



LORNAY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

PROOF OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

28 August 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).

Three rounds of Public Participation have been provided:

1. PPP 1 – Out of process
2. PPP2 – In Process
3. PPP3 – 50 Day extension PPP

OUT OF PROCESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PPP1

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	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Land Management Cor van Der Walt Private Bag x 1 Elsenburg 7607

8012

021 430 7034

michellePR@daff.gov.za

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

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

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

GDA Authorisation

For Att. X. Myanga

xmyanga@dffe.gov.za

RMolale@dffe.gov.za

Cape Nature Head office Lease agreement

accounts@capenature.co.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

DFFE 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

Whale Coast Conservation

Att: Pat Miller

Chair: Whale Coast Conservation

Tel: (028) 313-0093

pat.miller7@outlook.com

Ward Councillor 2

Ald A Nqinata

nnqinata@overstrand.gov.za

Overstrand Heritage & Aesthetics Committee

Att: E. A Lowings

elowings@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 first round of public participation, 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 of PPP1 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.Geldenhuis@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. Geldenhuis
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., IAIAAs

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

6. NOTICEBOARDS

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



7. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING DRAFT / PRE-APPLICATION PPP 1



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., IAIA

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

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



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

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 LS14/2/6/1/7/2/711-2_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 Collin 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 gazettement 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 (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.

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 Coetsee
Digitally signed by
Marbe Coetsee
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
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

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

<u>Copies:</u>	
Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning	Theewaterskloof Municipality
1 Dorp Street	PO Box 24
Cape Town	CALEDON
8000	7230

IN PROCESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PPP 2

8. REGISTER OF I&APS

REGISTERED I&APs

WC Government Env Affairs & Dev Planning

Development Management

D'mitri Matthews
Registry Office
1st Floor, Utilitas Buidling
1 Dorp Street
8001

Cape Nature

Rhett Smart
rsmart@capenature.co.za

Overstrand Municipality

Chester Arendse
PO Box 26
gbenvironmental@overstrand.gov.za

National Department of Public Works

Director General
Frederick Johnson
Priavte Bag x65
Pretoria
0001
frederick.johnson@dpw.gov.za
02 1402 2338
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

WC Government Env Affairs & Dev Planning

Overberg District Municipality

F. Kotze / R. Volschenk
Private Bag x 22
Bredasdorp
7280
F. Kotze
Email
rvolschenk@odm.org.za

National Department of Public Works

Chief Town Planner
Basson Geldenhuys
National Dept of Public Works
Cape Town Regional Office
Room 1419, Customs House
Lower Heerengraght Street, cape Town
Basson.Geldenhuys@dpw.gov.za
021 404 2174
Letter

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

Spatial Planning & Coastal Impact Mgmt

Mercia Liddle / Lynn Jacobs
Registry Office
1st Floor, Utilitas Buidling
1 Dorp Street
8001
021 483 3370
Mercia.Liddle@westerncape.gov.za

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@dfpe.gov.za
RMolale@dfpe.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
Sheraine van Wyk
IAPs

Erf 70

Bolus Family Trust
Cr MGM Bolus
bolusmgm@telkomsa.net

David Mostert

david@romansbaai.co.za

Paul Slabbert - PHS Consulting

paul@phsconsulting.co.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

Additional DFFE contacts as per Michelle Pretorius request

FDaya@dfpe.gov.za
MJezile@dfpe.gov.za
AOsborne@dfpe.gov.za

9. NOTICE OF PPP 2

In process public participation was undertaken and all registered I&AP's and Organs of State were notified of their commenting opportunity:



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 In Process 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: Aquion (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, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19A, 27, 30, 34, 41, 43, 45, 46, 52, 54
- **Listing Notice 3 (GN R985):** Activities 12

A copy of the In Process 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 **21 May 2025 to 23 June 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*

10. PROOF OF NOTICE OF PPP2

michelle@lornay.co.za

From: michelle@lornay.co.za
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 11:32
To: Dmitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za; Cor Van der Walt; 'Brandon Layman'; Rulien Volschenk; carendse@overstrand.gov.za; 'gbenvironmental@overstrand.gov.za'; Penelope Aplon; 'frederick.johnson@dpw.gov.za'; Basson.Geldenhuis@dpw.gov.za; 'MPretorius@dffe.gov.za'; Rhett Smart; 'Pat Miller'; 'Sheraine Van Wyk'; 'Vanessa.Stoffels@westerncape.gov.za'; 'Mercia J Liddle'; 'RMolale@dffe.gov.za'; 'fditinti@environment.gov.za'; 'FDaya@dffe.gov.za'; 'MJezele@dffe.gov.za'; 'AOsborne@dffe.gov.za'; 'nnqinata@overstrand.gov.za'
Cc: DEADP EIA Admin
Subject: Notice of IN-PROCESS NEMA PPP | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm, Gansbaai
Attachments: Notice of In Process PPP 210525.pdf

Dear Organ of State and / I&AP,

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM, PORTION 2 OF 711, GANSBAAI, CALEDON RD
DEA&DP Ref No. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23**

DEA&DP Development Management – D. Matthews
DOA – C. van Der Walt
DOA – B. Layman
Overberg District Municipality – R. Volschenk
Overstrand Municipality – C. Arendse / P. Aplon
DPW – F. Johnson / B. Geldenhuis
DFFE Sustainable Aquaculture – M. Pretorius
Cape Nature – R. Smart
Whale Coast Conservation – P. Miller
Dept. Transport & PW – V. Stoffels
DEA&DP CMU – M. Liddle / I. Bekko
DFFE GDA – R. Molale
DFFE Coastal Conservation Strategies – F. Dintini
DFFE - FDaya@dffe.gov.za
DFFE - MJezele@dffe.gov.za
DFFE - AOsborne@dffe.gov.za
Ward Councillor - nnqinata@overstrand.gov.za

Please see attached notice of in-process public participation on the above-mentioned BAR.
Closing date for comment: 23 June 2025

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

Kind regards

michelle@lornay.co.za

From: michelle@lornay.co.za
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 11:33
To: 'bolusmgm@telkomsa.net'; 'david@romansbaai.co.za'
Subject: Notice of IN-PROCESS NEMA PPP | Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm, Gansbaai
Attachments: Notice of In Process PPP 210525.pdf

Dear Organ of State and / I&AP,

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM, PORTION 2 OF 711, GANSBAAI, CALEDON RD
DEA&DP Ref No. 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23**

Please see attached notice of in-process public participation on the above-mentioned BAR.

Closing date for comment: 23 June 2025

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., IAIAAs

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

You are receiving communication from us for professional reasons or as an identified Interested and Affected Party only.
The Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) requires that we protect your information and that we obtain your consent to communicate with you in the future.

If you wish to be removed from any data list, please state so and we will remove your details.

Note that we will only use your personal information in a confidential and professional manner relating to this specific project.

11. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PPP 2



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 LS14/2/8/1/7/2/711-2_aquaculture_Gansbaai
date 23 June 2025

Lornay Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 1990
Hermanus
7200

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

Dear Ms Naylor

Draft 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.

Additional specialist studies have been undertaken, and the botanical assessment has been amended in accordance with the comments provided on the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report (BAR). The need for a biodiversity offset has been evaluated.

Botanical Assessment

The botanical assessment has updated the desktop mapping to include mention of the updated 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) and the draft updates in the beta National Vegetation Map. The 2023 BSP is considered more accurate for this site with the affected area mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA) and the determination that draft change of the vegetation mapping from Overberg Dune Strandveld (endangered) to Southwestern Strandveld (not assessed) does not have any effect on the assessment or recommendations.

The motivation for not calculating the site ecological importance (SEI) is noted. We wish to advise that the recommendation is in accordance with the protocols which state for terrestrial plant species specialist assessment that "2.3. The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline". The Species Environmental Assessment Guideline refer to a "a standardised metric for identifying site-based ecological importance for species" which is the SEI. The constraints related to quantitative data and level of accuracy within the scope of a specialist study

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as CapeNature

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for a Basic Assessment process are however acknowledged and an estimate would be accepted. The estimated percentage of the global population for each of the Species (Taxa) of Conservation Concern (SCCs) within the development footprint are presented each of which is estimated to be <1%.

