

Project Reference: Proposed Residential Development on Erf 1486, Vermont, Hermanus (DEA&DP ref no 16/3/3/1/E2/40/1046/25)

Date: 6 September 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby confirm that I stand by the wetland delineation undertaken for Erf 1486, Vermont, as presented in **Figures i and ii** below. The delineation reflects my professional opinion regarding the extent and boundaries of the wetland features identified on the site, based on the information available and the assessments undertaken.

I further confirm that the findings, assessments and recommendations contained in the following reports were prepared based on the information available at the time and remain representative of my professional opinion:

1. **Van Zyl, K., Morton, R., & Gericke, J. 2026.** *Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment: Erf 1486, Vermont V5.0.* Delta Ecology.
2. **Van Zyl, K., & Morton, R. 2026.** *Wetland Offset, Rehabilitation and Management Plan: Erf 1486, Vermont V2.0.* Delta Ecology.

The wetland delineation presented in these reports differs slightly from the delineations undertaken by EnviroSwift in 2018 and 2025. However, the Delta Ecology and EnviroSwift delineations are very similar in terms of the overall extent and configuration of the wetland on the site, with relatively minor differences in the positioning of the wetland boundaries.

The delineation presented by Freshwater Consulting (2026) differs more substantially from both the Delta Ecology delineation and the previous EnviroSwift delineations. It is relevant that the broadly consistent delineations were undertaken independently by three SACNASP-registered scientists over a number of years, including the recent EnviroSwift assessment undertaken in 2025. Wetland delineation necessarily involves some degree of professional interpretation of field and supporting evidence, and differences between specialists can therefore occur.

A wetland delineation should, however, reflect the wetland extent indicated by the field conditions present at the time of assessment. It should not be based on a potential future wetland extent resulting from anticipated changes in catchment land use or vegetation cover.

The Delta Ecology delineation was undertaken using the field-based methodology described in the *Manual for the Identification and Delineation of Wetlands and Riparian Areas* (DWAf, 2008). The wetland boundary was determined from the indicators observed during the site assessment, including terrain position, hydromorphic soil features, and vegetation. In particular, the presence of saturated, high-carbon soils and isolated instances of mottling within the upper 500 mm of the soil profile were considered together with the presence of hydrophytic vegetation in determining the wetland boundary. The resulting delineation therefore reflects the wetland extent supported by the combination of field indicators recorded on site.

It is also important to note that hydromorphic soil features develop in response to prolonged and/or recurrent soil saturation and the associated anaerobic conditions. These features therefore provide an indication of hydrological conditions operating over time, rather than an immediate response to a recent or anticipated change in vegetation cover. The rate at which they develop varies depending on factors such as soil characteristics, the duration and frequency of saturation, temperature, organic matter and other site-specific conditions.

The removal of dense alien invasive vegetation may alter local hydrological conditions, including through reduced evapotranspiration, and may influence the extent or duration of soil saturation in future. However, future wetland conditions may also be influenced by a range of other factors, including changes in rainfall patterns, periods of drought, climate variability and climate change, as well as future changes in catchment land use and drainage. There is therefore inherent uncertainty in predicting how the wetland boundary may respond to future changes in the catchment.

A potential future change in hydrology does not, in itself, demonstrate that areas beyond the currently delineated wetland boundary presently meet the field-based criteria for identification as wetland. The delineation must therefore reflect the wetland indicators and site conditions present at the time of assessment.

