

PROPOSED CLEARING OF NATURAL VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION PURPOSES AND A DAM ON FARM 800, WORCESTER



PRE-APPLICATION BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Date:
3 September 2026

Prepared for:
JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd.

Prepared by:
Lindsay Speirs Du Toit

DEA&DP Pre-Application Reference Number:
16/3/3/6/7/1/B2/32/1265/26



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**Western Cape
Government**

Department of Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS.

APRIL 2024



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APRIL 2024

(For official use only)	
Pre-application Reference Number (if applicable):	
EIA Application Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	
Exemption Reference Number (if applicable):	
Date BAR received by Department:	
Date BAR received by Directorate:	
Date BAR received by Case Officer:	

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(This must Include an overview of the project including the Farm name/Portion/Erf number)

An area of approximately 17 ha on Farm 800, Worcester (Vredelust Farm) has been identified for cultivation. The entire site was cultivated in the past, more than 10 years ago.

Two alternative sites have been identified for the development of a dam. The total footprint and storage capacity are not yet established but two sites are broadly defined, approximately 1.4 ha each.

- Site 1 is located within the north-western portion of Farm 800, Worcester.
- Site 2 is located on Farm 31/319, Worcester and comprises of a current cultivated site (therefore no listed activities would occur on this property).

Refer to **Figure 1** below.

The properties are located within the De Wet farming area, just on the outskirts of Worcester located within the Breede Valley Municipal Area. **Refer to Figure 2 for locality map.**

Should the capacity and size of the dam trigger the EIA Regulation 2014, as amended, a separate application will be made once the design details have been determined. This application is for the clearing of 17ha for cultivation purposes and an additional 1.4ha for the purposes of a dam. All listed activities are located on Farm 800, Worcester.



Figure 1: Proposed cultivation land and dam sites

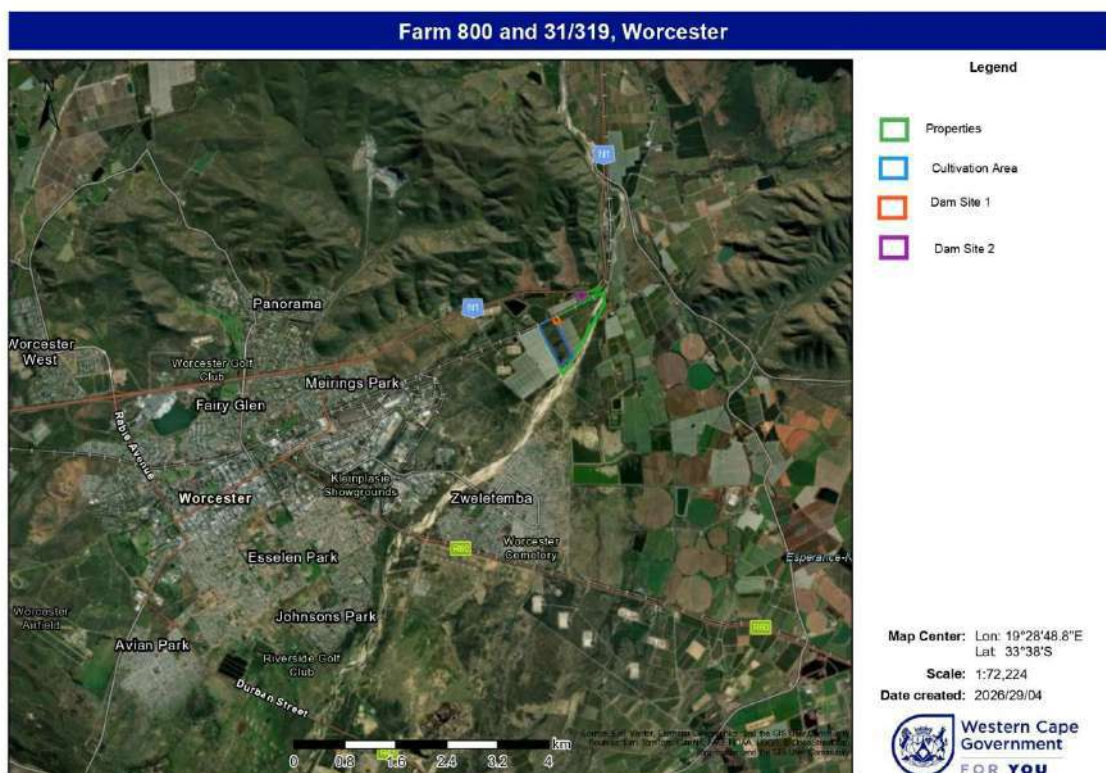


Figure 2: Locality of the site

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BE READ PRIOR TO COMPLETING THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. **The purpose** of this template is to provide a format for the Basic Assessment report as set out in Appendix 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended) in order to ultimately obtain Environmental Authorisation.
2. The Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations is defined in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") hereinafter referred to as the "NEMA EIA Regulations".
3. *Submission of documentation, reports and other correspondence:*

The Department has adopted a digital format for corresponding with proponents/applicants or the general public. If there is a conflict between this approach and any provision in the legislation, then the provisions in the legislation prevail. If there is any uncertainty about the requirements or arrangements, the relevant Competent Authority must be consulted.

The Directorate: Development Management has created generic e-mail addresses for the respective Regions, to centralise their administration. Please make use of the relevant general administration e-mail address below when submitting documents:

DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za

Directorate: Development Management (Region 1):
City of Cape Town; West Coast District Municipal area;
Cape Winelands District Municipal area and Overberg District Municipal area.

DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za

Directorate: Development Management (Region 3):
Garden Route District Municipal area and Central Karoo District Municipal area

General queries must be submitted via the general administration e-mail for EIA related queries. Where a case-officer of DEA&DP has been assigned, correspondence may be directed to such official and copied to the relevant general administration e-mail for record purposes.

All correspondence, comments, requests and decisions in terms of applications, will be issued to either the applicant/requester in a digital format via email, with digital signatures, and copied to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") (where applicable).

4. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in this Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"). The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided.
5. All applicable sections of this BAR must be completed.
6. Unless protected by law, all information contained in, and attached to this BAR, will become public information on receipt by the Competent Authority. If information is not submitted with this BAR due to such information being protected by law, the applicant and/or Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") must declare such non-disclosure and provide the reasons for believing that the information is protected.
7. This BAR is current as of **April 2024**. It is the responsibility of the Applicant/ EAP to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the BAR have been released by the Department. Visit this Department's website at <http://www.westerncape.gov.za> to check for the latest version of this BAR.
8. This BAR is the standard format, which must be used in all instances when preparing a BAR for Basic Assessment applications for an environmental authorisation in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations when the Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("DEA&DP") is the Competent Authority.

9. Unless otherwise indicated by the Department, one hard copy and one electronic copy of this BAR must be submitted to the Department at the postal address given below or by delivery thereof to the Registry Office of the Department. Reasonable access to copies of this Report must be provided to the relevant Organs of State for consultation purposes, which may, if so indicated by the Department, include providing a printed copy to a specific Organ of State.
10. This BAR must be duly dated and originally signed by the Applicant, EAP (if applicable) and Specialist(s) and must be submitted to the Department at the details provided below.
11. The Department's latest Circulars pertaining to the "One Environmental Management System" and the EIA Regulations, any subsequent Circulars, and guidelines must be taken into account when completing this BAR.
12. Should a water use licence application be required in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA"), the "One Environmental System" is applicable, specifically in terms of the synchronisation of the consideration of the application in terms of the NEMA and the NWA. Refer to this Department's Circular EADP 0028/2014: One Environmental Management System.
13. Where Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) ("NHRA") is triggered, a copy of Heritage Western Cape's final comment must be attached to the BAR.
14. The Screening Tool developed by the National Department of Environmental Affairs must be used to generate a screening report. Please use the Screening Tool link <https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool> to generate the Screening Tool Report. The screening tool report must be attached to this BAR.
15. Where this Department is also identified as the Licencing Authority to decide on applications under the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 29 of 2004) ("NEM:AQA"), the submission of the Report must also be made as follows, for-
Waste Management Licence Applications, this report must also (i.e., another hard copy and electronic copy) be submitted for the attention of the Department's Waste Management Directorate (Tel: 021-483-2728/2705 and Fax: 021-483-4425) at the same postal address as the Cape Town Office.

Atmospheric Emissions Licence Applications, this report must also be (i.e., another hard copy and electronic copy) submitted for the attention of the Licensing Authority or this Department's Air Quality Management Directorate (Tel: 021 483 2888 and Fax: 021 483 4368) at the same postal address as the Cape Town Office.

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

CAPE TOWN OFFICE: DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1) (City of Cape Town, West Coast District, Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)	GEORGE REGIONAL OFFICE: DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 3) (Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)
The completed Form must be sent via electronic mail to: DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) at: E-mail: DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za Tel: (021) 483-5829 Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) Private Bag X 9086 Cape Town, 8000	The completed Form must be sent via electronic mail to: DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) at: E-mail: DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za Tel: (044) 814-2006 Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) Private Bag X 6509 George, 6530

MAPS

Provide a location map (see below) as Appendix A1 to this BAR that shows the location of the proposed development and associated structures and infrastructure on the property.	
Locality Map:	The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities or development proposals of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g., 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following: • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend; and • a linear scale. For ocean based or aquatic activity, the coordinates must be provided within which the activity is to be undertaken and a map at an appropriate scale clearly indicating the area within which the activity is to be undertaken. Where comment from the Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works is required, a map illustrating the properties (owned by the Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works) that will be affected by the proposed development must be included in the Report.
Provide a detailed site development plan / site map (see below) as Appendix B1 to this BAR; and if applicable, all alternative properties and locations.	
Site Plan:	Detailed site development plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. The site plans must contain or conform to the following: • The detailed site plan must preferably be at a scale of 1:500 or at an appropriate scale. The scale must be clearly indicated on the plan, preferably together with a linear scale. • The property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50m of the site must be indicated on the site plan. • On land where the property has not been defined, the co-ordinates of the area in which the proposed activity or development is proposed must be provided. • The current land use (not zoning) as well as the land use zoning of each of the adjoining properties must be clearly indicated on the site plan. • The position of each component of the proposed activity or development as well as any other structures on the site must be indicated on the site plan. • Services, including electricity supply cables (indicate aboveground or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and access roads that will form part of the proposed development must be clearly indicated on the site plan. • Servitudes and an indication of the purpose of each servitude must be indicated on the site plan. • Sensitive environmental elements within 100m of the site must be included on the site plan, including (but not limited to): ○ Watercourses / Rivers / Wetlands ○ Flood lines (i.e., 1:100 year, 1:50 year and 1:10 year where applicable);

	- o Coastal Risk Zones as delineated for the Western Cape by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("DEA&DP"); - o Ridges; - o Cultural and historical features/landscapes; - o Areas with indigenous vegetation (even if degraded or infested with alien species). • Whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, a contour map of the site must be submitted. • North arrow A map/site plan must also be provided at an appropriate scale, which superimposes the proposed development and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred and alternative sites indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffer areas.
Site photographs	Colour photographs of the site that shows the overall condition of the site and its surroundings (taken on the site and taken from outside the site) with a description of each photograph. The vantage points from which the photographs were taken must be indicated on the site plan, or locality plan as applicable. If available, please also provide a recent aerial photograph. Photographs must be attached to this BAR as Appendix C. The aerial photograph(s) should be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site. Date of photographs must be included. Please note that the above requirements must be duplicated for all alternative sites.
Biodiversity Overlay Map:	A map of the relevant biodiversity information and conditions must be provided as an overlay map on the property/site plan. The Map must be attached to this BAR as Appendix D.
Linear activities or development and multiple properties	GPS co-ordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeeshoek 94 WGS84 co-ordinate system. Where numerous properties/sites are involved (linear activities) you must attach a list of the Farm Name(s)/Portion(s)/Erf number(s) to this BAR as an Appendix. For linear activities that are longer than 500m, please provide a map with the co-ordinates taken every 100m along the route to this BAR as Appendix A3.