The revised botanical assessment assessed the development alternatives which were presented in the Pre-Application BAR, as the previous version of the botanical assessment assessed a different layout. However, the layouts as indicated in the botanical assessment are not the same as those included within the Pre-Application BAR. The extent of the solar array is much larger than that indicated in Appendix B2 which was the previously preferred alternative. The extent of the solar array for the new preferred layout is also much larger than the previous preferred layout. The layout plans have the logo of the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP), therefore it is not evident that these are not the layout plans designed by the project team with accurate delineation. The lack of accurate and consistent layout plans for each alternative for evaluation by the specialists and authorities is a concern.

To more clearly illustrate the inaccurate spatial delineation of the layouts we wish to refer to the previous preferred layout and current preferred layout below (Figures 1&2). As a reference, the solar array is presented as 4 ha/40 000 m² for both alternatives, however is spatially much larger in the current layout. The total footprint for the current preferred layout is much smaller (6.9 ha) than the previous preferred layout (9.6 ha), however this is not evident from the spatial depiction (footprints as stated in the BAR).



Figure 1: Preferred layout for the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report. Note the small extent of the solar array relative to the existing structures and relevant landmarks.



Figure 2: Preferred layout for the Draft Basic Assessment Report. Note the large extent of the solar array relative to the existing structures and relevant landmarks.

Notwithstanding the above, the revised botanical assessment assessed the purported alternatives presented in the Pre-Application BAR, although it is not known which of the two spatial depictions is accurate/more accurate. With regards to the location of the SCCs, Alternative 1 is preferred as Phase 2 of the expansion area for Alternative 2 impacted on all the SCCs but Phase 2 for Alternative 1 impacted on none. Alternative 1 was not the preferred alternative in the Pre-Application BAR. In the impact assessment, Phase 2 is rated as medium negative for Alternative 2 as it was for the initial layout, however for Alternative 1 it is reduced to low negative. The location of the seawater reservoir remains the same for all alternatives and therefore remains medium-high negative. The residual impact significance therefore remains above the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, although it is motivated that an alien clearing offset is preferred to securing more of the same vegetation type according to the offset ratios.

An addendum to the botanical assessment is provided which evaluates the current preferred alternative. This would align to Figure 2 above, although no diagrams are provided in the addendum therefore it cannot be certain which layout was presented to the botanical specialist. The addendum only refers to the reduction in the footprint size of the revised layout as indicated in the Draft BAR. The reduction is assumed to be a reduced version of Alternative 2 and as a result, Phase 2 is reduced to low-medium negative and the seawater reservoir to medium negative. Medium negative is still within the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, however it is motivated that a smaller quantum is required compared to the previous preferred alternative.

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In response to the queries regarding the previous approval for expansion, confirmation is provided that the proposed expansion area does not encroach into the milkwood thicket or limestone outcrop. Appendix K includes an audit of the existing EA with no findings of non-compliance. Confirmation is provided that there are adequate design and mitigation measures to prevent the potential impact of discharge of saline water from the seawater reservoir into the natural habitat. Confirmation is also provided that the mitigation measures for the solar array will be implemented, including retention of indigenous vegetation under the solar panels. The measure included in the Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPr) is that the vegetation under the solar panels will be maintained at a height of between 30 cm and 100 cm.

Terrestrial Animal Compliance Statement

The terrestrial animal compliance statement was undertaken in accordance with CapeNature comments. A field survey of the site was undertaken with 11 locality points indicated with associated photographs. Three main faunal habitats were identified, namely natural fynbos, short disturbed fynbos pasture and built-up areas, the latter consisting of the existing development footprint on site. All faunal species which were observed on site are listed with occurrence records in the three habitats, and with the largest percentage consisting of birds.

A total of 7 SCCs were flagged in the screening tool as high or medium sensitivity. None of these species were observed on site. One additional species (Cape dwarf chameleon – *Bradypodion pumilum*) was added based on desktop information. Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*) and Cape dwarf chameleon are considered to potentially occur on site, however none of the species flagged are assessed to potentially experience an impact of higher than low significance.

There was only one SCC observed on site, namely bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*), although more accurately a subspecies of conservation concern. Bontebok is a large mammal game species, and the species was almost certainly introduced to the property along with other game species. The only other game species referred to in the animal species compliance statement is the Burchell's zebra (plains zebra), although the botanical assessment also referred to eland and springbuck. The bontebok was only found on the short, disturbed fynbos pasture.

Although bontebok have been introduced there is a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the subspecies, for which the aim is to manage the meta-population with the subpopulations mainly consisting of introductions due to the inability for natural dispersal within the natural distribution range since it is occupied mainly by intensive agriculture farms. According to the BMP, the property is within the natural distribution range of the species however the map doesn't indicate a population record at the site location (Cowell & Birss 2017). Historically the subspecies occurred in a roughly triangular area between Elgin and Heidelberg and south to the Breede River mouth, Cape Agulhas and the Bot River Estuary (Skead 2011). The preferred habitat of the species does not however correlate the primary strandveld habitat occurring across the site, but rather the managed pasture areas for this site (it primarily occurred within renosterveld). As a result of the BMP and the

management of the meta-population within the natural distribution range, bontebok should be included as one of the taxa assessed.

The recommendation of the terrestrial animal species compliance statement is that the development proposal is acceptable as the impacts are of low or very low significance, and the preferred alternative which will result in the least clearance of vegetation is preferred. As mentioned, bontebok should also be included in the assessment and the habitat suitability should also be taken into account. It should be noted that the brush-cutting of vegetation under the solar panels is likely to favour the bontebok, unless the solar panels act as a behavioural deterrent for the species. Compliance with provincial legislation with regards to game is separate from this process.

Coastal and Marine Impact Report

A coastal and marine impact report has been compiled to address impacts on the coastal and marine environment, which as CapeNature highlighted is not addressed within the screening tool. The study identified several impacts in both the construction and operational phase and each impact is assessed. The impacts during the construction phase are: disturbance to coastal habitat; blasting; vehicle and pedestrian traffic; erosion and turbidity; and during the operational phase: abstraction of seawater; discharge of effluent; genetic impacts and disease; and disturbance during maintenance. Some of these impacts are rated as high or medium significance prior to mitigation, however all can be reduced to low significance after mitigation. There are a number of mitigation measures proposed all of which must be considered essential and included in the EMPr.

While the impact assessment of the coastal and marine impact report is considered comprehensive, there is no description provided regarding the coastal habitat which will be affected. With regards to the National Biodiversity Assessment coastal ecosystem types, the ecosystem at the location of the pump station is Agulhas Exposed Rocky Shore. The location is classified as CBA Restore as reflected on the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) Coastal Viewer (NMU 2023). It does however appear that the development footprint has already been disturbed by the existing infrastructure.

Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment

The biodiversity offset applicability assessment provides an overview of the botanical and animal species studies. We wish to note that biodiversity offsets can also be applicable to the coastal and marine environment, and we are aware of at least one precedent which was investigated, but would not be relevant in this case. The only residual impact after mitigation which is of medium negative significance or higher and therefore within the threshold for a biodiversity offset is the loss of terrestrial habitat for the proposed seawater reservoir.

The study refers to the conclusions of the botanical assessment regarding the proposed offset, which states that the affected vegetation type, Overberg Dune Strandveld, is already well conserved and

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there is a large remaining extent, however the main threat is alien invasive species. It is therefore motivated that conserving more of this vegetation type will have less of a positive outcome for biodiversity than implementing an offset targeted at clearing alien invasive species. The conclusion provided is that a biodiversity offset is not applicable for this site.

By applying the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines, CapeNature does not support this conclusion. Firstly, the biodiversity offset applicability assessment has not demonstrated detailed investigation of the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimize, mitigate/restore and only then investigate an offset for the residual impact if it is of medium significance or higher. The primary flaw in this regard is the inconsistent and inaccurate layout plans provided which have not permitted an accurate determination of the options of avoid and minimize. The layout plans need to be provided by the project engineers and architects with detailed plans that would also be submitted to the Overstrand Municipality for building plan approval. The plans should include co-ordinates of the development components.

Should it still be confirmed that a biodiversity offset is required after a detailed investigation of the alternatives with accurate detailed layout plans, the biodiversity offset must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines. While the motivation provided by the botanical specialist that alien clearing would be the best option is backed by sound logic, the offset would still need to be framed within the context of the guidelines and be supported by the best available science – an arbitrary financial contribution towards alien clearing would not be supported. We also wish to note that there should be sufficient natural habitat remaining on the property should an on-site offset be considered.

Conclusion

CapeNature does not support the Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment and wishes to raise concern regarding the inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the layout plans for the alternatives presented in both Appendix B and the specialist studies. The layout plans should be provided by the project team as would be submitted for the building plans. A thorough investigation of the mitigation hierarchy must be undertaken using the accurate layout plans and if a biodiversity offset is required, it must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines.

