



**REFERENCE:** 16/3/3/2/B1/14/1028/24  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0001443/2024  
**ENQUIRIES:** Bernadette Osborne  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 12 FEBRUARY 2025

The Board of Directors  
Eilandia Plase (Pty) Ltd.  
PO Box 275  
**ROBERTSON**  
6705

**Attention: Mr. M Viljoen**

Cell: 082 898 8470  
E-mail: mechau@eilandia.co.za

Dear Sir

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION PURPOSES ON SECTIONS OF PORTION 38 OF THE FARM UITNOOD NO. 129, ROBERTSON.**

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation ("EA"), together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached EA.

Yours faithfully

**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Cc: (1) Ms. Annemarie Hurter (Cornerstone Environmental Consultants)  
(2) Ms. Tracy Brunings (Langeberg Municipality)  
(3) Mr. Rudolph Roscher (Department of Agriculture)  
(4) Ms. Elkerine Rossouw (BOCMA)  
(5) Mr. Rhett Smart (CapeNature)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION PURPOSES ON SECTIONS OF PORTION 38 OF THE FARM UITNOOD NO. 129, ROBERTSON.**

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

### DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014, the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the preferred layout alternative described in the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Report, dated 10 October 2024.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in section E below.

### A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Eilandia Plase (Pty) Ltd.  
c/o Mr M Viljoen  
PO Box 275  
**ROBERTSON**  
6705

Cell: 082 898 8470  
E-mail: mechau@eilandia.co.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as “**the holder**”.

**B. ACTIVITY AUTHORISED**

<b>Listed Activity</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<p><b>Listing Notice 1 –</b>  <b>Activity Number: 19</b>  <b>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</b></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) Will occur behind a development setback;</i></li> <li><i>(b) Is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i></li> <li><i>(c) Falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies.</i></li> <li><i>(d) Occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i></li> <li><i>(e) Where such development is related to the development of a port or harbor, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The development includes the infilling of drainage lines present on the site.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 2 –</b>  <b>Activity Number: 15</b>  <b>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation,</b> excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></li> <li><i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Approximately 66ha of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>
<p><b>Listing Notice 3 –</b>  <b>Activity Number: 12</b></p>	<p>More than 300m<sup>2</sup> of the critically endangered Breede Sand Fynbos vegetation will be cleared.</p>

**The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation** except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

**(i) Western Cape:**

- I. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;**
- II. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;
- III. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line or even in urban areas;
- IV. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or
- V. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.

The abovementioned activities are hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative as it relates to the listed activities:

The clearance of approximately 66ha of indigenous vegetation for cultivation on Portion 38 of Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson for the establishment of both irrigated and dryland crops. The site is divided into the following cultivation areas:

- Cultivation Area 1a that is 27.5ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 1b that is 19ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 1c that is 1.5ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 2 that is 7.2ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 3 that is 0.9ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 4 that is 6.8ha in size, and
- Cultivation Area 5 that is 3.2ha in size.

### C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on Portion 38 of Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson and has the following co-ordinates:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Cultivation Area 1a	33° 51' 04.36" South	19° 51' 53.79" East
Cultivation Area 1b	33° 51' 22.52" South	19° 51' 52.41" East
Cultivation Area 1c	33° 51' 15.15" South	19° 52' 42.52" East
Cultivation Area 2	33° 51' 12.98" South	19° 52' 29.42" East
Cultivation Area 3	33° 51' 12.38" South	19° 52' 42.40" East
Cultivation Area 4	33° 51' 36.15" South	19° 51' 07.61" East
Cultivation Area 5	33° 51' 49.47" South	19° 51' 44.94" East

The SG digit codes are: C065 0000 00000129 00038

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

### D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Cornerstone Environmental Consultants  
 c/o Ms. Annemarie Hurter  
 PO Box 12606  
 Die Boord  
**STELLENBOSCH**  
 7613  
 Tel: (021) 887 9099  
 Email: annemarie@cornerstoneenviro.co.za

## E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

### Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the Preferred Layout Alternative described in the EIA Report dated 10 October 2024.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on the site within a period of **five years** from the date issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be concluded within **ten years** from the date of commencement of the listed activities.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

### Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.
  - 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
  - 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8 and 11

### Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
  - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
    - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;

- 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
  - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
  - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
- 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 detailed in Section G below;
- 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
- 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
- 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
  - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
  - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
  - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
  - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder,
  - 7.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations.
8. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided.