ACRONYMS

DAFF:	Department of Forestry and Fisheries
DEA:	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEA& DP:	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DHS:	Department of Human Settlement
DoA:	Department of Agriculture
DoH:	Department of Health
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EMPr:	Environmental Management Programme
HWC:	Heritage Western Cape
NFEPA:	National Freshwater Ecosystem Protection Assessment
NSBA:	National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment
TOR:	Terms of Reference
WCBSP:	Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan
WCG:	Western Cape Government

ATTACHMENTS

Note: The Appendices must be attached to the BAR as per the list below. Please use a ✓ (tick) or a x (cross) to indicate whether the Appendix is attached to the BAR.

The following checklist of attachments must be completed.

APPENDIX			✓ (Tick) or x (cross)
Appendix A:	Maps		
	Appendix A1:	Locality Map	✓
	Appendix A2:	N/A	N/A
	Appendix A3:	Map with the GPS co-ordinates for linear activities	N/A
Appendix B:	Appendix B1:	Site development plan(s)	✓
	Appendix B2	A map of appropriate scale, which superimposes the proposed development and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffer areas;	✓
Appendix C:	Photographs		✓
Appendix D:	Biodiversity overlay map		✓
Appendix E:	Permit(s) / license(s) / exemption notice, agreements, comments from State Department/Organs of state and service letters from the municipality.		
	Appendix E1:	Final comment/ROD from HWC	Not listed in terms of NHRA.
	Appendix E2:	Copy of comment from Cape Nature	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E3:	Final Comment from the DWS	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E4:	Comment from the DEA: Oceans and Coast	N/A
	Appendix E5:	Comment from the DAFF	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E6:	Comment from WCG: Transport and Public Works	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E7:	Comment from WCG: DoA	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E8:	Comment from WCG: DHS	N/A

	Appendix E9:	Comment from WCG: DoH	N/A
	Appendix E10:	Comment from DEA&DP: Pollution Management	N/A
	Appendix E11:	Comment from DEA&DP: Waste Management	N/A
	Appendix E12:	Comment from DEA&DP: Biodiversity	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E13:	Comment from DEA&DP: Air Quality	N/A
	Appendix E14:	Comment from DEA&DP: Coastal Management	N/A
	Appendix E15:	Comment from the local authority	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E16:	Confirmation of all services (water, electricity, sewage, solid waste management)	N/A
	Appendix E17:	Comment from the District Municipality	Will be included in Statutory Draft BAR
	Appendix E18:	Copy of an exemption notice	N/A
	Appendix E19	Pre-approval for the reclamation of land	N/A
	Appendix E20:	Proof of agreement/TOR of the specialist studies conducted.	✓
	Appendix E21:	Proof of land use rights	✓
	Appendix E22:	Proof of public participation agreement for linear activities	N/A
Appendix F:	F1: I&APs		✓
Appendix G:	G1: Water Use Letter and Water Rights Certificates G2: Plant Species and Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment G3: Soil Analysis		✓
Appendix H:	EMPr		✓
Appendix I:	I1: Screening tool report I2: Site Sensitivity Verification Report		✓
Appendix J:	The impact and risk assessment for each alternative		Included in report
Appendix K:	Need and desirability		✓
Appendix.....	Any other attachments must be included as subsequent appendices		x

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

	CAPE TOWN OFFICE: REGION 1		GEORGE OFFICE: REGION 3
Highlight the Departmental Region in which the intended application will fall	(City of Cape Town, West Coast District)	(Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)	(Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)
Duplicate this section where there is more than one Proponent	JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd.		
Name of Applicant/Proponent:	Ryno Palm		
Name of contact person for Applicant/Proponent (if other):			
Company/ Trading name/State Department/Organ of State:			
Company Registration Number:	2025 / 809054 / 07		
Postal address:	Die Plaas, Vredelus, De Wet, Worcester		
		Postal code: 6849	
Telephone:	()	Cell: 0836637044	
E-mail:	admin@vredelusfarm.co.za	Fax: ()	
Company of EAP:	Lindsay Speirs Du Toit trading as Earth Grace Environmental Consultancy		
EAP name:	Lindsay Speirs Du Toit		
Postal address:	21 St Andrews Close, Worcester		
		Postal code: 6850	
Telephone:	()	Cell: 0832898727	
E-mail:	Lindsay@earthgrace.co.za	Fax: ()	
Qualifications:	Master's Degree in Geography and Environmental Studies (Stellenbosch University)		
EAP registration no:	2019/1470		
Duplicate this section where there is more than one landowner	JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd.		
Name of landowner:	Ryno Palm		
Name of contact person for landowner (if other):			
Postal address:	Die Plaas, Vredelus, De Wet, Worcester		
		Postal code: 6849	
Telephone:	()	Cell: 0836637044	
E-mail:	admin@vredelusfarm.co.za	Fax: ()	
Name of Person in control of the land:	JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd.		
Name of contact person for person in control of the land:	Ryno Palm		
Postal address:	Die Plaas, Vredelus, De Wet, Worcester		
		Postal code: 6849	
Telephone:	()	Cell: 0836637044	
E-mail:	admin@vredelusfarm.co.za	Fax: ()	
Duplicate this section where there is more than one Municipal Jurisdiction	Breede Valley Municipality		
Municipality in whose area of jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall:			
Contact person:	David McThomas		
Postal address:	Private Bag X3046, Worcester		
		Postal code: 6849	
Telephone:	023 348 4995	Cell:	
E-mail:	mm@bvm.gov.za	Fax: ()	

SECTION B: CONFIRMATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECT DETAILS AS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION FORM

1.	Is the proposed development (please tick):	New		Expansion	✓ Expansion of existing agricultural operation.
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2.	Is the proposed site(s) a brownfield of greenfield site? Please explain.				
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Greenfield.

The cultivation site was cultivated in the past but it was more than 10 years ago and some indigenous vegetation is returning. The site is heavily infested with aliens and is disturbed.

The dam site 1 is located adjacent to the proposed cultivation area, within land that was farmed more than 10 years ago. The indigenous vegetation is returning but the site is disturbed.

The dam site 2 is located within cultivated lands.

The historical imagery below (**Figures 3 to 7**) obtained from Google Earth provides a timeline of the site from 2014 to the latest available image in 2025. The images show that the proposed cultivation site has not been farmed in the last 10 years but is disturbed, and dam site 2 has been cultivated since prior to 2014.



Figure 3: Google Earth Imagery dated 2014 showing proposed cultivation area (purple polygon) and the dam alternative sites (white polygon).



Figure 4: Google Earth Imagery dated 2017 showing proposed cultivation area (purple polygon) and the dam alternative sites (white polygon).



Figure 5: Google Earth Imagery dated 2019 showing proposed cultivation area (purple polygon) and the dam alternative sites (white polygon).



Figure 6: Google Earth Imagery dated 2022 showing proposed cultivation area (purple polygon) and the dam alternative sites (white polygon).



Figure 7: Latest Google Earth Imagery dated 2025 showing proposed cultivation area (purple polygon) and the dam alternative sites (white polygon).

3.	For Linear activities or developments	
3.1.	Provide the Farm(s)/Farm Portion(s)/Erf number(s) for all routes:	
3.2.	Development footprint of the proposed development for all alternatives.	m ²

3.3.	Provide a description of the proposed development (e.g. for roads the length, width and width of the road reserve in the case of pipelines indicate the length and diameter) for all alternatives.																			
3.4.	Indicate how access to the proposed routes will be obtained for all alternatives.																			
3.5.	SG codes of the Farms/Farm Portions/Erf numbers for all alternatives																			
3.6.	Starting point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°							'							"				
	Longitude (E)	°							'							"				
	Middle point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°							'							"				
	Longitude (E)	°							'							"				
	End point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°							'							"				
	Longitude (E)	°							'							"				
Note: For Linear activities or developments longer than 500m, a map indicating the co-ordinates for every 100m along the route must be attached to this BAR as Appendix A3.																				
4.	Other developments																			
4.1.	Property size(s) of all proposed site(s):															Farm 800: 54.83ha				
4.2.	Developed footprint of the existing facility and associated infrastructure (if applicable):															Farm 800: Approx. 22.23ha				
4.3.	Development footprint of the proposed development and associated infrastructure size(s) for all alternatives:															Approximately 18.4ha				
4.4.	Provide a detailed description of the proposed development and its associated infrastructure (This must include details of e.g. buildings, structures, infrastructure, storage facilities, sewage/effluent treatment and holding facilities).																			
<u>PROPOSED LANDS FOR CULTIVATION AND DAM</u> This application is for the clearing of natural vegetation for cultivation purposes and for the purposes of an irrigation dam. The Applicant, JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd. wishes to expand their current farming operation on Farm 800, Worcester, by an additional 17ha of irrigatable land. Furthermore, the intention is to construct an off-stream storage dam on either Farm 800, Worcester or on Portion 31 of Farm 319, Worcester (cultivated land). Refer to Figure 1. The dam itself is likely to not trigger any listed activities and therefore does not form part of this application. The Dam Site 1 and the proposed cultivation area was farmed and worked in the past but more than 10 years ago. Some indigenous vegetation is returning. The proposed cultivation area will be setback more than 32m from the adjacent Hex River. A Botanist have been appointed to investigate the target area, assess the potential impacts and propose mitigation measures where impacts cannot be avoided. Irrigation pipelines and new farm roads will be included within target area and no additional abstraction points/pump stations will be required. <u>WATER FOR IRRIGATION OF CULTIVATED LAND</u> The proposed dam will require a Water Use License in terms of Section 21 (b) of the Water Act for the proposed storage of water. No additional taking of water will be applied for. The site is located within the H20H quaternary catchment area.																				

The crop water requirement for table grapes in the H20H quaternary catchment was evaluated using the SAPWAT 4 programme. SAPWAT 4 considers relevant climatic conditions, including rainfall and evaporation, together with the crop type, soil characteristics and irrigation system to determine the crop water requirement.

The SAPWAT 4 assessment indicates a crop water requirement for wine grapes in the order of 6 000–7 000 m³/ha/a. However, based on the actual water use observed for the existing table grape production on the property, the crop water requirement determined for table grapes in the H10H quaternary catchment is considered more representative and realistic for the proposed development.

The existing table grapes are cultivated under protective shade/net structures, which provide a more favourable microclimate than fully exposed vineyards. The netting reduces direct solar radiation and wind exposure, thereby reducing evaporative losses and atmospheric water demand. This assists in retaining soil moisture for longer periods and can reduce the irrigation requirement of the crop.

Based on the assessment and the actual irrigation practices on the property, a crop water requirement of 4 230 m³/ha/a has been adopted for purposes of the water balance. It is recognised that the actual water requirement may be lower, potentially in the order of 3 500 m³/ha/a, depending on seasonal climatic conditions, crop development, cultivar, soil moisture availability and irrigation management. The adopted value of 4 230 m³/ha/a is therefore considered a conservative value for the assessment and provides an appropriate allowance for variability in annual water demand.

Several site-specific factors support the adoption of a relatively low crop water requirement.

- **Cultivars**

The specific wine grape cultivars proposed for cultivation have moderate water requirements and are suited to the prevailing climatic and growing conditions of the area. Appropriate cultivar selection can contribute to improved water-use efficiency and enables the vineyard to be managed within a lower irrigation requirement than may be indicated by generic crop coefficients.

- **Protective Netting**

The proposed cultivation of wine grapes under protective netting will further reduce crop water demand. The netting moderates the vineyard microclimate by reducing solar radiation and wind exposure, which in turn can reduce evapotranspiration. It also provides protection against hail, excessive solar radiation, wind damage and extreme weather conditions, thereby improving crop resilience and reducing the risk of crop losses. The moderated conditions can assist in maintaining soil moisture and reducing plant water stress during periods of high temperature and atmospheric water demand.