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

Regards



Rhett Smart

For: Manager: Landscape Conservation Intelligence South

cc. Thandeka Mabena, CapeNature
D'mitri Matthews, DEA&DP

References

Cowell, C.R. and Birss, C. 2017. Biodiversity Management Plan for The Bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) in South Africa. Unpublished Report, jointly developed by South African National Parks, CapeNature and the National Department of Environmental Affairs. Version 1.0

Skead, C.J. 2011. Historical Incidence of the Larger Land Mammals in the broader Western and Northern Cape. Second Edition (eds: Boshoff, A.F., Kerley, G.I.H. & Lloyd, P.H.), Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth

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**Western Cape
Government**

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: 16/3/3/1/E2/10/1035/25

DATE: 26 June 2025

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

Attention: Mr. R. Yearsley

Tel.: (028) 312 1106

Email: rowan@aqunio.co.za

Dear Sir

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 19 May 2025, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 20 May 2025, refers.
2. Following review of the information submitted this Directorate notes the following:

- 2.1 The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following:

Description	Volume	Size (m²)
New production area/ grow out	150 tons (wet weight)	20000
Line seawater reservoir	41 000 m³	8000
Solar array	4MW	40000
Pumphouse		140
4 additional pipelines		1200
Total development footprint		69 340 (6.9 ha)

3. This Directorate as the following comments on the draft BAR:
 - 3.1 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).
 - 3.2 The issues highlighted by CapeNature must be addressed, especially their comments regarding the requirement for a biodiversity offset must be addressed
 - 3.3 A Georeferenced map of all the proposed components for the expansion must be provided for the preferred alternative.



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Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

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

Marbe
pp **Coetzee**
Digitally signed by
Marbe Coetzee
Date: 2025.06.26
14:16:36 +0200

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

OVERBERG

DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
UMASIPALA WESITHILI



MELD ASB/PLEASE QUOTE

Ons Verw./Our Ref.: 18/5/5/4

Navrae/Enquiries: Francois Kotze

Bylyn/Ext.:

Privaatsak: X22
Private Bag:
BREDASDORP
7280
Tel: (028) 4251157
Faks/Fax: (028) 4251014
E-mail/E-pos: rvolschenk@odm.org.za

23 June 2025

LORNAY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

PO Box 1990
HERMANUS
7200

For attention: Michelle Naylor

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

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

The Environmental Management Services Department of the Overberg District Municipality acknowledges receipt and review of the draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme.

According to the 2017 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP), the majority of the property is designated as an *Other Natural Area (ONA)*, while a smaller portion within the demarcated zone for photovoltaic (PV) development is classified as a *Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)*. However recently the WCBSP has been reviewed and the area is now categorise as CBA.

The Overberg District Municipality's Spatial Development Framework clearly define Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs) to reflect how the area should be developed spatially to ensure sustainability. These SPCs are linked with the Biodiversity Spatial Plan Categories as defined in the WCBSP.

Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are designated as *Core 1* under the Spatial Planning Categories. The primary management objective for these areas is to maintain them in a natural or near-natural state, ensuring no further loss of natural habitat. Where degradation has occurred, restoration efforts should be undertaken. Only low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive land uses are considered appropriate within these zones.

Alle korrespondensie moet aan die Munisipale Bestuurder gerig word.
All correspondence must be addressed to the Municipal Manager

Other Natural Areas (ONAs) fall under the *Buffer 2* category, where the focus is on minimizing habitat and species loss while preserving ecosystem functionality through strategic, landscape-level planning.

The proposed development is located within the Overberg Dune Strandveld, an ecosystem officially classified as *Endangered*. According to the Overberg District Municipality's Spatial Development Framework, the preservation of vulnerable ecosystems must be a key consideration. Mitigation measures recommended in specialist reports, aimed at conserving areas of ecological significance, are supported. Further expansion that could place species of conservation concern at greater risk should not be pursued.

In accordance with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (2004) and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (1983), landowners are legally obligated to manage invasive species present on their properties. As part of effective mitigation, all listed alien and invasive species must be removed, followed by routine maintenance to prevent regrowth. To safeguard sensitive ecosystems from further degradation, a comprehensive alien vegetation management plan should be developed and implemented across the entire property.

The Overberg District Municipality reserves the right to amend its comments and to request further information should any additional relevant documentation or details become available.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. BOSMAN', is written over a horizontal line.

R. BOSMAN
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Branch: Fisheries Management, Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management, Private Bag X2, Valseburg, Cape Town, 8018
Tel: +27 21 402 3911

Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/1/E2/10/1628/23

Enquiries: Alexis Osborne

Tel+27 21 402 3672 Email: EnvironAssessments@dfre.gov.za

Lornay Environmental Consulting
Unit F, Hemel en Aarde Valley
Hermanus
7200
Email: michelle@lornay.co.za

Dear Michelle Naylor

**RE: APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON
REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE.**

The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Basic Assessment Report and associated reports for the Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm on Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Gansbaai, Western Cape.

The comments of the DFFE are as follows:

1. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate for the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to be included for further communication go forward.
2. Under SECTION C: LEGISLATION/POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES/PROTOCOL: 4 Policies (Page 24-25), the *National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)* and its associated regulations, as well as the *Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA)*, have been omitted from the list of key legislation applicable to the operation. Please ensure that the MLRA, along with the relevant policies must include that are applicable for Marine Aquaculture permit and Right. The applicant must submit the revised and approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) (Reference: EMP/RB/Rev3) to the DFFE Sub-Directorate: Aquaculture Authorisations for monitoring and record-keeping purposes.
3. Precautions must be taken to ensure that incoming seawater remains uncontaminated during construction activities near or upstream of the intake, particularly in relation to the pumphouse



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

**RE: APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON
REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI**

expansion. Disturbance of sediments in this area may release heavy metals and other pollutants. Additionally, effluent discharge must be carefully managed to prevent cross-contamination with the intake water, considering nearshore current dynamics.

4. The applicant must ensure that the lined seawater reservoir proposed as part of the expansion does not introduce harmful chemicals from the lining materials, which could pose risks to food safety and/or aquatic animal health. Additionally, the design should prevent the formation of dead zones (i.e. areas with poor water circulation) that could promote the growth of pathogenic microorganisms, leading to further challenges.
5. The DFFE further notes that the proposed expansion will increase the farming production by 150 tons (wet weight) of abalone annually, however, it is important that the expansion includes additional hygiene management, biosecurity controls, staff training, and waste management to prevent risks associated with over stocking, cross-contamination, and pathogen proliferation.
6. The installation of a 4 MW solar array is supported as it enhances the sustainability of the farm's operations and reduces reliance on grid-supplied electricity. This measure aligns with best practice in sustainable aquaculture infrastructure design and management.
7. EMP: 10.1.6 Waste – The drafting of a Site-specific Waste Management Plan is supported, and it is advised that prior approval be obtained from the Local Municipality for disposal of biological waste and also ensure that Marine Aquaculture permit conditions are followed whenever there is mass mortality on the farm and that this is reported the DFFE accordingly.

The Directorate supports the proposed expansion in principle, provided that the applicant commits to enhanced environmental management, robust biosecurity controls, and the mitigation of risks to marine and coastal systems. Ongoing monitoring and compliance with environmental authorisation conditions will be critical to ensuring that the expansion contributes positively to the sustainable growth of aquaculture in the region.

Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contacts provided at the top of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Ms Fatima Daya
ACTING DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT
DATE: 13 June 2025

IN PROCESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PPP 2

A third and final round of public participation was conducted during the 50-day extension period as required in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations.

12. NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PPP 3



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 In Process 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 and 16/3/3/1/E2/10/1035/25

LORNAY REF: RB/D1

APPLICANT: Aquinion (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, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19A, 27, 30, 34, 41, 43, 45, 46, 52, 54
- Listing Notice 3 (GN R985): Activities 12

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has granted a 50-day extension to the legislated process and as per the requirements, an additional 30 day commenting period must be provided.

A copy of the In Process Basic Assessment Report is available for public review and download on our website, or upon request. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register and/or submit written comments on the application during/within the extended public participation period, which will run from 29 August 2025 to 01 October 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
✉ mail: 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

13. PROOF OF NOTICE OF PPP 3

To be added

14. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PPP 3

To be added

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

A Register was opened during the first round of public participation and updated throughout the public participation process.