### **Management of activity**

9. The draft or Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

### **Monitoring**

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any land clearing or development activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained herein. The ECO must conduct monthly site visits and must submit ECO reports on a quarterly basis to the competent authority.

12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request, including a publicly accessible website.
13. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

## **Auditing**

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person (other than the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner or Environmental Control Officer) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The holder must undertake environmental audits and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Competent Authority once a year during the construction phase. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within six months after the development activities have been completed.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of each of the above-mentioned reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

## **Specific Conditions**

15. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

16. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage

remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.

17. No agricultural shade netting may be erected in the areas approved for cultivation in this Environmental Authorisation.

## **F. GENERAL MATTERS**

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with a listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:  
Amendments to the EMPr, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations 2014 or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

## **G. APPEALS**

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014.

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –

- 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and
  - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision. -
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
    - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and
    - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
  3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
  4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post:                    Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs  
and Development Planning  
Private Bag X9186  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

By facsimile:            (021) 483 4174; or

By hand:                    Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)  
Room 809  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

**Note:** For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to [DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za).

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail [DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za) or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

## H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

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**MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY**  
**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)**  
DATE OF DECISION: 12 FEBRUARY 2025

Cc: (1) Ms. Annemarie Hurter (Cornerstone Environmental Consultants)  
(2) Ms. Tracy Brunings (Langeberg Municipality)  
(3) Mr. Rudolph Roscher (Department of Agriculture)  
(4) Ms. Elkerine Rossouw (BOCMA)  
(5) Mr. Rhett Smart (CapeNature)

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E-mail: [rsmart@capenature.co.za](mailto:rsmart@capenature.co.za)

**ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP**



**LOCALITY MAP**

Portion 38 Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson,  
Western Cape Province