- **Soil characteristics**

The soil characteristics of the property also support the adopted water requirement. The soils have a relatively good moisture-retention capacity, allowing water to remain available within the effective root zone for longer periods. This reduces the need for frequent irrigation and improves the efficiency with which applied water is utilised by the vines.

- **Irrigation method**

Furthermore, the proposed use of drip irrigation ensures that irrigation water is delivered directly and efficiently to the root zone of the vines. This minimises losses through evaporation, runoff and application outside the effective root zone and allows irrigation applications to be closely managed according to the actual crop demand and soil moisture conditions.

WATER DEMAND

The current and proposed irrigation areas developed, or intended to be developed, on Farm 800, Worcester were verified to establish the extent of existing agricultural development and the additional areas proposed for future cultivation. This verification forms part of the water balance assessment and provides the basis for determining the water demand associated with both the existing and proposed irrigation areas.

Table 2: Current and proposed development on Farm 800, Worcester

Property	Crop type	Irrigated Area (ha)	Quota (m ³ /ha/a)	Total water use (m ³ /ha/a)	Status
Farm 800, Worcester	Table grapes	15,0	3 500	52 500	Existing
	Table grapes(Shaded)	10,0	3 500	35 000	Existing
	Table grapes(Shaded)	17,0	3 500	59 500	New
Total		42,0		147 000	

WATER SUPPLY

The water availability assessment considered all relevant water sources and allocations associated with the farming operation, including the enlistment allocations and groundwater abstracted from a spring.

All existing water uses were subjected to a Verification and Validation (V&V) process to establish the extent and legitimacy of the existing water use. Following completion of the V&V process, Section 35(4) Confirmation Letters were issued on 17 February 2015 in respect of all verified enlistment allocations.

The confirmed existing lawful water uses and the groundwater contribution from the spring were incorporated into the water availability assessment to establish the total water resources available to support the existing and proposed irrigation requirements on Farm 800, Worcester.

Table 3: Enlistment allocations confirmed as ELU-Worcester East WUA

Property	Worcester East WUA(Additional from Breede River)(m ³ /a)	Worcester East WUA (Hex River)(m ³ /a)	Worcester East WUA (Sanddrift)(m ³ /a)	Total water supply (m ³ /ha/a)
Farm 800, Worcester	37 250	23 914	6 780	67 944
Total	37 250	23 914	6 780	67 944

Table 4: Other water uses confirmed as ELU

Property	Water source	Total water supply(m ³ /a)
Farm 800, Worcester	Groundwater taking from spring	71 237
Total		71 37

The total combined water use comprising the enlistment allocations and the groundwater abstraction from the spring was confirmed at 139 181 m³/a. This represents the total verified water availability considered in the water balance assessment for Farm 800, Worcester.

WATER BALANCE

Table 5: Water balance to show demand versus supply

Property owner	Property	Property size (ha)	Total combined water demand (m ³ /a)	Total combined water supply (m ³ /a)	Surplus/Deficit (m ³ /a)
JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd	Farm 800, Worcester	54,8512	147 000	139 181	-7 819
Total			147 000	139 181	

METHODS TO ADDRESS SHORTFALL

It is evident from the water balance assessment that the identified shortfall of only **7 819 m³/a** can be effectively addressed through the implementation of water-efficient irrigation and agricultural management measures.

- **Efficient irrigation and water-use management**

Efficient irrigation methods can significantly reduce the actual crop water requirement below the generic crop water requirement estimated by the SAPWAT 4 programme. These methods optimise water application, minimise avoidable losses and improve overall irrigation efficiency.

The use of drip irrigation and, where appropriate, micro-sprinkler systems allows water to be applied directly and efficiently to the crop root zone, thereby reducing losses through evaporation, surface runoff and deep percolation. The existing and proposed use of efficient irrigation systems therefore provides an opportunity to reduce actual water consumption while maintaining appropriate crop production.

Further optimisation can be achieved through the use of soil-moisture monitoring equipment, automated irrigation scheduling and climate-based irrigation control. These measures allow irrigation to be applied according to actual soil moisture conditions, crop requirements and prevailing climatic conditions rather than relying solely on fixed irrigation schedules.

Additional water conservation measures, including mulching, suitable cover crops, regular maintenance of irrigation infrastructure and the prompt repair of leaks, can further improve water-use efficiency by conserving soil moisture and reducing unnecessary water losses.

The cultivation of table grapes under protective netting, together with the selection of relatively water-efficient cultivars and the moisture-retention characteristics of the soils on the property, provides additional opportunities to reduce the actual irrigation requirement.

Considering the relatively small shortfall of 7 819 m³/a, these combined measures are considered sufficient to optimise water use and potentially reduce the actual annual irrigation demand to within the available water allocation. The water balance should therefore not be interpreted as indicating that an additional 7 819 m³/a of water will necessarily be required, as improved irrigation efficiency and site-specific management can reduce the actual water demand below the theoretical SAPWAT 4 requirement.

The proposed approach promotes the efficient, sustainable and responsible use of the available water resources, while maintaining suitable conditions for the continued development and productivity of the agricultural operation.

- **Temporary transfer of surplus water from neighbouring properties**

The applicant owns a number of neighbouring properties that are managed and operated as a single integrated farming unit. The water balance assessment identified that certain of these properties have surplus water allocations that are not fully utilised under normal operating conditions.

During periods when the water demand on Farm 800, Worcester exceeds the available allocation, particularly during drought conditions or periods of increased irrigation demand, the applicant may seek to temporarily utilise a portion of the surplus water associated with the neighbouring properties to supplement the water supply on Farm 800, Worcester.

Any such temporary transfer or use of water between properties would be undertaken only where legally permissible and subject to the applicable authorisations, conditions and approval of the relevant water management authority such as the Worcester East WUA. The arrangement would not constitute a permanent reallocation of the water entitlement and would not affect the lawful water entitlement associated with the property from which the surplus water is made available.

This provides an additional level of water-security and drought resilience for Farm 800, Worcester, while ensuring that the overall water use of the integrated farming operation remains within the combined verified water availability.

All water use associated with the enlistment allocations is controlled and managed by the Worcester East WUA. The allocations are subject to the applicable management rules and conditions of the WUA and may not be exceeded without prior approval from the relevant authority and/or the WUA, as applicable.

The applicant will therefore ensure that the authorised allocation is not exceeded under normal operating conditions. Any temporary utilisation of surplus water from neighbouring properties will only be undertaken where such use is permissible and has received the necessary prior approval.

- **Monitoring of water use**

The control and management of the allocations by the Worcester East WUA provides an additional mechanism to ensure that water use remains within the authorised limits and that the proposed irrigation activities are managed in accordance with the applicable water-use requirements.

The groundwater abstracted from the spring is measured and monitored to ensure that the volume of water abstracted remains within the verified and authorised allocation. Regular measurement of the abstraction provides an accurate record of actual water use and enables the applicant to monitor consumption against the available water allocation.

The measured abstraction from the spring is incorporated into the overall water balance and, together with the enlistment allocations managed by the Worcester East WUA, provides a reliable basis for monitoring the total water use associated with Farm 800, Worcester.

4.5. Indicate how access to the proposed site(s) will be obtained for all alternatives.

Existing farm roads will be used to gain access to the target area.



Figure 8: Orange line indicates existing farm roads that provide access to sites.

4.6.	SG Digit code(s) of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:	C0850000000080000000		
Coordinates of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:				
CULTIVATION AREA				
4.7.	Latitude (S)	33°	37 ‘	’23.83 “
	Longitude (E)	19°	30’	6.39 “

DAM SITE 1	Latitude (S)	33°37'11.01"S
	Longitude (E)	19°30'5.42"E

SECTION C: LEGISLATION/POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES/PROTOCOLS

1. Exemption applied for in terms of the NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations

Has exemption been applied for in terms of the NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations. If yes, include a copy of the exemption notice in Appendix E18.	YES	NO
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2. Is the following legislation applicable to the proposed activity or development.

The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("ICMA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the relevant competent authority as Appendix E4 and the pre-approval for the reclamation of land as Appendix E19.	YES	NO
The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) ("NHRA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from Heritage Western Cape as Appendix E1.	YES	NO
The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the DWS as Appendix E3. Comment will be obtained from BOCMA. See Water Use Assessment Report attached as Appendix G1.	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) ("NEM:AQA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the relevant authorities as Appendix E13.	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) ("NEM:WA")	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004 ("NEMBA"). CapeNature will be notified of the application and comment will be requested.	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) ("NEMPAA").	YES	NO
The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983). If yes, attach comment from the relevant competent authority as Appendix E5. Comment will be obtained from the Department of Agriculture.	YES	NO

3. Other legislation

List any other legislation that is applicable to the proposed activity or development.
No other legislation is applicable.

4. Policies

Explain which policies were considered and how the proposed activity or development complies and responds to these policies.
The proposed property is zoned Agriculture, and the proposed activity is therefore permitted in terms of the land use rights of the property.

5. Guidelines

List the guidelines which have been considered relevant to the proposed activity or development and explain how they have influenced the development proposal.
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DEA&DP's EIA Guideline and Information Document Series	Applied to various components in the Basic Assessment process. The following guidelines were considered throughout this Basic Assessment process: - Guidelines for EIA Requirements - Guidelines for Public Participation - Guidelines on Alternatives - Guideline on Need and Desirability - Guideline for Involving Biodiversity Specialists in EIA Processes - Guideline for Environmental Management Plans
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DEA&DP's Circular EADP 0028/2014: "One Environmental Management System"	This circular provides further detail and clarity on the procedure to be followed during the Basic Assessment process, specifically under the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
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6. Protocols

Explain how the proposed activity or development complies with the requirements of the protocols referred to in the NOI and/or application form
The EIA Protocols comprise procedures to be followed for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting of Identified Environmental Themes, when applying for Environmental Authorisation. The themes relevant to this application are Plant Species and Terrestrial Biodiversity. A Biodiversity Specialist/Botanist was appointed to assess and investigate the potential impacts of the proposed development on the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species. The specialist input complies with the minimum content requirements prescribed by the respective protocols. A Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) (Appendix I2) was compiled in accordance with the requirements of the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool and the applicable NEMA Protocols (as promulgated in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended). The SSVR was informed by a combination of desktop analysis and site verification undertaken by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and relevant specialists. The SSVR verified the environmental sensitivities identified in the Screening Tool Report (Appendix I1) and confirmed the specialist studies required for the proposed development. Specialist assessments were undertaken where required by the applicable protocols, while specialist studies not required were appropriately motivated in the SSVR. All specialist assessments incorporated into the BAR comply with the minimum content requirements of the applicable protocols. Accordingly, the proposed development and the Basic Assessment process comply with the requirements of the applicable protocols.

SECTION D: APPLICABLE LISTED ACTIVITIES

List the applicable activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	An area of approximately 17 ha is targeted for clearing and cultivation. The entire site was cultivated in the past but more than 10 years ago. In addition, an irrigation dam is proposed that will require the clearing of approximately 1.4ha for one of the dam alternative sites. Therefore, this application is for the clearing of 18,4ha.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
N/A		
Note: - The listed activities specified above must reconcile with activities applied for in the application form. The onus is on the Applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. If a specific listed activity is not included in an Environmental Authorisation, a new application for Environmental Authorisation will have to be submitted. - Where additional listed activities have been identified, that have not been included in the application form, and amended application form must be submitted to the competent authority.		