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:
Out of Process PPP 1						
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 Actions: Submit to Heritage Western Cape.	
David Mostert	Private			david@mosterts.co.za	Email dated 10 October 2024 Subject: Re: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD Morning Michelle Please register the Romansbaai HOA as an "Interested and affected party" Thanks David	10 October 2024
Dr MGM	Erf 70			bolusmgm@telko.co.za	Email dated 10 October Subject: RE: Notice of Public Participation Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm Ptn RE2/711, Gansbaai, Caledon RD Dear Ms Naylor Thank you for attached mail. 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: Timelines (start and duration of build) 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. Possible visual impact with height of proposed structures, roads,etc. We note solar installation - at what level would these be?	10 October 2024

					<p>Potential noise pollution and ocean water quality impact – 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>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>	11 October 2024
Chester Arendse	Overstrand Municipality			carendse@overstrand.gov.za	<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, <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</p>	07 November 2024

					<p>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>	
Mercia Liddle	DEADP:CMU			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</p>	

					<p>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 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:</p>	
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					<p>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 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</p>	
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					<p>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</p>	
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					<p>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 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</p>	
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					<p>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 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>	
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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>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>Ref: LS14/2/6/1/7/2/71 1- 2_aquaculture_Gansbaai Date: 07 Nov 2024</p>
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					<p>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 likelihood of any species occurring on the footprint and recommend</p>	
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					<p>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 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>	
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					<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 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</p>	
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					<p>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>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</p>	
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					<p>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>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</p>	
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					be taken into account before the current application is considered for approval. Existing conditions remain relevant unless an amendment is applied for.	
					Regards	
D'mitri Matthews	DEA&DP			D'mitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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: Increase in Production Capacity <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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Phase 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha) 	08 Nov 2024

					<p>13. Production additions:</p> <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> <p>Solar Power Array: Power generation capacity: 4 MW (backup) 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. 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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</p>	
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					<p>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> <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</p>	
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					<p>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> <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 Hammerslag way CAPE TOWN	(021) 402 3413 066 4711 318	MPretorius@dffe.gov.za	<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>	18 November 2024
Vanessa Stoffels –	Dol		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,</p>	<p>Date: 19 November 2024 Ref: DOI/CFS/RN/LU/REZ /SUB-21/297 (Application no:</p>

					<p>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>	2024-10-0065)
Michelle Pretorius	DFFE			<p>MPretorius@dfpe.gov.za</p> <p>FDaya@dfpe.gov.za</p> <p>MJezile@dfpe.gov.za</p> <p>AOSborne@dfpe.gov.za</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>	

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. <p>Yours sincerely Mr CJ van der Walt LAND USE MANAGER: LANDUSE MANAGEMENT</p>	Date: 04/02/25
IN PROCESS PPP 2						
Alexis Osborne	DFFE			AOSborne@dffe.gov.za MJezile@dffe.gov.za FDaya@dffe.gov.za anjobeni@dffe.gov.za MPretorius@dffe.gov.za	<p>Email dated 13 June 2025</p> <p>RE: APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") has reviewed the Basic Assessment Report and associated reports for the Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm on Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Gansbaai, Western Cape.</p> <p>The comments of the DFFE are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate for the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the 	

					<p>Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to be included for further communication go forward.</p> <p>2. Under SECTION C: LEGISLATION/POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES/PROTOCOL: 4 Policies (Page 24-25), the <i>National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)</i> and its associated regulations, as well as the <i>Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA)</i>, have been omitted from the list of key legislation applicable to the operation. Please ensure that the MLRA, along with the relevant policies must include that are applicable for Marine Aquaculture permit and Right. The applicant must submit the revised and approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) (Reference: EMP/RB/Rev3) to the DFFE Sub-Directorate: Aquaculture Authorisations for monitoring and record-keeping purposes.</p> <p>3. Precautions must be taken to ensure that incoming seawater remains uncontaminated during construction activities near or upstream of the intake, particularly in relation to the pumphouse expansion. Disturbance of sediments in this area may release heavy metals and other pollutants. Additionally, effluent discharge must be carefully managed to prevent cross-contamination with the intake water, considering nearshore current dynamics.</p> <p>4. The applicant must ensure that the lined seawater reservoir proposed as part of the expansion does not introduce harmful chemicals from the lining materials, which could pose risks to food safety and/or aquatic animal health. Additionally, the design should prevent the formation of dead zones (i.e. areas with poor water circulation) that could promote the growth of pathogenic microorganisms, leading to further challenges.</p> <p>5. The DFFE further notes that the proposed expansion will increase the farming production by 150 tons (wet weight) of abalone annually, however, it is important that the expansion includes additional hygiene</p>	
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					<p>management, biosecurity controls, staff training, and waste management to prevent risks associated with over stocking, cross-contamination, and pathogen proliferation.</p> <p>6. The installation of a 4 MW solar array is supported as it enhances the sustainability of the farm's operations and reduces reliance on grid-supplied electricity. This measure aligns with best practice in sustainable aquaculture infrastructure design and management.</p> <p>7. EMPr: 10.1.6 Waste – The drafting of a Site-specific Waste Management Plan is supported, and it is advised that prior approval be obtained from the Local Municipality for disposal of biological waste and also ensure that Marine Aquaculture permit conditions are followed whenever there is mass mortality on the farm and that this is reported the DFFE accordingly.</p> <p>The Directorate supports the proposed expansion in principle, provided that the applicant commits to enhanced environmental management, robust biosecurity controls, and the mitigation of risks to marine and coastal systems. Ongoing monitoring and compliance with environmental authorisation conditions will be critical to ensuring that the expansion contributes positively to the sustainable growth of aquaculture in the region.</p> <p>Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contacts provided at the top of this correspondence.</p>	
Mercia Liddle	DEADP; BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT			Mercia.Liddle@westerncape.gov.za	<p>Email dated 17 June 2025 (same comment)</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>	Date: 17/06/25

					<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>	
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					<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:</p> <p>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</p>	
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					<p>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, 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.</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</p>	
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					<p>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 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>	
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					<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>2.1.15. 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</p>	
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					<p><i>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>2.1.16. 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>	
Rulien Volschenk				rvolschenk@odm.org.za	<p>Letter dated 23 June 2025</p> <p>RE: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANBAAI ABALONE FARM ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI</p> <p>DEADP REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/E2/10/1628/23</p> <p>The Environmental Management Services Department of the Overberg District municipality acknowledges the receipt and review of the draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme.</p> <p>According to the 2017 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP), the majority of the property is designated as an Other Natural Area (ONA), while the smaller portion within the demarcated zone for photovoltaic (PV) development is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA). However, recently the WCBSP has been reviewed and the area is now categorise as CBA.</p> <p>The Overberg Municipality's Spatial Development Framework clearly define Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs) to reflect how the area should be developed spatially to ensure sustainability. These SPCs are linked with the Biodiversity Spatial Plan Categories as defined in the WCBSP.</p> <p>Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are designated as Core 1</p>	

