



NICK HELME BOTANICAL SURVEYS

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Pri.Sci.Nat # 400045/08

15 Sep 2025

Lornay Environmental
Hermanus
ATT: Michelle Naylor

Dear Michelle

Specialist Botanical Input: Portions 125 & 126 of Farm 529, Bettys Bay

Subsequent to my Botanical (Baseline) Assessment of 23 Aug 2023 various iterations of the proposed new access road/s for this property have been put forward and assessed, including one in a letter of mine dated 23 October 2023. My assessment concluded that the proposed house (in the old quarry area) and access road (via route proposed in either Figure 5 of 23 Aug 2023 report or the route in the letter of 23 October 2023) would have a Medium negative botanical impact overall. To date I have not yet formally assessed either the house or the final road layout, and have also not yet provided mitigation recommendations.

At this stage I have been asked to reconsider the impacts and possible mitigation, in light of the likely need for a Biodiversity Offset for the overall proposal, given the Medium negative botanical impact. Given that the applicant owns both Portion 126 (22.2ha) and Portion 125 (24.4ha), and that the overall development footprint will be less than 0.5ha (1% of the combined site) I believe it is possible to support an assessment of **Low to Medium negative botanical impact** after mitigation, **provided** that all the mitigation noted below is included in any Environmental Authorisation. More than 90% of the site populations of all 11 plant SoCC recorded on the property will remain undisturbed in the current layout. This means that no off-site Biodiversity Offset is required.

The required mitigation includes:

- 1) All final development footprints, including roads, must be subject to scrutiny and comment from the botanist to ensure that they are in the least sensitive areas possible, given all the other constraints.
- 2) All remaining undeveloped parts of Portions 125 and 126 (thus about 46.0ha) must be signed up as a Contract Nature Reserve with CapeNature within 1 year of any environmental authorisation.
- 3) The costs of this application must be borne by the applicant, including all ongoing management costs, as outlined in the EMP that will need to be drawn up.
- 4) No disturbance of vegetation on the remainder of the two properties should be considered at any stage in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Helme', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nick Helme