List the applicable waste management listed activities in terms of the NEM:WA

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Category A	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
N/A		

List the applicable listed activities in terms of the NEM:AQA

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Listed Activity(ies)	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
N/A		

SECTION E: PLANNING CONTEXT AND NEED AND DESIRABILITY

1.	Provide a description of the preferred alternative.
	The preferred alternative is the proposed clearing of 17ha of vegetation for the purposes of cultivation. An additional 1.4ha will be cleared for the purposes of an irrigation dam. A second dam site alternative has been identified which is located within an existing cultivated site.
2.	Explain how the proposed development is in line with the existing land use rights of the property as you have indicated in the NOI and application form? Include the proof of the existing land use rights granted in Appendix E21.
	The sites are located on an operational farm which is located within an agricultural area just outside the town of Worcester. The farm is zoned Agriculture – Zoning Map included as Appendix E21 .
3.	Explain how potential conflict with respect to existing approvals for the proposed site (as indicated in the NOI/and or application form) and the proposed development have been resolved.
	There are no conflicts between any existing approvals and the current application that the EAP is aware of. The proposal will not conflict with any existing approvals as the land use will remain the same and fields will be expanded in accordance with the need and desirability of the farm and CARA permit issued by the DoA.
4.	Explain how the proposed development will be in line with the following?
4.1	The Provincial Spatial Development Framework.
	The proposed activity is consistent with the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework, particularly regarding the continued use and optimisation of agricultural land within established agriculture production areas. The expansion of cultivation on this property, supports the retention of productive agricultural landscapes and contributes to ongoing food production and improvement in economic activity. The activity is located within an already transformed agricultural matrix and has been directed towards areas that have been historically cultivated or disturbed, thereby reducing pressure on less disturbed portions of the landscape. In this context, the proposal reflects an appropriate balance between maintaining agricultural productivity and managing environmental constraints at a regional scale. Surrounding land uses include agriculture and the property has existing agricultural lands. The proposed additions will not impact the sense of place and will be in line with what the property is currently used for and surrounding land uses. The proposed agricultural lands will make use of existing infrastructure and already has water entitlements in place, which will be used to irrigate the additional agricultural lands – minimising the consumption of scarce resources.
4.2	The Integrated Development Plan of the local municipality.
	The proposed development is considered to be broadly aligned with the objectives and priorities of the Breede Valley Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP), particularly those relating to the promotion of economic development, agricultural production and the sustainable utilisation of the Municipality's rural resources. The Breede Valley Municipality recognises agriculture as an important component of the local economy and the agricultural sector provides a significant contribution to economic activity within the municipal area. The proposal will therefore facilitate the productive use of rural land and contribute to maintaining and potentially expanding agricultural production within the Breede Valley. The development of irrigation infrastructure is also considered supportive of the agricultural economy by improving the availability and management of water for agricultural production. This is particularly relevant within the Breede Valley, where agriculture is an important economic sector.
4.3.	The Spatial Development Framework of the local municipality.
	The proposed development is considered to be broadly aligned with the Breede Valley Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF), February 2020, which identifies agriculture and natural open-space systems as important spatial structuring elements within the Municipality. The SDF recognises the protection of agricultural land as an important contributor to the local economy and supports the sustainable management of the Municipality's rural resources. The Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Assessment confirms that the site comprises old, cultivated fields, with remnants of previous vineyards and tilling furrows still evident. The site has remained in a poor ecological condition over an extended period and is currently characterised by low natural plant diversity and significant alien vegetation infestation.

In this context, the proposed agricultural use is considered compatible with the SDF's objective of maintaining and supporting agriculture within the rural landscape. The development will facilitate the productive use of land that has historically been utilised for cultivation and will provide associated irrigation infrastructure to support agricultural production.

The proposal must, however, be balanced against the SDF's objective of protecting natural open-space systems and important environmental resources. Of particular relevance is the adjacent Hex River, which is identified as an important biodiversity process area. The EAP and specialist therefore recommends that the Hex River floodplain and a minimum 32 m buffer be excluded from development and disturbance. The proposed development should be restricted to areas above the existing paleo-terrace, with appropriate measures implemented to prevent impacts on the river and its floodplain.

Subject to the retention of the recommended 32 m river buffer and implementation of the proposed biodiversity mitigation measures, the development is considered broadly consistent with the spatial intent of the Breede Valley Municipality SDF. It supports the productive use of the Municipality's rural agricultural areas while avoiding direct development within the important riverine open-space system and limiting potential impacts on biodiversity resources.

4.4.	The Environmental Management Framework applicable to the area.
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Based on the Screening Tool Report, no Environmental Management Framework (EMF) areas intersect the proposed development area.

5.	Explain how comments from the relevant authorities and/or specialist(s) with respect to biodiversity have influenced the proposed development.
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Comments received from relevant authorities during the PPP will be incorporated into the Draft BAR.

The comments and recommendations of the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species specialist have been incorporated into the proposed development and have influenced both the layout of the development and the mitigation measures to be implemented.

6.	Explain how the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (including the guidelines in the handbook) has influenced the proposed development.
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The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP) 2023 was considered in the planning and assessment of the proposed development. The WCBSP identifies Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) that require safeguarding to maintain the functioning of species, ecosystems and ecological processes and the provision of ecosystem services.

The proposed 17 ha cultivation area is mapped as a terrestrial CBA, while the Hex River adjoining the southern boundary is identified as an aquatic CBA, with degraded sections classified as CBA2. Dam Site 1 is also mapped as a terrestrial CBA, whereas Dam Site 2 is located within an existing cultivated area and is not mapped as a CBA or ESA.

The WCBSP mapping therefore formed an important consideration in the assessment of the proposed development and the consideration of alternative dam sites. The biodiversity specialist undertook a site-specific assessment to determine whether the mapped CBA represents an area that currently fulfils the biodiversity objectives for which it was identified. The assessment found that the proposed cultivation area is a highly degraded former agricultural area, with remnants of historical vineyards and tilling furrows, very low natural plant diversity and recurring alien vegetation infestation. The site is not recognised as a natural remnant of Breede Alluvium Renosterveld and is completely surrounded by cultivated areas.

The specialist further confirmed that the site does not form part of a biodiversity corridor and that development of the proposed cultivation area will not affect local biodiversity connectivity. The assessment therefore concluded that, although the area is mapped as a CBA, the current condition of the site means that it is unlikely to contribute significantly to the conservation of the original endangered ecosystem.

The WC BSP mapping has nevertheless influenced the proposed development by requiring particular attention to the Hex River, which is identified as an important aquatic CBA and biodiversity process area. The

river and its floodplain will be excluded from the development, and a minimum 32 m buffer will be maintained between the proposed cultivation and the Hex River floodplain.	
7.	Explain how the proposed development is in line with the intention/purpose of the relevant zones as defined in the ICMA.
Not applicable.	
8.	Explain whether the screening report has changed from the one submitted together with the application form. The screening report must be attached as Appendix I.
The Application Form has not yet been submitted, as this report forms part of a pre-application Basic Assessment process. Accordingly, the Screening Report included as Appendix I1 has not changed from that generated using the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool and will accompany the Application Form upon submission of the formal application. Any refinements to the Screening Tool sensitivities will be addressed and motivated in the SSVR (Appendix I2), in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations and applicable protocols.	
9.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise vacant land available within an urban area.
Not applicable. The proposed development is located on agricultural land situated outside the urban area of Worcester.	
10.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise the use of existing resources and infrastructure.
The property is an existing farm with existing cultivation areas. The proposal will make use of available high potential agricultural farmland to expand the farm and it makes productive use of land that has historically been utilised for agriculture, rather than requiring the development of a new agricultural area within an intact natural landscape. The additional land has been assessed by a specialist, the layout of the new cultivation area has been informed by the sensitivity of the site and buffers have been specifically retained to protect the adjacent Hex River. The following will be used: • The operation of the proposed fields will make use of the existing water use rights, as such, connection to existing infrastructure will be made. • The high productive agricultural land will be utilized for agricultural purposes • Historically farmed land will be used for cultivation. • Access to the lands will be via the existing farm tracks. • The produce of the fields will form part of the existing production on the farm.	
11.	Explain whether the necessary services are available and whether the local authority has confirmed sufficient, spare, unallocated service capacity. (Confirmation of all services must be included in Appendix E16).
The operation of the new fields will connect to existing infrastructure and will make use of existing water use rights. No municipal services applicable.	
12.	In addition to the above, explain the need and desirability of the proposed activity or development in terms of this Department's guideline on Need and Desirability (March 2013) or the DEA's Integrated Environmental Management Guideline on Need and Desirability. This may be attached to this BAR as Appendix K.
Refer to Appendix K.	

SECTION F: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Process ("PPP") must fulfil the requirements as outlined in the NEMA EIA Regulations and must be attached as Appendix F. Please note that if the NEM: WA and/or the NEM: AQA is applicable to the proposed development, an advertisement must be placed in at least two newspapers.

1. Exclusively for linear activities: Indicate what PPP was agreed to by the competent authority. Include proof of this agreement in Appendix E22.

Not applicable.

2. Confirm that the PPP as indicated in the application form has been complied with. All the PPP must be included in Appendix F.

The PPP is being undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Proof of the pre-application PPP will be included in **Appendix F** of the draft Basic Assessment Report.

Two rounds of public participation will be conducted. The following steps will be undertaken:

Pre-Application Phase

- The pre-application Basic Assessment Report (BAR) was made available for a 30-day commenting period to potential I&APs, State Departments and Organs of State with jurisdiction in the area. The list of I&APs are included as **Appendix F1**.
- Notification letters will be sent to all immediate neighbours, relevant State Departments, CapeNature, Municipalities, ward councillor, and water users associations. The letter informed will inform the public and State Departments of the availability of the report for comment, where the report can be accessed and the timeframes of the commenting period.
- A direct link or a CD copy of the Pre-Application BAR will be sent to relevant State Departments and Organs of State. Their comments will be requested in terms of Section 24O of NEMA.
- An advertisement will be placed in the Worcester Standard, informing the public of the proposal, where to find the report and how to comment.
- A site notice will be placed at the access point to the farm, informing passers-by of the proposal.
- The pre-application BAR will be made available on Earth Grace website (www.earthgrace.co.za). The main report and appendices will be available as separate links
- Adjacent landowners will be asked to notify their tenants of the proposal and their opportunity to comment.
- The Applicant will be requested to inform all those working and residing on the farm of the application and their opportunity to comment.
- The ward councillor will be asked to notify any community groups via WhatsApp groups, of the proposal and the commenting period.
- All comments received during this commenting period will be included and responded to in the comments and response (C&R) report which will be included in the Draft BAR.

Statutory Phase

After submission of the application form, Registered I&APs and relevant State Departments and Organs of State will have another opportunity to comment on the draft BAR. No extensions will be allowed during the commenting period due to the strict timeframes. Below is a summary of the PPP that will be undertaken as part of the statutory process.

- The draft BAR will be available for another 30-day commenting period,
- The report will be uploaded to the Earth Grace website.
- Registered I&APs and State Departments will be notified via email of the availability of the draft BAR.
- All comments received during the 30-day comment period will be included in the final BAR. All comments received will be responded to in the comments and response (C&R) report.
- The final BAR will be submitted to the DEA&DP for their decision

3. Confirm which of the State Departments and Organs of State indicated in the Notice of Intent/application form were consulted with.

The following State Departments and Organs of State have been identified for consultation as part of the pre-application Public Participation Process:

Name	Surname	Organisation	Email
State Department and Organs of State			
Quinton	Balie	Cape Winelands Municipality	quinton@capewinelands.gov.za
Gunther	Frantz	DEA&DP: Pollution and Chemicals	Gunther.Frantz@westerncape.gov.za
Leandra	Knoetze	CapeNature	lknoetze@capenature.co.za
Municipal	Manager	Cape Winelands Municipality	mm@capewinelands.gov.za
Yonela	Makabeni	DEA&DP: Waste Management	Yonela.Makabeni@westerncape.gov.za
David	McThomas	Breede Valley Municipality	mm@bvm.gov.za
Rahab	Ramukhesa	National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	RahabM@Dalrrd.gov.za; lutendon@dalrrd.gov.za
Rudolph	Roscher	Provincial Dept. of Agriculture: Sustainable Resource Management (LandCare)	rudolph.roscher@westerncape.gov.za
Elkerine	Rossouw	BOCMA	erossouw@bocma.co.za
Vanessa	Stoffels	Department of Roads and Infrastructure	vanessa.stoffels@westerncape.gov.za
Cor	van der Walt	Provincial Department of Agriculture	corvdw@elsenburg.com; brandon.layman@westerncape.gov.za
Juben	Von Willingh	Ward 5 councillor	jvonwillingh@bvm.gov.za
Deon	Mouton	Worcester Oos Water Users Association	dmouton@wewua.co.za

4. If any of the State Departments and Organs of State were not consulted, indicate which and why.

All identified State Departments and Organs of State will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the pre-application BAR in accordance with Section 24O of NEMA. Proof of consultation will be included in Appendix F of the draft BAR

5. if any of the State Departments and Organs of State did not respond, indicate which.