					<p>under the Spatial Planning Categories. The primary management objective for these areas is to maintain in a natural or near-natural state, ensuring no further loss of natural habitat. Where degradation has occurred, restoration efforts should be undertaken . Only low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive land uses are considered appropriate within these zones.</p> <p>Other Natural Areas (ONAs) fall under the Buffer 2 category, where the focus is on minimizing habitat and species loss while preserving ecosystem functionality through strategic, landscape-level planning.</p> <p>The proposed development is located within the Overberg Dune Strandveld, an ecosystem officially classified as Endangered. According to the Overberg District Municipality's Spatial Development Framework, the preservation of vulnerable ecosystems must be a key consideration. Mitigation measures recommended specialist reports, aimed at conserving areas of ecological significance, area supported. Further expansion that could place species of conservation concern at greater risk should note be pursued.</p> <p>In accordance with the National Biodiversity Management : Biodiversity Act (2004) and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (1983), landowners are legally obligated to manage invasive species present on their properties. As part of effective mitigating, all listed alien and invasive species must be removed , followed by the routine maintenance to prevent regrowth. To safeguard sensitive ecosystems from further degradation, a comprehensive alien management plan should be developed and implemented across the entire property.</p> <p>The Overberg District Municipality reserves the right to amend its comments and to request further information should any additional relevant documentation or details become available.</p>	
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Rhett Smart	Cape Nature			rsmart@capenature.co.za	<p>Email dated 24 Jun 2025</p> <p>Draft 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.</p> <p>Additional specialist studies have been undertaken, and the botanical assessment has been amended in accordance with the comments provided on the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report (BAR). The need for a biodiversity offset has been evaluated.</p> <p>Botanical Assessment</p> <p>The botanical assessment has updated the desktop mapping to include mention of the updated 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) and the draft updates in the beta National Vegetation Map. The 2023 BSP is considered more accurate for this site with the affected area mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA) and the determination that draft change of the vegetation mapping from Overberg Dune Strandveld (endangered) to Southwestern Strandveld (not assessed) does not have any effect on the assessment or recommendations.</p> <p>The motivation for not calculating the site ecological importance (SEI) is noted. We wish to advise that the recommendation is in accordance with the protocols which state for terrestrial plant species specialist assessment that “2.3. The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline”. The Species Environmental Assessment Guideline refer to a “a standardised metric for identifying site-based ecological importance for species” which is the SEI. The constraints related to quantitative data and level of accuracy within the scope of a specialist study for a Basic Assessment process are however acknowledged and an estimate would be accepted.</p>	
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					<p>The estimated percentage of the global population for each of the Species (Taxa) of Conservation Concern (SCCs) within the development footprint are presented each of which is estimated to be <1%.</p> <p>The revised botanical assessment assessed the development alternatives which were presented in the Pre-Application BAR, as the previous version of the botanical assessment assessed a different layout. However, the layouts as indicated in the botanical assessment are not the same as those included within the Pre-Application BAR. The extent of the solar array is much larger than that indicated in Appendix B2 which was the previously preferred alternative. The extent of the solar array for the new preferred layout is also much larger than the previous preferred layout. The layout plans have the logo of the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP), therefore it is not evident that these are not the layout plans designed by the project team with accurate delineation. The lack of accurate and consistent layout plans for each alternative for evaluation by the specialists and authorities is a concern.</p> <p>To more clearly illustrate the inaccurate spatial delineation of the layouts we wish to refer to the previous preferred layout and current preferred layout below (Figures 1&2). As a reference, the solar array is presented as 4 ha/40 000 m² for both alternatives, however is spatially much larger in the current layout. The total footprint for the current preferred layout is much smaller (6.9 ha) than the previous preferred layout (9.6 ha), however this is not evident from the spatial depiction (footprints as stated in the BAR).</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the revised botanical assessment assessed the purported alternatives presented in the Pre-Application BAR, although it is not known which of the two spatial depictions is accurate/more accurate. With regards to the location of the SCCs, Alternative 1 is preferred as Phase 2 of the expansion area for Alternative 2 impacted on the all the SCCs but Phase 2 for Alternative 1 impacted on none. Alternative 1 was not the preferred alternative in the Pre-Application BAR. In the impact assessment, Phase 2 is rated as</p>	
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					<p>medium negative for Alternative 2 as it was for the initial layout, however for Alternative 1 it is reduced to low negative. The location of the seawater reservoir remains the same for all alternatives and therefore remains medium-high negative. The residual impact significance therefore remains above the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, although it is motivated that an alien clearing offset is preferred to securing more of the same vegetation type according to the offset ratios.</p> <p>An addendum to the botanical assessment is provided which evaluates the current preferred alternative. This would align to Figure 2 above, although no diagrams are provided in the addendum therefore it cannot be certain which layout was presented to the botanical specialist. The addendum only refers to the reduction in the footprint size of the revised layout as indicated in the Draft BAR. The reduction is assumed to be a reduced version of Alternative 2 and as a result, Phase 2 is reduced to low-medium negative and the seawater reservoir to medium negative. Medium negative is still within the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, however it is motivated that a smaller quantum is required compared to the previous preferred alternative.</p> <p>In response to the queries regarding the previous approval for expansion, confirmation is provided that the proposed expansion area does not encroach into the milkwood thicket or limestone outcrop. Appendix K includes an audit of the existing EA with no findings of non-compliance. Confirmation is provided that there are adequate design and mitigation measures to prevent the potential impact of discharge of saline water from the seawater reservoir into the natural habitat. Confirmation is also provided that the mitigation measures for the solar array will be implemented, including retention of indigenous vegetation under the solar panels. The measure included in the Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPr) is that the vegetation under the solar panels will be maintained at a height of between 30 cm and 100 cm.</p>	
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					<p>Terrestrial Animal Compliance Statement</p> <p>The terrestrial animal compliance statement was undertaken in accordance with CapeNature comments. A field survey of the site was undertaken with 11 locality points indicated with associated photographs. Three main faunal habitats were identified, namely natural fynbos, short disturbed fynbos pasture and built-up areas, the latter consisting of the existing development footprint on site. All faunal species which were observed on site are listed with occurrence records in the three habitats, and with the largest percentage consisting of birds.</p> <p>A total of 7 SCCs were flagged in the screening tool as high or medium sensitivity. None of these species were observed on site. One additional species (Cape dwarf chameleon – <i>Bradypodion pumilum</i>) was added based on desktop information. Black Harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>) and Cape dwarf chameleon are considered to potentially occur on site, however none of the species flagged are assessed to potentially experience an impact of higher than low significance.</p> <p>There was only one SCC observed on site, namely bontebok (<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>), although more accurately a subspecies of conservation concern. Bontebok is a large mammal game species, and the species was almost certainly introduced to the property along with other game species. The only other game species referred to in the animal species compliance statement is the Burchell's zebra (plains zebra), although the botanical assessment also referred to eland and springbuck. The bontebok was only found on the short, disturbed fynbos pasture.</p> <p>Although bontebok have been introduced there is a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the subspecies, for which the aim is to manage the meta-population with the subpopulations mainly consisting of introductions due to the inability for natural dispersal within the natural distribution range since it is occupied mainly by intensive agriculture</p>	
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					<p>farms. According to the BMP, the property is within the natural distribution range of the species however the map doesn't indicate a population record at the site location (Cowell & Birss 2017). Historically the subspecies occurred in a roughly triangular area between Elgin and Heidelberg and south to the Breede River mouth, Cape Agulhas and the Bot River Estuary (Skead 2011). The preferred habitat of the species does not however correlate the primary strandveld habitat occurring across the site, but rather the managed pasture areas for this site (it primarily occurred within renosterveld). As a result of the BMP and the management of the meta-population within the natural distribution range, bontebok should be included as one of the taxa assessed.</p> <p>The recommendation of the terrestrial animal species compliance statement is that the development proposal is acceptable as the impacts are of low or very low significance, and the preferred alternative which will result in the least clearance of vegetation is preferred. As mentioned, bontebok should also be included in the assessment and the habitat suitability should also be taken into account. It should be noted that the brush-cutting of vegetation under the solar panels is likely to favour the bontebok, unless the solar panels act as a behavioural deterrent for the species. Compliance with provincial legislation with regards to game is separate from this process.</p> <p>Coastal and Marine Impact Report</p> <p>A coastal and marine impact report has been compiled to address impacts on the coastal and marine environment, which as CapeNature highlighted is not addressed within the screening tool. The study identified several impacts in both the construction and operational phase and each impact is assessed. The impacts during the construction phase are: disturbance to coastal habitat; blasting; vehicle and pedestrian traffic; erosion and turbidity; and during the operational phase: abstraction of seawater; discharge of effluent; genetic impacts and disease; and disturbance during maintenance. Some of these impacts are rated as high or</p>	
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					<p>medium significance prior to mitigation, however all can be reduced to low significance after mitigation. There are a number of mitigation measures proposed all of which must be considered essential and included in the EMP.</p> <p>While the impact assessment of the coastal and marine impact report is considered comprehensive, there is no description provided regarding the coastal habitat which will be affected. With regards to the National Biodiversity Assessment coastal ecosystem types, the ecosystem at the location of the pump station is Agulhas Exposed Rocky Shore. The location is classified as CBA Restore as reflected on the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) Coastal Viewer (NMU 2023). It does however appear that the development footprint has already been disturbed by the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment</p> <p>The biodiversity offset applicability assessment provides an overview of the botanical and animal species studies. We wish to note that biodiversity offsets can also be applicable to the coastal and marine environment, and we are aware of at least one precedent which was investigated, but would not be relevant in this case. The only residual impact after mitigation which is of medium negative significance or higher and therefore within the threshold for a biodiversity offset is the loss of terrestrial habitat for the proposed seawater reservoir.</p> <p>The study refers to the conclusions of the botanical assessment regarding the proposed offset, which states that the affected vegetation type, Overberg Dune Strandveld, is already well conserved and there is a large remaining extent, however the main threat is alien invasive species. It is therefore motivated that conserving more of this vegetation type will have less of a positive outcome for biodiversity than implementing an offset targeted at clearing alien invasive species. The conclusion provided is that a biodiversity offset is not applicable for this site.</p> <p>By applying the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines,</p>	
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					<p>CapeNature does not support this conclusion. Firstly, the biodiversity offset applicability assessment has not demonstrated detailed investigation of the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimize, mitigate/restore and only then investigate an offset for the residual impact if it is of medium significance or higher. The primary flaw in this regard is the inconsistent and inaccurate layout plans provided which have not permitted an accurate determination of the options of avoid and minimize. The layout plans need to be provided by the project engineers and architects with detailed plans that would also be submitted to the Overstrand Municipality for building plan approval. The plans should include co-ordinates of the development components.</p> <p>Should it still be confirmed that a biodiversity offset is required after a detailed investigation of the alternatives with accurate detailed layout plans, the biodiversity offset must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines. While the motivation provided by the botanical specialist that alien clearing would be the best option is backed by sound logic, the offset would still need to be framed within the context of the guidelines and be supported by the best available science – an arbitrary financial contribution towards alien clearing would not be supported. We also wish to note that there should be sufficient natural habitat remaining on the property should an on-site offset be considered.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>CapeNature does not support the Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment and wishes to raise concern regarding the inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the layout plans for the alternatives presented in both Appendix B and the specialist studies. The layout plans should be provided by the project team as would be submitted for the building plans. A thorough investigation of the mitigation hierarchy must be undertaken using the accurate layout plans and if a biodiversity offset is required, it must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines.</p> <p>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and</p>	
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					<p>request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p> <p>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p>	
D'mitri Matthews	DEADP			D'mitri.Matthews@westercape.gov.za	<p>Email dated 26 June 2025</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Draft BAR dated 19 May 2025, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 20 May 2025, refers. 2. Following review of the information submitted this Directorate notes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following: 3. This Directorate as the following comments on the draft BAR: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. 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). 3.2. The issues highlighted by CapeNature must be addressed, especially their comments regarding the requirement for a biodiversity offset must be addressed 3.3. A Georeferenced map of all the proposed components for the expansion must be provided for the preferred alternative. 	

