included in the final BAR.
- 3.4. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. Please advise what the estimated duration of the construction phase will be. In addition, you are required to recommend and motivate the frequency at which the environmental audits must be conducted by an independent person.
- 3.5. In addition to the above, please ensure that the signed and dated applicant, Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") and Specialist declarations are also submitted with the final BAR for decision-making.
- This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw any comments or request further information from you based on any information received.

Yours faithfully,

Melanese Digitally signed by Melanese Schippers Date: 2025.02.14 09:42.17 +02'00'

PP HEAD OF COMPONENT

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT: REGION 1

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Ms. Michelle Naylor (Lomay Environmental Consultanting) (2) Ms. Tracey Brunings (Langeberg Municipality) Email: michell@lornay.co.za Email: tbruninas@langeberg.gov.za





CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE: SOUTH

postal 16 17th Avenue, Voëlklip, Hermanus, 7200 physical 16 17th Avenue, Voëlklip, Hermanus, 7200

website www.capenature.co.za enquiries Rhett Smart telephone 087 087 8017

email rsmart@capenature.co.za

reference LS14/2/6/1/9/1/1995_cultivation_McGregor

date 14 February 2025

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 Proposed Cultivation Areas on Erf 1995, McGregor

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.

Two cultivation blocks are proposed north of the existing cultivation on the property. The remaining natural area is mapped as Ecological Support Area I (ESA) in the current official version of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) as of 13 December 2024. This area was mapped as Other Natural in the previous 2017 version of the BSP. The vegetation present is Robertson Karoo listed as least concern. There are no freshwater features present on this section of the property.

The results from the screening tool indicate a medium sensitivity for animal species and plant species and low sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity and aquatic biodiversity. The site sensitivity verification report motivates that the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species themes are addressed in a botanical assessment. No aquatic biodiversity study was undertaken as there are no freshwater features on site and a study addressing the animal species theme is not considered necessary due to the existing disturbances surrounding the proposed cultivation areas and only a portion of the natural area will be developed. We recommend that the site sensitivity verification report should more closely reference the requirements of the protocols to align with the legislation. We are willing to accept the motivation regarding the fauna, but wish to note the camera trap data from the applicant website and that further reference should be made to the species listed in the screening tool.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature

Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Tom Blok, Mr Mervyn Burton, Ms Reyhana Gani, Dr Colin Johnson, Ms Ayanda Mvandaba, Prof Nicolaas Olivier, Mr Paul Slack

The botanical assessment supports the mapping of the vegetation on site as Robertson Karoo, with the central section consisting of rocky areas with shallow soils and deeper soils elsewhere. Two plant species of conservation concern (SCCs) were recorded (vulnerable and near threatened), with a substantial population of the near threatened species on site.

The sensitivity mapping of the site maps a large proportion of the site as high sensitivity incorporating the rocky sections and the SCC populations with two patches of medium sensitivity in the west in the deeper soils and in the north in the historical mining area. We wish to query the brush-cut area mapped as high sensitivity, as the shrub cover would be impacted by the activity, although the geophytes and annual are enhanced as described.

Two project alternatives are presented, with Alternative I consisting of two blocks in the south-west and south-east and Alternative 2 consisting of two blocks in the south-west and north. Only Alternative I is assessed in the botanical assessment and it is stated that the applicant is unwilling to consider other alternatives. The south-west block is in the medium sensitivity area and the south-east block is in the high sensitivity area.

The impact assessment rates the impact as medium negative significance both before and after mitigation. The mitigation measures proposed are ensuring no encroachment beyond the delineated boundaries and search and rescue of plant specimens with a focus on the near threatened species and another succulent species. We agree that these two mitigation measures will not reduce the significance level substantially. Although monitoring of post environmental authorisation conditions such as the success of search and rescue only occurs for a small proportion of cases, for those where it has taken place for search and rescue has revealed more failures than successes, even for growth forms considered more amenable to this mitigation (e.g. geophytes and succulents).