To be confirmed in the draft BAR following completion of the pre-application PPP.

6. Provide a summary of the issues raised by I&APs and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated into the development proposal.

A Comments and Responses Report summarising all issues raised during the pre-application PPP, together with the manner in which these issues have been addressed, will be included in Appendix F of the draft BAR.

Note:

A register of all the I&AP's notified, including the Organs of State, and all the registered I&APs must be included in Appendix F. The register must be maintained and made available to any person requesting access to the register in writing.

The EAP must notify I&AP's that all information submitted by I&AP's becomes public information.

Your attention is drawn to Regulation 40 (3) of the NEMA EIA Regulations which states that "Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but **must** be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority."

All the comments received from I&APs on the pre -application BAR (if applicable and the draft BAR must be recorded, responded to and included in the Comments and Responses Report and must be included in Appendix F.

All information obtained during the PPP (the minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&APs and other role players wherein the views of the participants are recorded) and must be included in Appendix F.

Please note that proof of the PPP conducted must be included in Appendix F. In terms of the required "proof" the following is required:

- a site map showing where the site notice was displayed, dated photographs showing the notice displayed on site and a copy of the text displayed on the notice;
- in terms of the written notices given, a copy of the written notice sent, as well as:
 - if registered mail was sent, a list of the registered mail sent (showing the registered mail number, the name of the person the mail was sent to, the address of the person and the date the registered mail was sent);
 - if normal mail was sent, a list of the mail sent (showing the name of the person the mail was sent to, the address of the person, the date the mail was sent, and the signature of the post office worker or the post office stamp indicating that the letter was sent);
 - if a facsimile was sent, a copy of the facsimile Report;
 - if an electronic mail was sent, a copy of the electronic mail sent; and
 - if a "mail drop" was done, a signed register of "mail drops" received (showing the name of the person the notice was handed to, the address of the person, the date, and the signature of the person); and
- a copy of the newspaper advertisement ("newspaper clipping") that was placed, indicating the name of the newspaper and date of publication (of such quality that the wording in the advertisement is legible).

SECTION G: DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

All specialist studies must be attached as Appendix G.

1. Groundwater

1.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
1.2.	Provide the name and or company who conducted the specialist study.		
	Not applicable		
1.3.	Indicate above which aquifer your proposed development will be located and explain how this has influenced your proposed development.		
	The proposed cultivation area and dam site is underlain by a major intergranular aquifer. The proposal will not impact the aquifer significantly. The Applicant will use some of his existing groundwater rights to irrigate the cultivated land.		
1.4.	Indicate the depth of groundwater and explain how the depth of groundwater and type of aquifer (if present) has influenced your proposed development.		
	According to the DWS Groundwater Resource Assessment Phase 2 (2005), groundwater occurs at approximately 17.3m below ground level. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have any significant impacts on the aquifer and appropriate stormwater, wastewater and pollution prevention measures incorporated into the design and EMP will minimise the potential for groundwater contamination.		

2. Surface water

2.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
2.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
	Not applicable		
2.3.	Explain how the presence of watercourse(s) and/or wetlands on the property(ies) has influenced your proposed development.		
	There were no identified wetlands on the proposed cultivation site or dam sites. The Hex River is located to the south of the site identified for clearing and cultivation. The Hex River is a perennial river that is an aquatic CBA and has associated NFEPA wetlands.		
	The proposed cultivation area has been setback from the Hex River's riverbank by more than 32m to ensure the river is not impacted by the proposed development.		

3. Coastal Environment

3.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
3.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
	Not applicable		
3.3.	Explain how the relevant considerations of Section 63 of the ICMA were taken into account and explain how this influenced your proposed development.		
	Not applicable		
3.4.	Explain how estuary management plans (if applicable) has influenced the proposed development.		
	Not applicable		
3.5.	Explain how the modelled coastal risk zones, the coastal protection zone, littoral active zone and estuarine functional zones, have influenced the proposed development.		

2. Biodiversity

4.1.	Were specialist studies conducted?	YES	NO
4.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist studies.		
	Johlene Krige – Terrestrial biodiversity and plant species assessment.		
4.3.	Explain which systematic conservation planning and other biodiversity informants such as vegetation maps, NFEPA, NSBA etc. have been used and how has this influenced your proposed development.		

The EAP consulted the following conservation planning and biodiversity informants to determine the sensitivity of the site, prior to the site verification visit:

- Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Cape Nature 2023)
- NFEPA data (2011)
- Cape Farm Mapper
- Google Earth Imagery
- National Screening Tool

The above data was confirmed on site on 13 February 2026. Refer to the Site Photographs included as **Appendix C** and the Site Sensitivity Verification Report included as **Appendix L**.

A Botanical Specialist was appointed to investigate the site to determine the sensitivity of the site in terms of the plant species and terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity.

Spatial Data and Site Verification Investigated by the specialist

An overview of the existing land use, vegetation, ecosystem status and occurrence of sensitive areas on the identified land were obtained through SANBI GIS, The National Vegetation Map (2024 beta update), NEMBA Revised List of Threatened Ecosystems (2022), The 2023 WC Biodiversity Spatial Plan (Cape Nature 2024), National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool, Google Earth Imagery and Cape Farm Mapper. Maps used in this report were configured in Cape Farm Mapper, Google Earth and Quantum GIS.

A field survey was conducted to confirm the vegetation type and to assess the habitat quality and the presence of rare species, whilst recording all evident plant species. The site was walked and various reference points marked using a handheld GPS while aspects such as the condition of the vegetation and levels of disturbance were noted and photographed. The target development area was visited on the 19th of November 2013, the 3rd of September 2019 and the 3rd of February 2026.

4.4.	Explain how the objectives and management guidelines of the Biodiversity Spatial Plan have been used and how has this influenced your proposed development.
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TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY AND PLANT SPECIES

The entire cultivation site and a portion of dam site 1 site is identified as a CBA in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WC BSP 2023). The Hex River, to the south of the site, is recognised as an aquatic CBA, with degraded areas regarded CBA2.

CBAs are required to meet biodiversity targets, for species, ecosystems or ecological processes and infrastructure. ESAs play an important role in supporting the functioning of Protected Areas or CBAs and are often vital for delivering ecosystem services.

The reason for this site being recognised as a CBA is presumably as it is likely to support a near-natural form of an endangered ecosystem and that the preservation of this site should contribute to the preservation of the remaining extent of endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld. It is however the specialist's opinion that the site is currently not contributing to the preservation of the original ecosystem on site. It is very unlikely that the site will contribute to the preservation of this ecosystem in future.

The site is therefore considered appropriate for clearing for cultivation and storage of water purposes.

4.5.	Explain what impact the proposed development will have on the site specific features and/or function of the Biodiversity Spatial Plan category and how has this influenced the proposed development.
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The following information was obtained from the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Assessment attached as **Appendix G2**.

MAPPED VEGETATION

According to the SA Vegetation Map (Mucina and Rutherford 2006 & 2024 update) the entire site (cultivation area and both dam sites) comprised Breede Alluvium Renosterveld prior to any disturbances. Dam site 2 is however currently cultivated and Dam site 1 and the target cultivation area was cultivated in the past. Breede Alluvium Renosterveld is listed as an Endangered ecosystem.

The vegetation within the target cultivation site was classified at a finer scale as Hex River Arid Alluvium Fynbos (considered Endangered) by the CAPE Fine Scale Mapping Project (Helme, N. A. and Freshwater consulting Group, 2007). The northernmost section, including dam site 1, is classified as Worcester Renosterveld Karoo (previously known as Robertson Karoo which is Least Threatened).

HABITAT CONDITION AND VEGETATION ON SITE

Dam site 1:

The area targeted for dam site 1 is highly degraded with no significant natural vegetation. The site is dominated by *Cynodon dactylon* (kweek), *Carpobrostus edulis* (suurvy) and *Acacia saligna* (port jackson), with scattered individuals of *Athanasia trifurcata* (kouerbos) and the weedy *Senecio burchellii* (geelgifbossie). There is an existing small dam / water abstraction pond which is completely overgrown by port jackson. There is currently no representation of the original ecosystem, Breede Alluvium Renosterveld, on site. See **Figure 9 and 10**.

Dam site 2:

Dam site 2 has no remaining natural vegetation. The site is currently used for cultivation.



Figure 9: Looking north-east towards the proposed dam site 1. Photograph by Johlene Krige



Figure 10: Looking east towards dam site 1 showing a dominant kweek grass cover (*Cynodon dactylon*) with suurv and scattered kouterbos and dense port jackson at the existing abstraction pond. Photograph by J Krige

Proposed cultivation area:

The entire area targeted for cultivation comprises old fields (previous cultivation areas). Remnants of old vineyard and tilling furrows are still evident on site. Subsequent to cultivation the site has been utilised for grazing for many years and the site is currently still utilised for grazing. Previous cultivation occurred more than 10 years ago and some natural vegetation has re-established on site. The site has a history of alien *Acacia saligna* (port jackson) infestation with various attempts to eradicate alien vegetation over the years, followed by recurring port jackson infestations (Refer to Figure 11-13 for earlier satellite imagery).

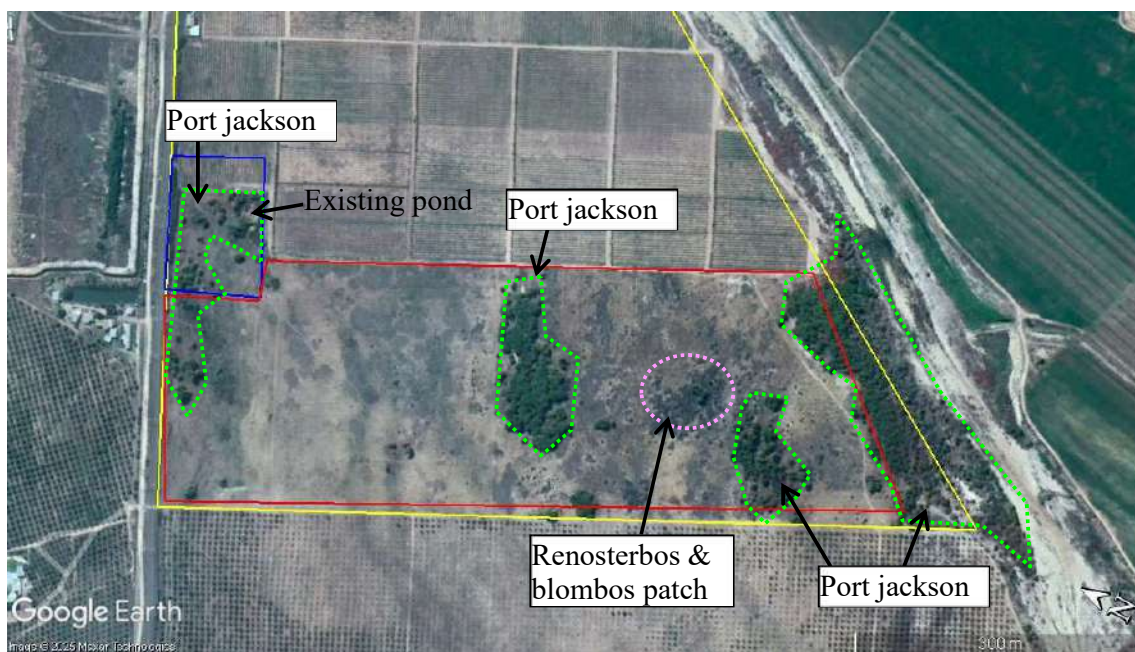


Figure 11: Earlier Google Earth image of September 2017 showing the habitat condition on site. Map by Johlene Krige