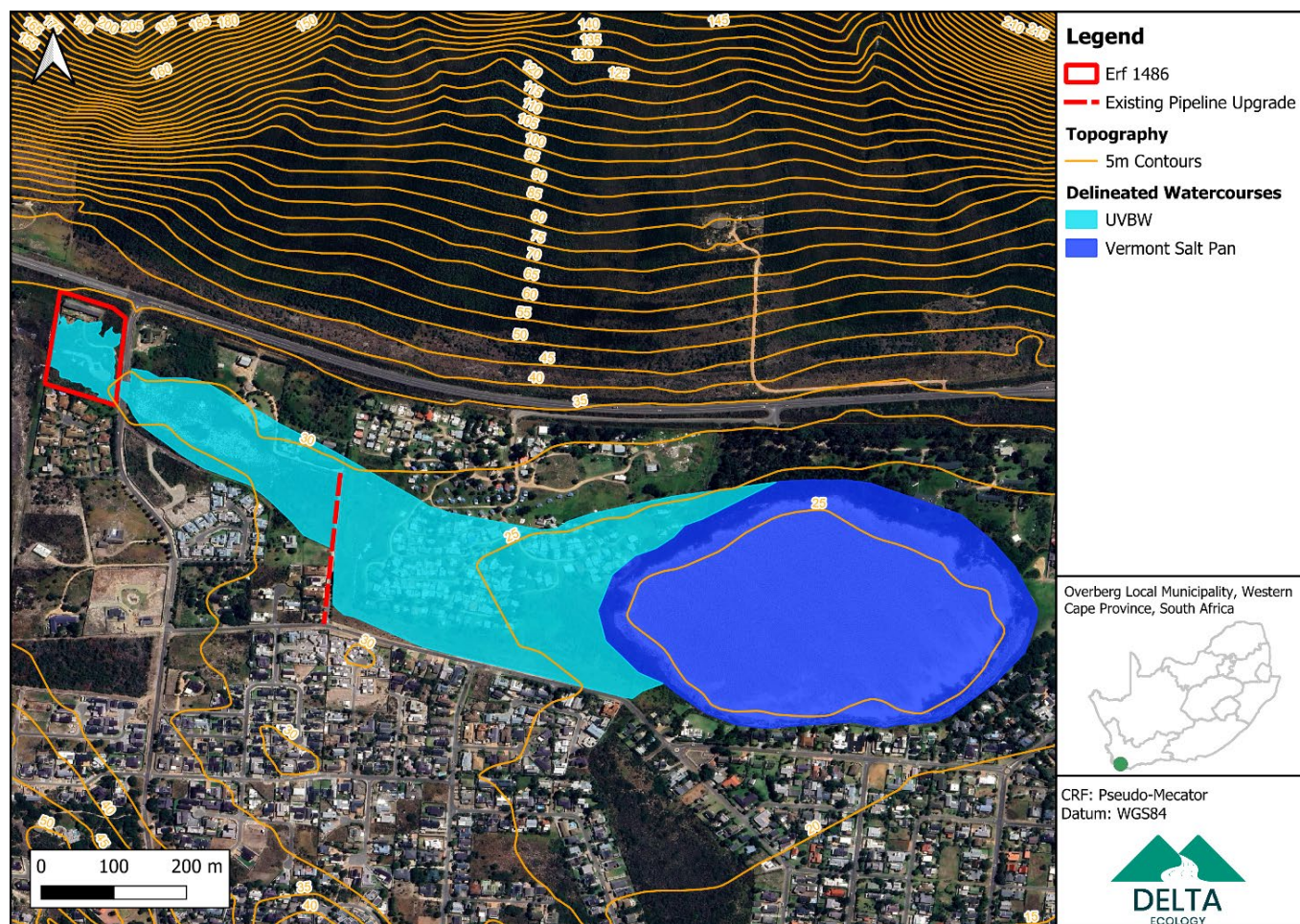


Figure i: Delineated wetlands.

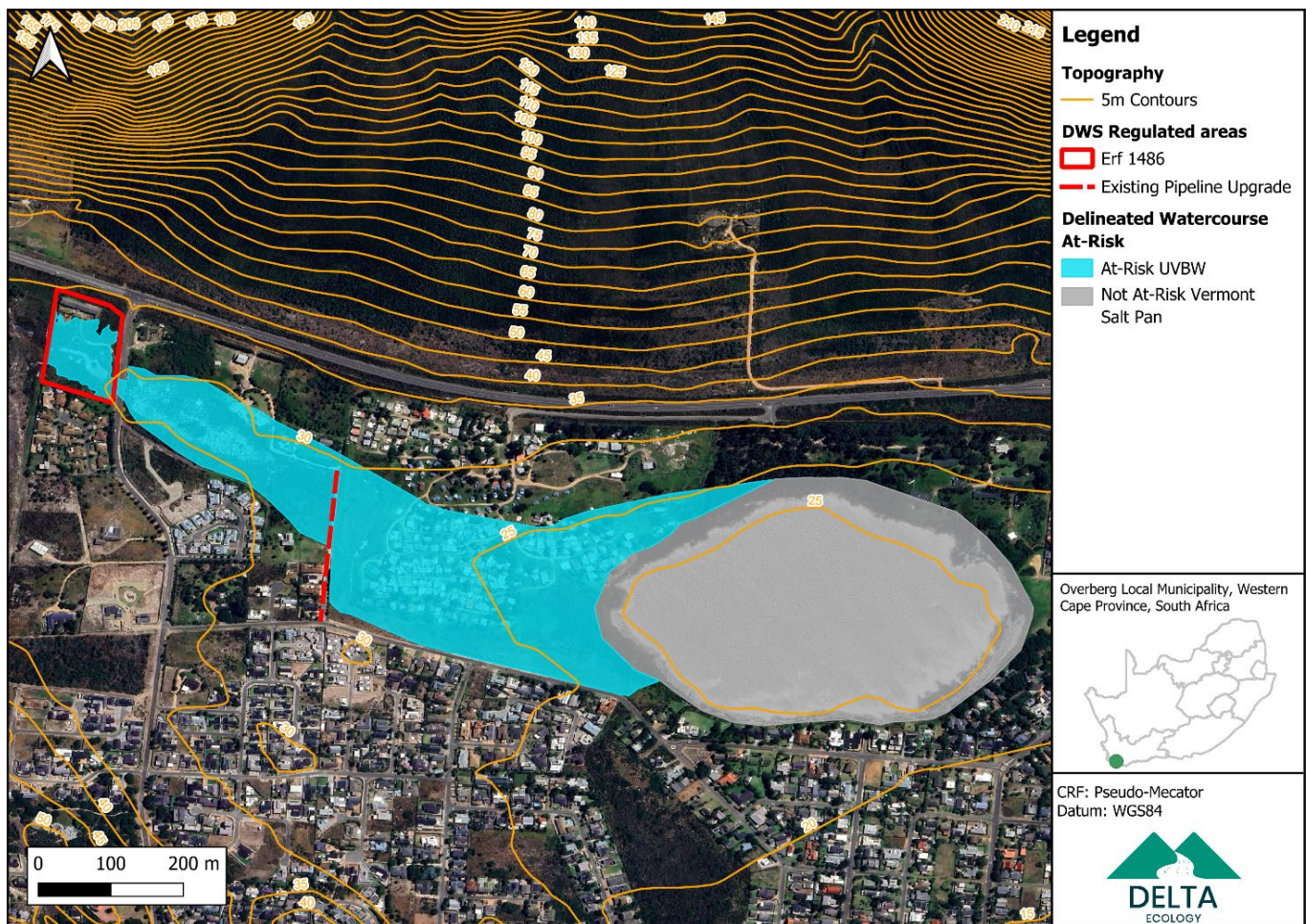


Figure ii: At risk wetland.

Having considered the available information and the findings of the assessments undertaken to date, I remain confident in and stand by the wetland delineation presented in the Delta Ecology reports.

Sincerely,

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