					<p>4. 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>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>5. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p>	
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					6. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.	
Paul Slabbert				paul@phsconsulting.co.za	<p>Email dated 27 June 225</p> <p>Subject: IN PROCESS BAR: ROMANSBAAI ABALONE EXPANSION - Register as I&AP</p> <p>Hi Michelle</p> <p>Pls register PHS Consulting as an I&AP on this project.</p> <p>I know that PPP is completed, we just need to be in the loop for any aspects in this project going forward, like possible additional round of PPP or the EA etc.</p> <p>thanks</p>	



COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT			
PROJECT: Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone			
DRAFT BAR / PRE-APPLICATION (PPP 1) 09 October 2024 to 08 November 2024			
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>	Noted	

	<p>Actions: Submit to Heritage Western Cape.</p>		
David Mostert	<p>Email dated 10 October 2024 Morning Michelle</p> <p>Please register the Romansbaai HOA as an "Interested and affected party"</p> <p>Thanks David</p>	Registered as an I&AP.	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. The solar array will be ground mounted with the height of approximately 1m above ground.</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</p>	10 October 2024

		minimum.	
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. No further actions required.	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. Noted no further actions required.	07 November 2024
<p>Mercia Liddle (DEADP:CMU)</p>	<p>Email dated 07 November 2024 (same comment)</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>	Noted. Noted no further actions required.	

	<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 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</p>		
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	<p>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 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</p>		
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	<p>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> <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</p>	<p>An application for update of the lease agreement with Cape Nature was submitted on 16 July 2025.</p>	
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	<p>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.</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>		
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	<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>		
<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 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>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Ref: LS14/2/6/1/7/2/711-2_aquaculture_Gansbaai Date: 07 Nov 2024</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 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>Terrestrial Animal Site Sensitivity Verification Report and Compliance Statement was undertaken and is attached in the BAR.</p>	
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	<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 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>The botanical assessment was updated and made reference to the revised mapping of the 2024 beta National Vegetation Map</p>	
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	<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 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</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 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</p>	
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	<p>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 array should also be evaluated in the context of the alternative of connecting to the local electricity grid.</p>	<p>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 EMPr. The high cost of electricity is one of the farm's largest expenses, the applicant had to look for alternative energy measures to ensure long-term financial viability of the farm through renewable energy measures.</p>	
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	<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>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 OFFICIAL IN 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The compliance monitoring was undertaken on 14 March 2024, and the 	
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		<p>response from the Department did not find any non-compliance issues, see Appendix K.</p> <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 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 of 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 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</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> <p>The botanical assessment has been amended.</p>	
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	<p>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>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> <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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following: Increase in Production Capacity 		

	<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>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</p> <p>Phase 2:</p> <p>Additional production area: 17500 m² (1.75 ha) Production additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Production capacity: 150 tons (wet weight) c. Number of tanks: 1 850 d. Number of baskets: 12 950 e. Seawater usage: 2 400 m³/hour f. Aeration fans blower room: 4 units g. 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> <p>Solar Power Array: Power generation capacity: 4 MW (backup) 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. ▪ 1 new pump and 1 new pipeline will be fitted within the existing pumphouse. 	<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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	<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 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>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</p>	<p>The application for the expansion is in line with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation issued in 2009.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Offset motivation has been amended and the Biodiversity offset application is</p>	
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	<p>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>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>attached as Appendix L.</p>	
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	<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>	Registered as an I&AP.	18 November 2024
Vannessa Stoffels (Department of Infrastructure: Roads)	<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> <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>	Noted. No further actions required.	Date: 19/11/24
Michelle Pretorius (DFFE)	<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>	Noted. Included in the I&AP	

	<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>		
<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> <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>	<p>Noted. No further actions required.</p>	

IN PROCESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PPP 22 1 May 2025 to 23 June 2025			
Alexis Osborne DFFE	<p>Email dated 13 June 2025</p> <p>RE: APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE.</p> <p>The Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (“DFFE”) has reviewed the Basic Assessment Report and associated reports for the Proposed Expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm on Portion 2 of the Farm No. 711, Gansbaai, Western Cape.</p> <p>The comments of the DFFE are as follows:</p> <p>8. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate for the development and management of aquaculture in South Africa, please register the Directorate: Sustainable Aquaculture Management as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to be included for further communication go forward.</p> <p>9. Under SECTION C: LEGISLATION/POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES/PROTOCOL: 4 Policies (Page 24-25), the <i>National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)</i> and its associated regulations, as well as the <i>Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA)</i>, have been omitted from the list of key legislation applicable to the operation. Please ensure that the MLRA, along with the relevant policies must include that are applicable for Marine Aquaculture permit and Right. The applicant must submit the revised and approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) (Reference: EMP/RB/Rev3) to the DFFE Sub-Directorate: Aquaculture Authorisations for monitoring and record-keeping purposes.</p> <p>10. Precautions must be taken to ensure that incoming seawater remains uncontaminated during construction activities near or upstream of the intake, particularly in relation to the pumphouse expansion. Disturbance of sediments in this area may release heavy metals and other pollutants. Additionally, effluent discharge must be carefully managed to prevent cross-contamination with the intake water, considering nearshore current dynamics.</p> <p>11. The applicant must ensure that the lined seawater reservoir proposed as part</p>	<p>Noted. This section has been amended in the BAR.</p> <p>This is covered in the EMPr and it is in line with Romansbaai farm operational Permits.</p>	