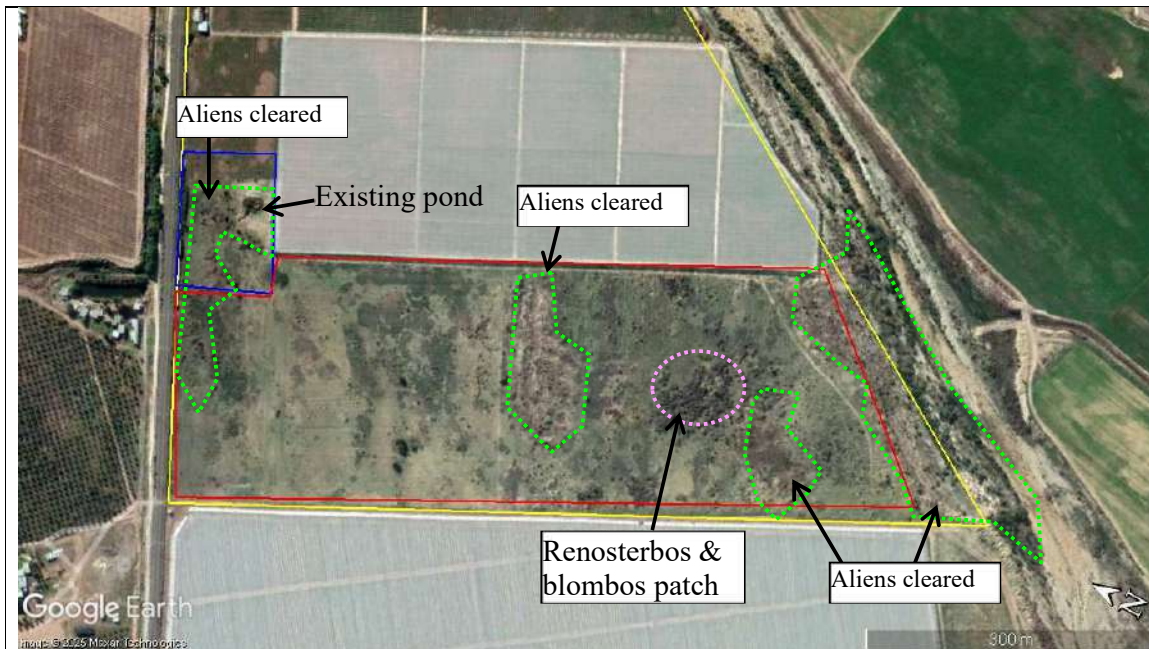


Figure 12: Earlier Google Earth image of June 2019 showing the habitat condition on site. Map by Johlene Krige

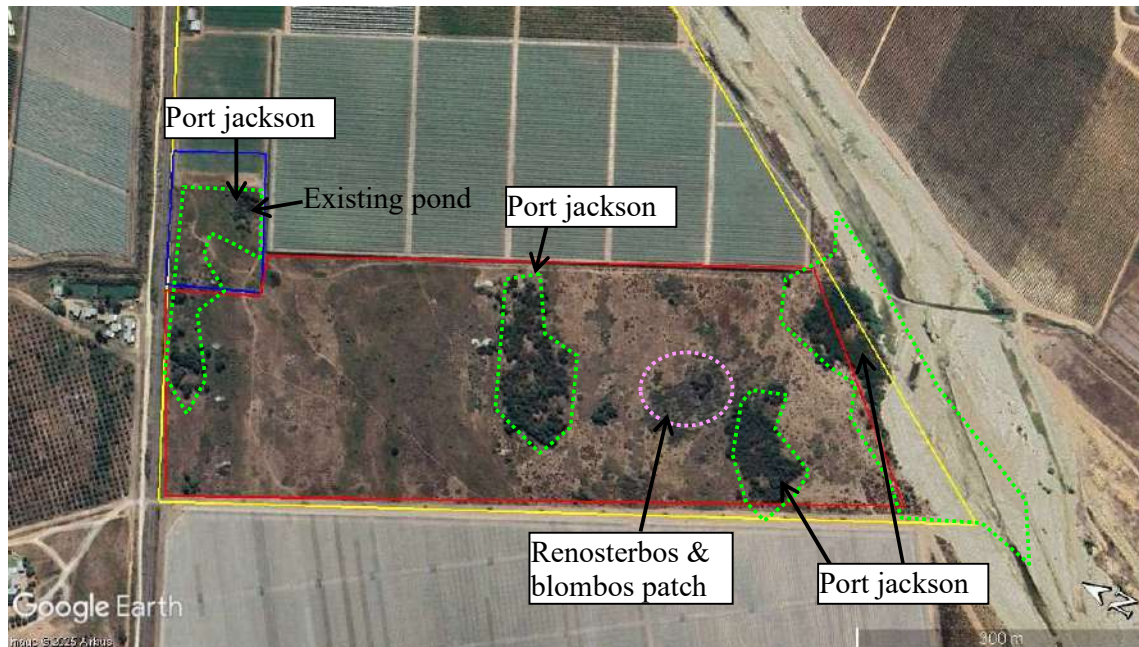


Figure 13: Recent Google Earth image of February 2025 showing the habitat condition on site. Map by Johlene Krige

Currently the vegetation on site is highly degraded and natural plant diversity is very low, making it very difficult to distinguish the relevant ecosystem present on site. Considering the substrate, which is loamy sand and cobble, it is assumed that site would have supported Breede Alluvium Renosterveld as depicted in the SA vegetation map. There is no reference vegetation remaining within the immediate vicinity of the site as it is bounded by cultivation.

The target site is not recognised as a natural remnant of Breede Alluvium Renosterveld in the SANBI Red List of Ecosystems: Remnants layer of June 2021(**Figure 14**).



Figure 14: SANBI Red List of Ecosystems: Remnants (June 2021). Map by Johlène Krige

The southernmost portion, next to the Hex River is open with sparse cover. The most dominant plant species include *Galenea africana* (kraalbos), *Oncosiphon piluliferum* (stinkkruid) and *Cynodon dactylon* (kweek grass) with isolated individuals of *Aspalatus spinosa*, *Psilocaulon junceum* (loogbossie) and *Tetragonia fruticosa* (kinkelbossie). A dense patch of port jackson is evident along the Hex River with another large, dense patch in the south-western portion of the site.

The central portion of the site is characterised by one patch of natural shrubs dominated by *Metalasia densa* (blombos) and *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* (renosterbos) located between 2 large impenetrable stands of port jackson and some open areas. Open areas are dominated by *Cynodon dactylon* (kweek grass), *Eragrostis curvula* (oulandsgras) and *Carpobrotus edulis* (suurvy) with isolated *Galenea africana* (kraalbos), blombos, renosterbos, *Arctotis revoluta* (botterblom) and other species that typically establish within disturbed sites including *Leysera gnaphaloides* (teringteebos), *Oncosiphon piluliferum* (stinkkruid), *Ruschia multiflora* (kraalvygie) and *Senecio burchellii* (geelgifbossie). There is also some remnant vineyard plants and a number of weeds including include *Amaranthus* sp. (misbriedie), *Atriplex* sp. (soutbos), *Atriplex semibaccata* (kruipsoutbos), *Chenopodium album* (withondebossie), *Emex australis* (dubbeltjie), *Maireana brevifolia* (kleinblaar bloubos), *Rapistrum rugosum* (wildemosterd) and *Salsola kali* (tolbos) amongst others.

The northern half of the site is fairly open and grassy as this area was used as a grazing paddock for many years. This area is dominated by *Cynodon dactylon* (kweek), *Carpobrotus edulis* (suurvy), *Oncosiphon piluliferum* (stinkkruid) and *Galenea africana* (kraalbos) with isolated individuals of *Athanasia trifurcata* (kouterbos) and *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* (renosterbos). High density port jackson is evident along the northern boundary of the site.

Refer to **Figures 15 – 21**.



Figure 15: Looking south showing open areas with scattered kraalbos within the southern portion of the site and dense port jackson along the Hex River. Photograph by J Krige



Figure 16: Looking east along the southern portion of the site with dense port jackson along the Hex River. Photograph by J Krige



Figure 17: Looking north-west from the southern portion of the site showing a dense stand of port jackson in the south-western portion. Photograph by J Krige

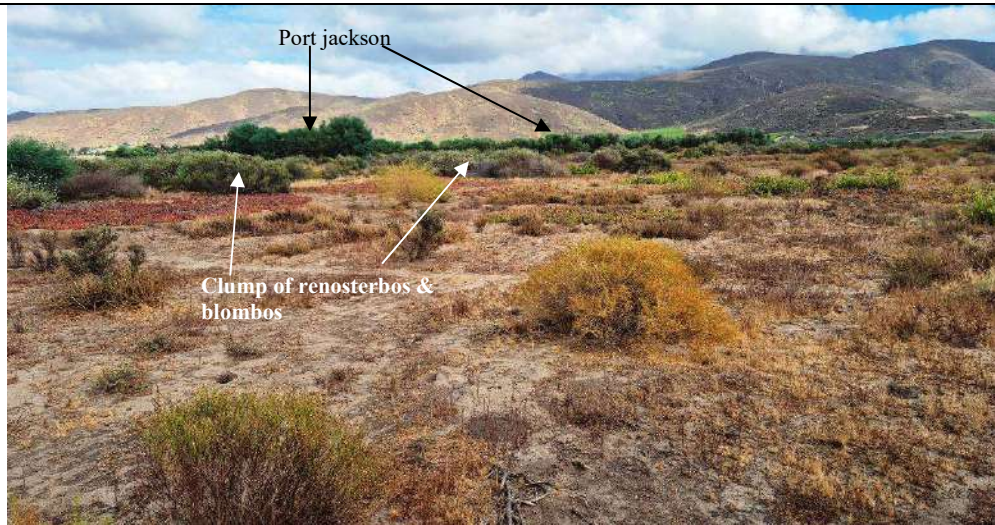


Figure 18: Looking north across the central portion of the site showing open areas with a clump on natural shrubs in the back and dens port jackson further back. Photograph by J Krige



Figure 19: Clump of natural shrubs in the central portion of the site with dominant renosterbos and blombos and dense port jackson in the back. Photograph by J Krige



Figure 20: Looking north-east across open areas within the northern portion of the site showing suurv and kraalbos. Photograph by J Krige



Figure 21: Looking south along the north-western portion of the site showing open, degraded areas. Photograph by J Krige

Previous field surveys:

A botanical survey of the site was conducted during November 2013 to explore the potential for the mining of stone and cobble from the site but this project did not go any further. A detailed survey was conducted a few years later during September 2019 for the potential development of a dam and cultivation areas but the project lapsed and only commenced now during 2026.

Both these surveys provided a baseline to assess the development of natural habitat over the years on this previously cultivated site. Considering both the previous surveys it is confirmed that the habitat on site remained in a poor condition with low natural plant diversity.

During 2013 the site comprised weedy herbaceous plants with a few natural elements that typically establish within disturbed areas, such as old fields. The most prominent indigenous plant species recorded throughout the site included: *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* (renosterbos), *Galenea africana* (kraalbos), *Athanasia trifurcata* (klaaslouwbos), *Metalsia* sp., *Ruschia multiflora* (wit vygie), *Drosanthemum* sp., *Carpobrotus edulis* (suurvy), *Oncosiphon* sp. (stinkkruid), *Tetragonia* sp., *Eragrostis curvula* (oulandsgras) and *Ehrharta calycina* (rooisaadgras). No rare or endangered plant species were recorded on site. Alien plant species were a significant problem throughout the site. Large patches of port jackson was evident within the target site and the river section was severely infested with alien acacia species. The site did not resemble the original ecosystem on site.