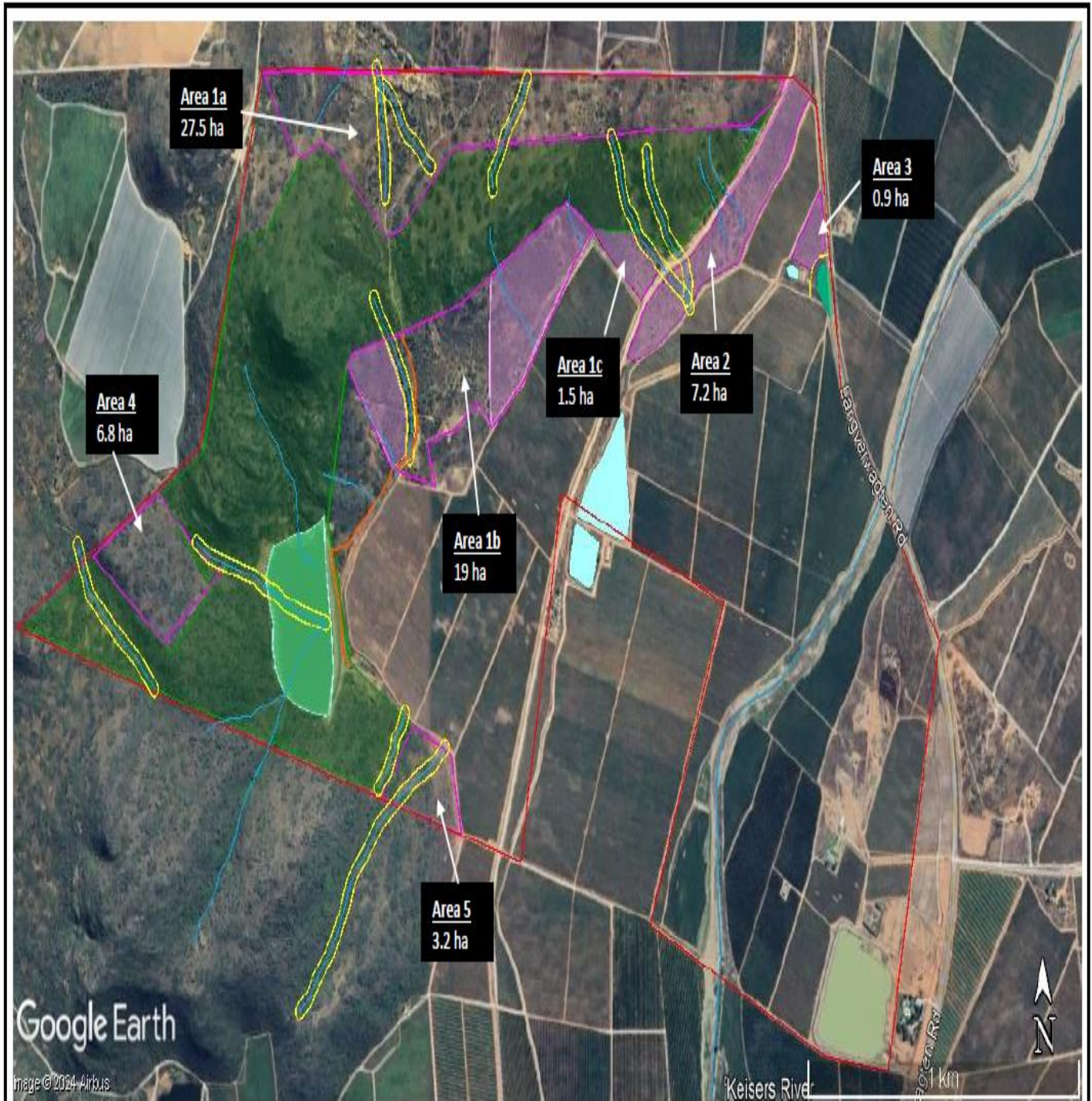


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Web: [www.cornerstoneenviro.co.za](http://www.cornerstoneenviro.co.za)

## ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



SDP - Preferred Layout of all proposed cultivation areas on Portion 38 Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson.

Scale: As per the Google Earth image



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### **ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 29 April 2024 and the EMPr submitted together with the final EIA Report dated 10 October 2024;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the EIA Report dated 10 October 2024; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

#### **1. Public Participation**

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- Notices was placed at the entrances of the site;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Breederivier' on 10 August 2021;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 2 May 2024;
- making the Draft EIA Report available for a 30day commenting period from 2 May 2024; and
- making the Revised Draft EIA Report available for a 30day commenting period from 9 September 2024.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and the comments raised, and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

## 2. Alternatives

### Original Layout Alternative

The original alternative entails the clearance of approximately 128.6ha for cultivation on Portion 38 of Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson. This alternative was not preferred since it did not consider the recommendations made by the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment, the Aquatic Impact Assessment and the Soil Report to avoid significant potential environmental impacts. The most significant environmental constraints associated with the original cultivation area layout included the following:

- Impact on three Vulnerable plant species, namely *Euchaetis pungens*, *Astroloba rubriflora* and *Eriospermum bowieanum*.
- Impact on two Near Threatened plant species, namely *Brianhuntleya intrusa* and *Euphorbia nesemanii*.
- Loss of a significant portion of critically endangered Breede Sand Fynbos vegetation.
- Loss of several smaller ephemeral watercourses that are tributaries of the Keisers River.
- Loss of a wetland area near Cultivation Area 3.