	<p>of the expansion does not introduce harmful chemicals from the lining materials, which could pose risks to food safety and/or aquatic animal health. Additionally, the design should prevent the formation of dead zones (i.e. areas with poor water circulation) that could promote the growth of pathogenic microorganisms, leading to further challenges.</p> <p>12. The DFFE further notes that the proposed expansion will increase the farming production by 150 tons (wet weight) of abalone annually, however, it is important that the expansion includes additional hygiene management, biosecurity controls, staff training, and waste management to prevent risks associated with over stocking, cross-contamination, and pathogen proliferation.</p> <p>13. The installation of a 4 MW solar array is supported as it enhances the sustainability of the farm's operations and reduces reliance on grid-supplied electricity. This measure aligns with best practice in sustainable aquaculture infrastructure design and management.</p> <p>14. EMPr: 10.1.6 Waste – The drafting of a Site-specific Waste Management Plan is supported, and it is advised that prior approval be obtained from the Local Municipality for disposal of biological waste and also ensure that Marine Aquaculture permit conditions are followed whenever there is mass mortality on the farm and that this is reported the DFFE accordingly.</p> <p>The Directorate supports the proposed expansion in principle, provided that the applicant commits to enhanced environmental management, robust biosecurity controls, and the mitigation of risks to marine and coastal systems. Ongoing monitoring and compliance with environmental authorisation conditions will be critical to ensuring that the expansion contributes positively to the sustainable growth of aquaculture in the region.</p> <p>Please note that the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contacts provided at the top of this correspondence.</p>	<p>Noted – the water does not remain in the reservoir for extended periods.</p> <p>Hygiene management, biosecurity controls, staff training is already undertaken in lien with the operational permits.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	
Mercia Liddle DEADP CMU	<p>Email dated 17 June 2025</p> <p>Dear Ms Naylor,</p> <p>The SD: CM has no further comments for the proposed expansion of Romansbaai Abalone Farm and our comments dated 7 November 2024 remains.</p>	As above – no further actions required	Date: 17/06/25

	Regards		
Rulien Volschenk ODM	<p>Letter dated 23 June 2025</p> <p>RE: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROMANSBAAI ABALONE FARM ON REMAINDER OF PORTION 2 OF THE FARM 711, GANSBAAI</p> <p>DEADP REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/E2/10/1628/23</p> <p>The Environmental Management Services Department of the Overberg District municipality acknowledges the receipt and review of the draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme.</p> <p>According to the 2017 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP), the majority of the property is designated as an Other Natural Area (ONA), while the smaller portion within the demarcated zone for photovoltaic (PV) development is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA). However, recently the WCBSP has been reviewed and the area is now categorise as CBA.</p> <p>The Overberg Municipality's Spatial Development Framework clearly define Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs) to reflect how the area should be developed spatially to ensure sustainability. These SPCs are linked with the Biodiversity Spatial Plan Categories as defined in the WCBSP.</p> <p>Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are designated as Core 1 under the Spatial Planning Categories. The primary management objective for these areas is to maintain in a natural or near-natural state, ensuring no further loss of natural habitat. Where degradation has occurred, restoration efforts should be undertaken . Only low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive land uses are considered appropriate within these zones.</p> <p>Other Natural Areas (ONAs) fall under the Buffer 2 category, where the focus is on minimizing habitat and species loss while preserving ecosystem functionality through strategic, landscape-level planning.</p> <p>The proposed development is located within the Overberg Dune Strandveld, an ecosystem officially classified as Endangered. According to the Overberg District Municipality's Spatial Development Framework, the preservation of vulnerable ecosystems must be a key consideration. Mitigation measures recommended specialist reports, aimed at conserving areas of ecological significance, area</p>	Noted	

	<p>supported. Further expansion that could place species of conservation concern at greater risk should not be pursued.</p> <p>In accordance with the National Biodiversity Management : Biodiversity Act (2004) and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (1983), landowners are legally obligated to manage invasive species present on their properties. As part of effective mitigating, all listed alien and invasive species must be removed, followed by the routine maintenance to prevent regrowth. To safeguard sensitive ecosystems from further degradation, a comprehensive alien management plan should be developed and implemented across the entire property.</p> <p>The Overberg District Municipality reserves the right to amend its comments and to request further information should any additional relevant documentation or details become available.</p>	<p>Invasive Alien Plant Clearing already takes place in the farm, in line with the existing IAP Management.</p> <p>No further action required.</p>	
Rhett Smart (Cape Nature)	<p>Email dated 24 June 2025</p> <p>Draft 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.</p> <p>Additional specialist studies have been undertaken, and the botanical assessment has been amended in accordance with the comments provided on the Pre-Application Basic Assessment Report (BAR). The need for a biodiversity offset has been evaluated.</p> <p>Botanical Assessment</p> <p>The botanical assessment has updated the desktop mapping to include mention of the updated 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) and the draft updates in the beta National Vegetation Map. The 2023 BSP is considered more accurate for this site with the affected area mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA) and the determination that draft change of the vegetation mapping from Overberg Dune Strandveld (endangered) to Southwestern Strandveld (not assessed) does not have any effect on the assessment or recommendations. The motivation for not calculating the site ecological importance (SEI) is noted. We wish to advise that the recommendation is in accordance with the protocols which state for terrestrial plant species specialist assessment that “2.3. The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Species Environmental</p>		