Apart from significant alien clearing, the site have not improved much in terms of habitat condition and species diversity from the 2013 to the 2019 survey, most likely as the site is continuously being utilised for grazing and the lack of source populations. During the 2019 survey the site was still dominated by weeds and grasses with a few natural elements that typically establish within disturbed areas, such as old fields. The same natural elements recorded during 2019 were recorded during the 2026 survey, except there was an absence of annuals and geophytes, as the 2026 survey was conducted during summer. The site remained open and degraded but the dominant shrubs (kraalbos, renosterbos and blombos) have now grown taller and significant alien vegetation re-established on site.

Only 2 geophytes were recorded during September 2019 both typically occurring within disturbed sites namely *Albuca canadensis* (slymstok) and *Oxalis pes-caprae* (geelsuring). Annuals included *Dimorphotheca sinuata* (namakwadaisy) and *Osteospermum clandestinum* (trekkertjie). Based on the overall lack of improvement in the site, it is highly unlikely that additional annuals and geophytes would currently be present on site, should the area be surveyed during spring.

THREATENED PLANT SPECIES

In terms of plant species, the national web based environmental screening tool recognizes the northern portion of the site to be of low sensitivity. The southern portion is of medium sensitivity in terms of plant species. The Screening Tool has listed 23 sensitive plant species that may potentially occur within the medium sensitive areas, based on their habitat requirements and the mapped ecosystems on site (e.g. species previously recorded in the same habitat type).

The onsite assessment confirms that the study area is of “low” sensitivity for terrestrial plant species. None of the Medium Sensitive plant species listed in the Screening Tool nor any other Red Date List plant species were recorded on site. It is highly unlikely that the proposed development will impact on any plant species of conservational concern based on the overall poor habitat condition and low plant diversity.

ALIEN VEGETATION COVER

The site has a history of alien *Acacia saligna* (port jackson) infestation with various attempts to eradicate alien vegetation over the years, followed by recurring port jackson infestations (Refer to **Figure 11-13** for earlier satellite imagery). Cultivation of the site will permanently eradicate alien port jackson from the site but it will remain within the Hex River.

BIODIVERSITY PROCESSES

There are no apparent biodiversity processes directly associated with the target site. The Hex River, located south of the site is an important biodiversity process area. The riverine area and an adequate buffer should be excluded from the development or any disturbances.

POTENTIAL TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY AND PLANT SPECIES IMPACTS

- Physical transformation natural vegetation

There will be a loss of ± 18.4 ha degraded habitat.

The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area.

The development will result in the permanent eradication of alien vegetation on site which should reduce spread into riverine areas.

The development is not expected to have any impact in terrestrial biodiversity during the operational phase. There are no natural terrestrial areas bordering the site.

According to the specialist, the reason for this site being recognised as a CBA is presumably as it is likely to support a near-natural form of an endangered ecosystem and that the preservation of this site should contribute to the preservation of the remaining extent of endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld. It is however the specialist's opinion that the site is currently not contributing to the preservation of the original ecosystem on site. It is very unlikely that the site will contribute to the preservation of this ecosystem in future:

- In theory the site should be regarded as natural vegetation as it was cultivated more than 10 years ago and some natural plant species re-established on site, but the site is currently in a poor condition with very low natural plant diversity and high levels of alien infestation. There is very little representation of the original ecosystem evident on site.
- The site is also not recognised as a natural remnant in the SANBI Red List of Ecosystems: Remnants layer of June 2021.
- The site remained in a poor condition over many years and is likely to even further deteriorate due to recurring alien infestation.
- Since the 2019 field survey there was no improvement in species diversity or habitat condition. Most likely the result of a deficient seed bank (long term historic cultivation) and the lack of nearby source

populations. The site is completely bounded by cultivation areas of which most areas are covered by netting. The target site does not form part of a biodiversity corridor and the development will not impact on local connectivity. The site is bounded by cultivation directly towards the north, east and west, of which most areas are covered by netting, with the Hex River towards the south and cultivation further south (Figure 1). Development of the site (dam and cultivation) will not significantly compromise biodiversity. Should the site not be developed, alien re-infestation will continue throughout the site.	
4.6.	If your proposed development is located in a protected area, explain how the proposed development is in line with the protected area management plan. The site is not located within a Protected Area. Refer to the Biodiversity Plan in Appendix D.
4.7.	Explain how the presence of fauna on and adjacent to the proposed development has influenced your proposed development. Since the site is located on a working farm and is surrounded by cultivated land to the north, east and west, the presence of fauna on or adjacent to the site is highly unlikely. The Hex River is located to the south of the site and it is possible that fauna may use the river corridor. The proposed cultivation land is setback from the river and will not impede the movement of fauna along this watercourse.

3. Geographical Aspects

Explain whether any geographical aspects will be affected and how has this influenced the proposed activity or development.

The site is relatively flat – suited for agricultural activities like the surrounding agricultural areas. The cultivated area will be setback from the nearby Hex River.

The following information was taken from the Soil Analysis included in **Appendix G3**.

Soil samples were collected on 17 February 2026 to determine the suitability of the soils for table grape production. Laboratory analyses were conducted on four composite samples (0–30 cm depth).

Summary of Key Soil Properties

The soils show generally favourable chemical characteristics for table grape cultivation:

Soil pH (KCl): Ranges from **5.39 to 6.34**

→ Slightly acidic to near optimal range for grapevines

Acid saturation: Very low (**0.31 – 5.56%**)

→ Indicates minimal aluminium toxicity risk

Phosphorus (Bray II): **49 – 136 mg/kg**

→ Adequate to high levels across all samples

Calcium (Ca): Dominant cation (**61.79 – 78.39%**)

→ Supports good soil structure and root development

Magnesium (Mg): Moderate to high (**10.15 – 24.44%**)

Potassium (K): Adequate but variable (**3.38 – 12.17%**)

Sodium (Na): Low (**2.34 – 9.3%**)

→ No sodicity concerns; favourable for long-term vine health

Interpretation

- The soils are **chemically well-balanced** with no major limitations that would restrict the establishment or long-term production of table grapes.
- The **low acid saturation** confirms that liming requirements will be minimal, although slight adjustments may be beneficial in lower pH zones.
- **Phosphorus levels** are sufficient to support early root development and establishment.
- **Calcium dominance** is highly favourable for grapevine performance and soil physical condition.
- **Sodium levels are low**, reducing the risk of soil structure degradation and ensuring good permeability over time. Some variability in **potassium and magnesium ratios** exists between samples and should be managed through a balanced fertilisation programme to optimise vine nutrition.

Recommendations

To maximise production potential, the following practices are recommended:

Soil preparation:

- Deep ripping to alleviate compaction
- Installation of effective drainage where required
- Ridging in heavier or poorly drained areas

Soil amendments:

- Apply lime selectively where pH < 5.5
- Adjust potassium levels based on block-specific requirements
- Maintain balanced Ca:Mg:K ratios

Based on the analytical results and interpretation, the soils at Vredelus are suitable for table grape production and can be classified as highly productive when appropriate soil preparation and nutrient management practices are applied.

4. Heritage Resources

6.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
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6.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.
Not applicable	
6.3.	Explain how areas that contain sensitive heritage resources have influenced the proposed development.
	No heritage resources will be affected by the proposal. The proposed development will not alter the sense of place and no heritage or cultural resources will be affected. The majority of the site has a low archaeological and cultural sensitivity while a small portion is located within a 2km radius from a Grade II heritage site, according to the Screening Tool Report. The proposed farm dam and cultivation lands on the existing working farm will not impact on any nearby heritage sites.

5. Historical and Cultural Aspects

Explain whether there are any culturally or historically significant elements as defined in Section 2 of the NHRA that will be affected and how has this influenced the proposed development.
There are no cultural or historically significant elements on the property, therefore, there will be no impact.

6. Socio/Economic Aspects

8.1.	Describe the existing social and economic characteristics of the community in the vicinity of the proposed site.
	The proposed development is located within the Breede Valley Municipal area. The site is situated within an established agricultural landscape on the outskirts of Worcester and forms part of an existing working farm. The surrounding area is characterised predominantly by agricultural land uses, including cultivated areas and associated irrigation dams. The proposed development is therefore located within an established rural agricultural community rather than within a residential settlement. Agriculture is an important component of the local economy and provides employment and income opportunities within the Breede Valley area. The agricultural character of the area is reflected in the existing land uses surrounding the site and the historic use of the proposed development area for cultivation. The proposed cultivation area comprises old agricultural fields, with remnants of previous vineyards and tilling furrows still evident. Following the cessation of cultivation, the area has been used for grazing and remains associated with the existing agricultural operation. The local community therefore includes people whose livelihoods and economic activities are linked directly or indirectly to agriculture. Agricultural activities provide opportunities for both permanent and seasonal employment, with associated economic benefits extending to surrounding communities and the broader regional economy. The proposed development has the potential to contribute positively to these existing socio-economic characteristics by increasing agricultural production and creating additional employment opportunities, both seasonal and permanent. The site is also located approximately 3 km from Worcester, which is the nearest major urban centre and provides access to established services, employment opportunities and markets. The location therefore allows the proposed agricultural activity to remain integrated with the existing agricultural economy and nearby urban centre without requiring the establishment of a new settlement or significant expansion of urban infrastructure. No significant negative socio-economic impacts on the surrounding community have been identified. The development is not expected to result in displacement of existing communities or residential land uses. Similarly, it will not introduce a land use that is incompatible with the existing agricultural character of the area.
8.2.	Explain the socio-economic value/contribution of the proposed development.
The proposal to expand the existing agricultural production of vines will result in increase in yield and production which will boost the local agricultural production economy.	

8.3.	Explain what social initiatives will be implemented by applicant to address the needs of the community and to uplift the area.
The proposal will result in some additional long-term job opportunities on the farm within the local agricultural sector. It will also assure the existing jobs held by the farm workers.	
8.4.	Explain whether the proposed development will impact on people's health and well-being (e.g. in terms of noise, odours, visual character and sense of place etc) and how has this influenced the proposed development.
The proposed development is not expected to adversely affect the health, safety or general well-being of surrounding communities. Temporary construction-related impacts such as noise and dust can be appropriately managed, while no significant long-term odour or air-quality impacts are anticipated. The development will also remain visually compatible with the existing agricultural landscape and is not expected to adversely affect the sense of place or cultural character of the area. The location and design of the development have therefore been informed by the need to maintain compatibility with the surrounding agricultural land use and to avoid impacts on sensitive environmental features.	

