



Wildlife Conservation Decision Support (t/a)

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Faunal Specialist Addendum: Review of Alternative 5 Layout - Proposed expansion of the Aquunion (Pty) Ltd Abalone Farm

This addendum relates to the following faunal specialist assessment report:

Venter, J.A. 2024. *Terrestrial Animal Site Sensitivity Verification Report and Compliance Statement - Proposed expansion of the Aquunion (Pty) Ltd Abalone Farm, Romansbaai Farm Portion 2 of Klipfontein Farm No. 711, Gansbaai*. Technical Report prepared for Lornay Environmental Consulting, Hermanus, Western Cape, ZA.

The above report assessed the terrestrial animal sensitivity and potential faunal impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the Aquunion (Pty) Ltd Abalone Farm on Romansbaai Farm Portion 2 of Klipfontein Farm No. 711, Gansbaai. The assessment considered the proposed expansion of abalone rearing facilities, a seawater reservoir, pumphouse and pipeline infrastructure, and a solar array. The report confirmed that the site contains areas of natural Overberg Dune Strandveld, disturbed fynbos/pasture, and existing built-up abalone farm infrastructure. It further considered the potential occurrence of faunal Species of Conservation Concern, including Black Harrier, African Marsh Harrier, Southern Black Korhaan, Denham's Bustard, Southern Adder, Cape Dwarf Chameleon, Mute Winter Katydid and Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper.

I have reviewed the revised layout plan, referred to as Alternative 5, as provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner. I understand that Alternative 5 follows further engagement regarding the alignment of the seawater reservoir and that the revised layout includes a reduced reservoir footprint.

From a faunal specialist perspective, the reduction in the seawater reservoir footprint is supported. A smaller footprint will reduce the extent of direct habitat loss and construction disturbance within the assessed project area. This is consistent with the mitigation hierarchy, particularly the avoidance and minimisation of unnecessary disturbance to remaining natural Overberg Dune Strandveld habitat.

Alternative 5 does not introduce a new faunal impact beyond the development components already considered in the original faunal specialist report. Instead, it represents a refinement of the assessed layout, with a reduced disturbance footprint associated with the seawater reservoir. The faunal habitats affected by the revised layout remain consistent with those described in the original assessment.

The findings of the original report therefore remain valid. The revised Alternative 5 layout does not change the overall conclusion that the terrestrial animal species theme sensitivity should be considered Low, and that the expected impacts on the relevant faunal Species of Conservation

Concern are low to very low, provided that the recommended mitigation measures are implemented.

Based on the above, Alternative 5 is supported from a faunal specialist perspective, subject to the conditions listed below.

Conditions of support

- All findings and recommendations provided in Venter (2024) remain applicable.

Subject to these conditions, Alternative 5 is supported from a faunal specialist perspective. The reduced footprint of the seawater reservoir represents a positive layout refinement because it reduces the extent of direct disturbance relative to the larger reservoir footprint previously considered, while remaining within the broader project area assessed in Venter (2024).



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