	<p>Assessment Guideline". The Species Environmental Assessment Guideline refer to a "a standardised metric for identifying site-based ecological importance for species" which is the SEI. The constraints related to quantitative data and level of accuracy within the scope of a specialist study for a Basic Assessment process are however acknowledged and an estimate would be accepted. The estimated percentage of the global population for each of the Species (Taxa) of Conservation Concern (SCCs) within the development footprint are presented each of which is estimated to be <1%.</p> <p>The revised botanical assessment assessed the development alternatives which were presented in the Pre-Application BAR, as the previous version of the botanical assessment assessed a different layout. However, the layouts as indicated in the botanical assessment are not the same as those included within the Pre-Application BAR. The extent of the solar array is much larger than that indicated in Appendix B2 which was the previously preferred alternative. The extent of the solar array for the new preferred layout is also much larger than the previous preferred layout. The layout plans have the logo of the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP); therefore it is not evident that these are not the layout plans designed by the project team with accurate delineation. The lack of accurate and consistent layout plans for each alternative for evaluation by the specialists and authorities is a concern.</p> <p>To more clearly illustrate the inaccurate spatial delineation of the layouts we wish to refer to the previous preferred layout and current preferred layout below (Figures 1&2). As a reference, the solar array is presented as 4 ha/40 000 m² for both alternatives, however, is spatially much larger in the current layout. The total footprint for the current preferred layout is much smaller (6.9 ha) than the previous preferred layout (9.6 ha), however this is not evident from the spatial depiction (footprints as stated in the BAR).</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the revised botanical assessment assessed the purported alternatives presented in the Pre-Application BAR, although it is not known which of the two spatial depictions is accurate/more accurate. With regards to the location of the SCCs, Alternative 1 is preferred as Phase 2 of the expansion area for Alternative 2 impacted on the all the SCCs but Phase 2 for Alternative 1 impacted on none. Alternative 1 was not the preferred alternative in the Pre-Application BAR. In the impact assessment, Phase 2 is rated as medium negative for Alternative 2 as it was for the initial layout, however for Alternative 1 it is reduced to low negative. The location of the seawater reservoir remains the same for all alternatives and therefore remains medium-high negative. The</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The Botanical report and addendum have been updated with the Architecturally drawn layouts included to create an accurate representation of the proposal.</p> <p>The layouts have been updated and drawn by Johan Gericke of Gericke Architects.</p>	
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	<p>residual impact significance therefore remains above the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, although it is motivated that an alien clearing offset is preferred to securing more of the same vegetation type according to the offset ratios.</p> <p>An addendum to the botanical assessment is provided which evaluates the current preferred alternative. This would align to Figure 2 above, although no diagrams are provided in the addendum therefore it cannot be certain which layout was presented to the botanical specialist. The addendum only refers to the reduction in the footprint size of the revised layout as indicated in the Draft BAR. The reduction is assumed to be a reduced version of Alternative 2 and as a result, Phase 2 is reduced to low-medium negative and the seawater reservoir to medium negative. Medium negative is still within the threshold requiring a biodiversity offset, however it is motivated that a smaller quantum is required compared to the previous preferred alternative.</p> <p>In response to the queries regarding the previous approval for expansion, confirmation is provided that the proposed expansion area does not encroach into the milkwood thicket or limestone outcrop. Appendix K includes an audit of the existing EA with no findings of non-compliance. Confirmation is provided that there are adequate design and mitigation measures to prevent the potential impact of discharge of saline water from the seawater reservoir into the natural habitat. Confirmation is also provided that the mitigation measures for the solar array will be implemented, including retention of indigenous vegetation under the solar panels. The measure included in the Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPr) is that the vegetation under the solar panels will be maintained at a height of between 30 cm and 100 cm.</p> <p>Terrestrial Animal Compliance Statement</p> <p>The terrestrial animal compliance statement was undertaken in accordance with CapeNature comments. A field survey of the site was undertaken with 11 locality points indicated with associated photographs. Three main faunal habitats were identified, namely natural fynbos, short, disturbed fynbos pasture and built-up areas, the latter consisting of the existing development footprint on site. All faunal species which were observed on site are listed with occurrence records in the three habitats, and with the largest percentage consisting of birds.</p> <p>A total of 7 SCCs were flagged in the screening tool as high or medium sensitivity.</p>	<p>The addendum has been updated with the architecturally drawn layout. Theses scaled layouts address the concerns listed above. Additionally, a Biodiversity Offset Report has been prepared and is attached as Appendix L.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
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	<p>None of these species were observed on site. One additional species (Cape dwarf chameleon – <i>Bradypodion pumilum</i>) was added based on desktop information. Black Harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>) and Cape dwarf chameleon are considered to potentially occur on site, however none of the species flagged are assessed to potentially experience an impact of higher than low significance.</p> <p>There was only one SCC observed on site, namely bontebok (<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>), although more accurately a subspecies of conservation concern. Bontebok is a large mammal game species, and the species was almost certainly introduced to the property along with other game species. The only other game species referred to in the animal species compliance statement is the Burchell's zebra (plains zebra), although the botanical assessment also referred to eland and springbuck. The bontebok was only found on the short, disturbed fynbos pasture. Although bontebok have been introduced there is a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the subspecies, for which the aim is to manage the meta-population with the subpopulations mainly consisting of introductions due to the inability for natural dispersal within the natural distribution range since it is occupied mainly by intensive agriculture farms. According to the BMP, the property is within the natural distribution range of the species however the map doesn't indicate a population record at the site location (Cowell & Birss 2017). Historically the subspecies occurred in a roughly triangular area between Elgin and Heidelberg and south to the Breede River mouth, Cape Agulhas and the Bot River Estuary (Skead 2011). The preferred habitat of the species does not however correlate the primary strandveld habitat occurring across the site, but rather the managed pasture areas for this site (it primarily occurred within renosterveld). As a result of the BMP and the management of the meta-population within the natural distribution range, bontebok should be included as one of the taxa assessed.</p> <p>The recommendation of the terrestrial animal species compliance statement is that the development proposal is acceptable as the impacts are of low or very low significance, and the preferred alternative which will result in the least clearance of vegetation is preferred. As mentioned, bontebok should also be included in the assessment and the habitat suitability should also be taken into account. It should be noted that the brush-cutting of vegetation under the solar panels is likely to favour the bontebok, unless the solar panels act as a behavioural deterrent for the species. Compliance with provincial legislation with regards to game is separate from this process.</p> <p>Coastal and Marine Impact Report</p>	<p>It is important to note that the game on the property have been introduced by the neighbouring landowner, David Mostert under a Cape Nature permit. Cape Nature is in consultation with the landowner. The game is not the responsibility of Romansbaai Abalone Farm.</p> <p>As above – the Bontebok is one of the introduced species managed by the adjacent landowner and is only present on the site as there is no fence between the properties.</p>	
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	<p>A coastal and marine impact report has been compiled to address impacts on the coastal and marine environment, which as CapeNature highlighted is not addressed within the screening tool. The study identified several impacts in both the construction and operational phase and each impact is assessed. The impacts during the construction phase are: disturbance to coastal habitat; blasting; vehicle and pedestrian traffic; erosion and turbidity; and during the operational phase: abstraction of seawater; discharge of effluent; genetic impacts and disease; and disturbance during maintenance. Some of these impacts are rated as high or medium significance prior to mitigation, however all can be reduced to low significance after mitigation. There are a number of mitigation measures proposed all of which must be considered essential and included in the EMPr.</p> <p>While the impact assessment of the coastal and marine impact report is considered comprehensive, there is no description provided regarding the coastal habitat which will be affected. With regards to the National Biodiversity Assessment coastal ecosystem types, the ecosystem at the location of the pump station is Agulhas Exposed Rocky Shore. The location is classified as CBA Restore as reflected on the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) Coastal Viewer (NMU 2023). It does however appear that the development footprint has already been disturbed by the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment</p> <p>The biodiversity offset applicability assessment provides an overview of the botanical and animal species studies. We wish to note that biodiversity offsets can also be applicable to the coastal and marine environment, and we are aware of at least one precedent which was investigated but would not be relevant in this case. The only residual impact after mitigation which is of medium negative significance or higher and therefore within the threshold for a biodiversity offset is the loss of terrestrial habitat for the proposed seawater reservoir.</p> <p>The study refers to the conclusions of the botanical assessment regarding the proposed offset, which states that the affected vegetation type, Overberg Dune Strandveld, is already well conserved and there is a large remaining extent, however the main threat is alien invasive species. It is therefore motivated that conserving more of this vegetation type will have less of a positive outcome for biodiversity than implementing an offset targeted at clearing alien invasive species. The conclusion provided is that a biodiversity offset is not applicable for this site.</p>	<p>Updated in Coastal and Marine Report – the area where the expansion will take place is directly within and alongside the existing pumphouse infrastructure with most of the area already characterised by transformed platforms and cemented therefore the impact of the expansion at the pumphouse is considered to be short term and negligible. Mitigation measures are provided for construction and operation phases to ensure that impact associated with these phases remain low.</p> <p>The layout plans have been updated by the architect</p>	
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	<p>By applying the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines, CapeNature does not support this conclusion. Firstly, the biodiversity offset applicability assessment has not demonstrated detailed investigation of the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimize, mitigate/restore and only then investigate an offset for the residual impact if it is of medium significance or higher. The primary flaw in this regard is the inconsistent and inaccurate layout plans provided which have not permitted an accurate determination of the options of avoid and minimize. The layout plans need to be provided by the project engineers and architects with detailed plans that would also be submitted to the Overstrand Municipality for building plan approval. The plans should include co-ordinates of the development components.</p> <p>Should it still be confirmed that a biodiversity offset is required after a detailed investigation of the alternatives with accurate detailed layout plans, the biodiversity offset must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines. While the motivation provided by the botanical specialist that alien clearing would be the best option is backed by sound logic, the offset would still need to be framed within the context of the guidelines and be supported by the best available science – an arbitrary financial contribution towards alien clearing would not be supported. We also wish to note that there should be sufficient natural habitat remaining on the property should an on-site offset be considered.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>CapeNature does not support the Biodiversity Offset Applicability Assessment and wishes to raise concern regarding the inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the layout plans for the alternatives presented in both Appendix B and the specialist studies. The layout plans should be provided by the project team as would be submitted for the building plans. A thorough investigation of the mitigation hierarchy must be undertaken using the accurate layout plans and if a biodiversity offset is required, it must comply with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines. CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p> <p>CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.</p>	<p>and these plans will be used for the Planning and Building Application to the Overstrand Municipality.</p> <p>An onsite offset has been established. Biodiversity Offset Application is included in the BAR.</p>	
D'mitri Matthews DEA&DP	<p>Email dated 26 June 2025</p> <p>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107</p>		-

	<p>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>7. The Draft BAR dated 19 May 2025, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as “this Directorate”) on 20 May 2025, refers.</p> <p>8. Following review of the information submitted this Directorate notes the following:</p> <p>8.1. The expansion of the abalone facility will include the following:</p> <p>9. This Directorate as the following comments on the draft BAR:</p> <p>9.1. 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>9.2. The issues highlighted by CapeNature must be addressed, especially their comments regarding the requirement for a biodiversity offset must be addressed</p> <p>9.3. A Georeferenced map of all the proposed components for the expansion must be provided for the preferred alternative.</p> <p>10. The applicant Regulatory Requirements:</p> <p>10.1. Proof of the notifications sent to registered I&APs for the commenting purposes must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>10.2. A dated photograph of erecting a site notice must be provided.</p> <p>10.3. Proof of placing an advertisement must be provided.</p> <p>10.4. Any new representations and comments received in connection with the application must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>10.5. 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>10.6. 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>10.7. 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-</p>	<p>3.1. Amendment application is in process, see proof of submission attached as Appendix M.</p> <p>3.2. Responses completed as above</p> <p>3.3 Architect drawn layouts have been added</p> <p>4.1. Proof of PPP contained under Appendix F.</p>	
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	<p>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>10.8. 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>10.9. 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>11. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p> <p>12. This Department reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.</p>		
Paul Slabbert	<p>Email dated 27 June 2025</p> <p>Subject: IN PROCESS BAR: ROMANSBAAI ABALONE EXPANSION - Register as I&AP</p> <p>Hi Michelle</p> <p>Pls register PHS Consulting as an I&AP on this project.</p> <p>I know that PPP is completed, we just need to be in the loop for any aspects in this project going forward, like possible additional round of PPP or the EA etc.</p> <p>thanks</p>	Registered as I&AP	-