The residual significance after mitigation of medium significance is within the thresholds which require a biodiversity offset. However, the mitigation hierarchy is a core principle of biodiversity offsets that must be exercised before an offset can be considered. The conclusion of the botanical assessment states that if only the south-western block is cultivated the significance is reduced to low-medium which is below the offset thresholds. Alternative 2 was not assessed and was presumably developed after the botanical assessment was compiled.

The description of the alternatives in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) includes Alternative 2 as described above with both the proposed cultivation blocks in the medium sensitivity area. The impact significance associated with this alternative is provided in the BAR as low-medium significance, however we note that the impact rating was not assigned by the botanical specialist. Despite the higher impact on terrestrial biodiversity, the overall project preferred alternative is Alternative 1. The reason provided is that the soils are not suitable for cultivation for Alternative 2, thereby rendering this alternative unfeasible.

Offsets are discussed in the BAR under the section dealing with application of the mitigation hierarchy. It states that offsets are not applicable in terms of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (the guidelines) as the vegetation is classified as least concern. In this regard, there are two methods of calculating the required offset ratios in accordance with the guidelines namely the threat status of the vegetation type and a combination of the remaining extent and protection level of the vegetation. The highest ratio for the two options should be selected. The look-up table in the appendix to the guidelines provides the basic offset ratios using this methodology for which Robertson Karoo is 0 for both. Criteria for adjustment of the ratio include the presence of CBAs, which are not present within the proposed cultivation areas. In terms of the basic ratio, we agree with the recommendation as stated above, however we recommend that the detail provided herewith is included in the BAR.

We do however wish to note the following from the guideline: "However, residual negative impacts on biodiversity cannot always be easily specified in terms of area. Residual negative impacts on species of conservation concern, ecological processes or ecosystem services, are examples of such instances. In those cases, the size of the biodiversity offset must be determined based on the advice of an appropriate specialist, or specialists (pg 34 Section 7.2)." As the proposed development will impact on an SCC, we recommend that further advice is obtained from the specialist.

The conclusions and recommendations of the botanical assessment recommend that the applicant should make a donation to Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve managed by CapeNature. While this action will contribute towards biodiversity conservation it is not directly linked to the impacts associated with the proposed development and is not framed within the context of a biodiversity offset. Any donations in support of the nature reserve should therefore be considered independent of this application and will have no bearing on the outcome.

With regards to the investigation of alternatives, the motivation that Alternative 2 is not suitable must be supported by an agricultural potential study which must include a map of the agricultural potential across the site. We recommend that further alternatives must be investigated and presented to the botanical specialist for an impact assessment. The botanical specialist will need to advise regarding the need for biodiversity offsets with regards to the SCCs in accordance with the biodiversity offset guideline as quoted above, with the preferred option of avoidance of the SCC populations.

We further note the organic practices undertaken by landowner which fall broadly under the concept of conservation agriculture. While organic practices will not reduce the extent of habitat loss from cultivation it will reduce the edge effects and additional impacts as a result of cultivation. We recommend that information regarding the practices is presented to the botanical specialist as additional mitigation measures for consideration.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature

Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Tom Blok, Mr Mervyn Burton, Ms Reyhana

Gani, Dr Colin Johnson, Ms Ayanda Mvandaba, Prof Nicolaas Olivier, Mr Paul Slack

In conclusion, the following must be undertaken and presented before the application is considered further:

- Agricultural potential study including maps
- · Additional feasible layout alternatives which reduce the residual impact
- Updated botanical assessment assessing all feasible development layouts and the need for an offset due to the impact on SCCs

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Regards

Rhett Smart

RSmart

For: Manager: Landscape Conservation Intelligence South



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OUR REFERENCE : 20/9/2/5/5/369

YOUR REFERENCE : E-1995

DEA&DP REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B1/10/1304/24

ENQUIRIES : Cor van der Walt

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

Att: Michelle Naylor

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL VINEYARD BLOCKS: DIVISION ROBERTSON ERF NO 1995

Your application of 15 January 2025 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

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2025-04-04