### Preferred Layout Alternative (Herewith authorised)

This alternative entails the clearance of approximately 66ha for cultivation on Portion 38 of Farm Uitnood No. 129, Robertson for the establishment of both irrigated and dryland crops. The site is divided into the following cultivation areas:

- Cultivation Area 1a that is 27.5ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 1b that is 19ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 1c that is 1.5ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 2 that is 7.2ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 3 that is 0.9ha in size,
- Cultivation Area 4 that is 6.8ha in size, and
- Cultivation Area 5 that is 3.2ha in size.

This alternative took into consideration the recommendations of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment, the Aquatic Impact Assessment and the Soil Report to avoid significant potential environmental impacts. The original layout consisting of approximately 128,6ha was reduced to approximately 66ha. This alternative was preferred for the following reasons:

- It will ensure the persistence of three Vulnerable plant species, namely *Euchaetis pungens*, *Astroloba rubriflora* and *Eriospermum bowieanum*.
- It will ensure the persistence of two Near Threatened plant species, namely *Brianhuntleya intrusa* and *Euphorbia nesemanii*.
- It will preserve a significant portion of Breede Sand Fynbos vegetation, which is a critically endangered ecosystem.
- It will preserve all significant ephemeral watercourses that are tributaries of the Keisers River.
- It will ensure the preservation of the wetland area near cultivation Area 3.

- It will maintain natural connectivity on the property. All hills and vegetation patches containing significant colonies of plant species of conservation concern, as well as pristine natural Breede Sand Fynbos vegetation areas, will be well connected to each other and to other natural areas in the surrounding area.

#### No-go alternative

This would entail maintaining the *status quo* of the site, whereby the proposed cultivation areas are not established, and the site will remain vegetated with indigenous vegetation. This alternative was not preferred since it will not utilize the agricultural potential of the property, secure existing employment or provide additional employment opportunities to the local community.

### **3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures**

#### 3.1 Activity need and desirability

The site is zoned as "Agriculture" and thus the development is accommodated within the property's existing land use rights. The development is in line with the Provincial Spatial Development Framework and the Municipal Spatial Development Framework. The development will utilize the agricultural potential of the property, secure existing employment and will also provide additional employment opportunities to the local community.

#### 3.2 Biophysical Impacts

According to the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment (dated 12 September 2023, compiled by Johlene Krige) the indigenous vegetation present on the site consists of Robertson Karoo vegetation (Least Threatened) and Breede Sand Fynbos vegetation (Critically Endangered). The study concluded that the preferred layout alternative aims at preserving the most sensitive features on the site, whilst allowing agricultural expansion by restricting cultivation areas to Robertson Karoo (Least Threatened) and the most degraded areas of Breede Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered). The overall significance of the potential botanical impacts associated with the development is expected to be of low to medium negative significance after mitigation. The recommended mitigation measures have been included in the EMP for implementation.

According to Freshwater Impact Assessment (dated May 2023, compiled by BlueScience), the watercourses present on the site comprise of several smaller ephemeral watercourses that are tributaries of the Keisers River, a tributary in the middle reaches of the Breede River System. There is also a wetland area in the south-eastern extent of the study area, that is a remnant floodplain wetland associated with the lower reaches of the tributaries and the Keisers River. The study recommended that the significant aquatic features should be retained and protected with a suitable buffer area of 15m. It is also recommended that the wetland area be retained and protected with a buffer area of approximately 20m. The recommended buffer areas have been included in the preferred layout alternative, which is herewith authorised.

A Water Use Licence Authorisation ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998) that also considered the watercourse related impacts, was issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation on 24 September 2024.

**Negative Impacts:**

- Loss of indigenous vegetation.
- Loss of and disturbance to aquatic ecology.

**Positive impacts:**

- The development will utilize the agricultural potential of the property.
- The development will secure existing employment and will also provide additional employment opportunities to the local community.

**4. National Environmental Management Act Principles**

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

**5. Conclusion**

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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