SECTION H: **ALTERNATIVES, METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES**

1. Details of the alternatives identified and considered

1.1.	Property and site alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred property and site alternative.	
<u>Cultivation Land</u> The proposed agricultural expansion is on Farm 800, Worcester as owned by the applicant. The site is the only portion of land left on this property that is available for agricultural expansion. The area proposed for the expansion on Farm 800, has been evaluated by a soil scientist and a biodiversity specialist in order to ensure that the high productive agricultural lands are utilized for agricultural expansion, while the loss of sensitive vegetation is avoided and the 32m buffer on the water courses are retained for ecological processes across the property. <u>Dam</u> Two dam sites are considered. Dam site 1: This alternative would result in the clearance of vegetation (on Farm 800, Worcester). This alternative would not result in the loss of sensitive vegetation and would avoid any watercourses. Dam site 2: This site alternative is located within a planted agricultural block on Portion 32 of Farm 319 Worcester. It would avoid the loss of sensitive vegetation and would avoid any watercourses. Both sites are considered preferred.	
PROPOSED CLEARING OF VEGETATION FOR CULTIVATION AND A DAM ON FARM 800, WORCESTER  PROPERTIES Legend - Dam Site 1 - Dam Site 2 - Proposed Cultivation Area - Farm 800 - Farm 319/319 ESRI Satellite [ArcGIS/World_Imagery] Datum: WGS84 Projection: Geographic Scale: 1:4 000 (on A3) Date: August 2026 earth GRACE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY	
Figure 22: Relevant Properties Provide a description of any other property and site alternatives investigated.	
<u>Dam</u>	

Two dam sites are considered. Dam site 1: This alternative would result in the clearance of vegetation (on Farm 800, Worcester). This alternative would not result in the loss of sensitive vegetation and would avoid any watercourses. Dam site 2: This site alternative is located within a planted agricultural block on Portion 32 of Farm 319 Worcester. It would avoid the loss of sensitive vegetation and would avoid any watercourses. Both sites are considered preferred. See Figure 22.
Provide a motivation for the preferred property and site alternative including the outcome of the site selection matrix.
<u>Cultivation block</u> The preferred property and proposed cultivation site alternative was selected because it makes use of an existing disturbed and transformed area on an operational farm. The site has existing access and farming infrastructure and is compatible with the surrounding agricultural land uses. Furthermore, the site has been identified as having Very High Agricultural Sensitivity in terms of the National Screening Tool. The area comprises high-potential agricultural land that is considered a priority for continued agricultural use and it is surrounded by existing crops to the north, west and east. The soil analysis confirmed that the soils show generally favourable chemical characteristics for table grape cultivation and can be classified as highly productive when appropriate soil preparation and nutrient management practices are applied. <u>Dam</u> The dam sites were selected because they would not affect any watercourses as they are off stream, they make use of existing cultivated land or disturbed/transformed land and are located on an operational farming unit. The proposed dam will be small in size and will not result in a significant loss of high agricultural potential soil.
Provide a full description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative within the site.
The preferred site layout was developed through an iterative design process, informed by the findings and recommendations of the soil assessment and biodiversity specialist study. The layout was further refined to account for the proximity of the Hex River, with an appropriate setback provided between the proposed cultivation block and the watercourse. The availability, location, and proximity of existing farm infrastructure were key considerations in determining the preferred layout, with the intention of maximising the use of existing infrastructure, reducing the need for additional infrastructure, and thereby minimising further disturbance and potential environmental impacts.
Provide a detailed motivation if no property and site alternatives were considered.
<u>Cultivation block</u> No alternative property or site alternatives were considered, as the proposed development is intended to expand existing crops within the operational farm. The site is one of the only areas that are not developed, that do not contain sensitive vegetation and are in close proximity to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the site is able to avoid any watercourses and consists of high potential agricultural soils.
List the positive and negative impacts that the property and site alternatives will have on the environment.
<i>Preferred alternative is the clearance of 17ha of disturbed vegetation for cultivation purposes within the target area. This will include a 32m setback from the Hex River. Both dam sites are considered preferred. Only the one alternative will trigger a listed activity.</i> Positive impacts of preferred alternative: • The development will result in the permanent eradication of alien vegetation on site which should reduce spread into riverine areas. • The development will not impact on natural connectivity. The site is bound by cultivation and completely isolated from other natural areas. • Implementation of Hex River buffer zone. • Potential increase in long-term job opportunities. • Job security for those employed.

• Increase in agricultural production. Negative impacts of preferred alternative: • The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area. • Loss of 18ha of degraded vegetation.	
1.2.	Activity alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred activity alternative.	
The proposal entails the clearance of vegetation in accordance with the preferred site plan.	
Provide a description of any other activity alternatives investigated.	
No activity alternatives were assessed. The only activity will entail the clearance of vegetation for the creation of new agricultural lands and an irrigation dam, as approved by the specialist.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred activity alternative.	
The preferred activity alternative is the only alternative assessed as Farm 800 is an existing farm with existing agricultural lands. The proposal is in line with the current land use and clearance of vegetation has been assessed by the specialist. The proposed alternative makes use of high potential agricultural lands without the loss of any primary fynbos or encroachments into riparian areas.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no activity alternatives exist.	
No other activity alternatives are available (clearance of vegetation will be required in order to create the new agricultural lands required).	
List the positive and negative impacts that the activity alternatives will have on the environment.	
Positive impacts of preferred alternative: • The development will result in the permanent eradication of alien vegetation on site which should reduce spread into riverine areas. • The development will not impact on natural connectivity. The site is bound by cultivation and completely isolated from other natural areas. • Implementation of Hex River buffer zone. • Potential increase in long-term job opportunities. • Job security for those employed. • Increase in agricultural production. Negative impacts of preferred alternative: • The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area. • Loss of 18ha of degraded vegetation.	
1.3.	Design or layout alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts
Provide a description of the preferred design or layout alternative.	
Initially, a target area of approximately 20ha was identified for cultivation purposes and an irrigation dam (Alternative Layout 1 – Figure 23). The target area was reduced to 18.4ha to include a 32m buffer of the Hex River (Alternative Layout 2 – Figure 24). Should the applicant not proceed with dam site alternative 1, the area will be further reduced to 17ha.	



Figure 23: Alternative Layout 1

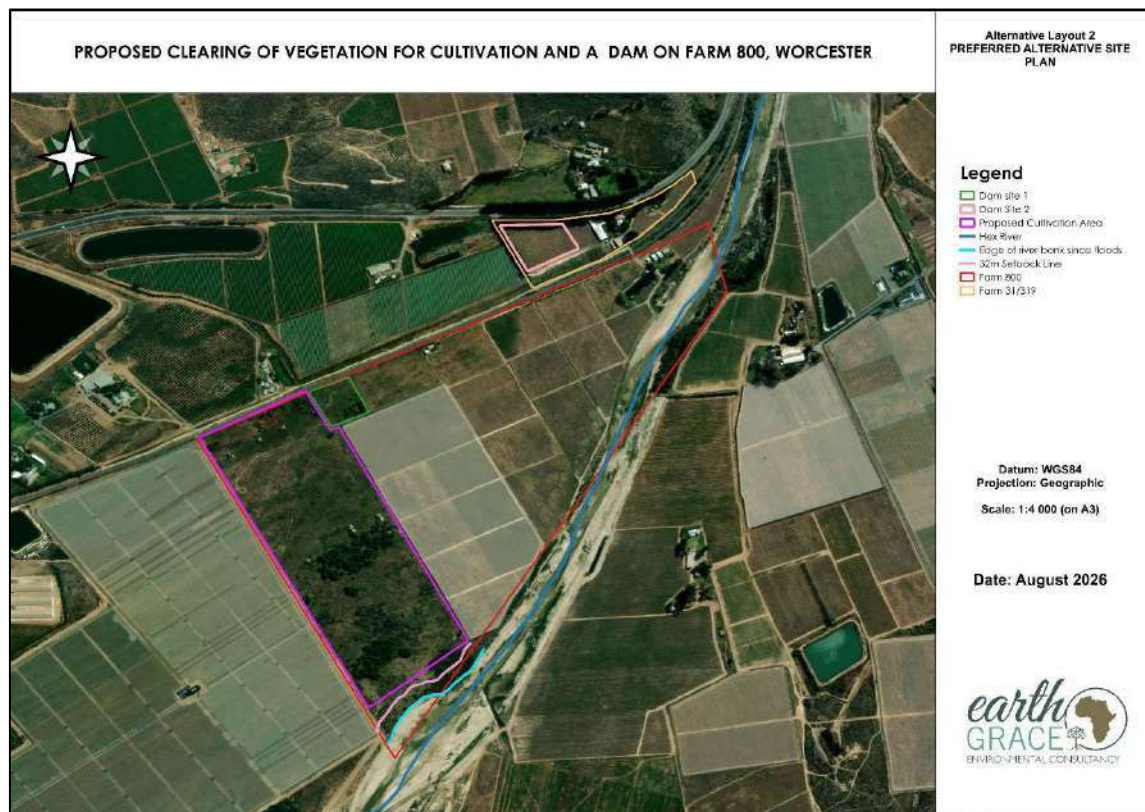


Figure 24: Alternative Layout 2 – Preferred Alternative

Provide a description of any other design or layout alternatives investigated.

No further layout alternatives were considered.

Provide a motivation for the preferred design or layout alternative.

The preferred layout alternative (Alternative Layout 2) takes the Hex River buffer area into account to avoid any impacts on the Hex River.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no design or layout alternatives exist.	
The areas selected are based on the specialist recommendation. Refer to the site plan. Loss of intact natural vegetation has been avoided and encroachment into the riparian area. The preferred alternative maximises the agricultural potential without compromising on the ecological connectivity and sensitivity.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the design alternatives will have on the environment.	
No further layout alternatives were considered.	
1.4.	Technology alternatives (e.g., to reduce resource demand and increase resource use efficiency) to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred technology alternative:	
No technology alternatives have been assessed.	
Provide a description of any other technology alternatives investigated.	
No technology alternatives have been assessed.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred technology alternative.	
No technology alternatives have been assessed.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.	
No technology alternatives have been assessed.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the technology alternatives will have on the environment.	
No technology alternatives have been assessed.	
1.5.	Operational alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred operational alternative.	
No operational alternatives as the listed activities relate to the clearance of vegetation that is a once-off occurrence.	
Provide a description of any other operational alternatives investigated.	
No operational alternatives as the listed activities relate to the clearance of vegetation that is a once-off occurrence.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred operational alternative.	
No operational alternatives as the listed activities relate to the clearance of vegetation that is a once-off occurrence.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.	
No operational alternatives as the listed activities relate to the clearance of vegetation that is a once-off occurrence.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the operational alternatives will have on the environment.	
No operational alternatives as the listed activities relate to the clearance of vegetation that is a once-off occurrence.	
1.6.	The option of not implementing the activity (the 'No-Go' Option).
Provide an explanation as to why the 'No-Go' Option is not preferred.	
The specialist's first field survey was in 2019. Between 2019 and 2026, there has been no improvement in species diversity or habitat condition. The specialist stated that this is most likely the result of a deficient seed bank (long term historic cultivation) and the lack of nearby source populations. The site is completely bounded by cultivation areas of which most areas are covered by netting. If the site were to remain as is, it is likely to even further deteriorate due to recurring alien infestation.	
The specialist confirmed that it is highly unlikely that the site will ever regenerate back to the original ecosystem due to a lack of source populations, continuous disturbances including grazing and alien infestation.	
1.7.	Provide an explanation as to whether any other alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist.
The preferred alternative was the only alternative assessed since it avoids the loss of sensitive vegetation, avoids the buffer area of the Hex River and it maximises the high potential agricultural soils. No other alternatives meet these objectives and have been rejected.	
1.8.	Provide a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including the preferred location of the activity.
An area of approximately 17 ha on Farm 800, Worcester (Vredelust Farm) has been identified for cultivation. The entire site was cultivated in the past, more than 10 years ago.	

Two alternative sites have been identified for the development of a dam. The total footprint and storage capacity are not yet established but two sites are broadly defined, approximately 1.4 ha each.

- Site 1 is located within the north-western portion of Farm 800, Worcester.
- Site 2 is located on Farm 31/319, Worcester and comprises of a current cultivated site (therefore no listed activities would occur on this property).

The layout of the cultivation areas has avoided sensitive vegetation and the Hex River riparian area. It is located on good agricultural soils and is supported by both the agricultural specialist and the biodiversity specialist.

2. "No-Go" areas

Explain what "no-go" area(s) have been identified during identification of the alternatives and provide the co-ordinates of the "no-go" area(s).

A minimum buffer of 32m should be maintained between new cultivation areas and the bordering Hex River. There is a clear terrace between terrestrial areas on site and the lower lying river floodplain area.



Figure 25: No Go Area shown as orange polygon

Co-ordinates of Points A – C:

A: 33°37'30.86"S 19°30'14.03"E

B: 33°37'32.14"S 19°30'12.53"E

C: 33°37'29.30"S 19°30'15.39"E

3. Methodology to determine the significance ratings of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives.

Describe the methodology to be used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the proposed activity or development and alternatives, the degree to which the impact or risk can be reversed and the degree to which the impact and risk may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.

These criteria are drawn from the EIA Regulations published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (April 1998) in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989) and the latest

BAR template provided by the DEA&DP. These criteria include:

Nature of the impact

This is an appraisal of the type of effect (positive or negative) the construction, operation and maintenance of a development would have on the affected environment. This description should include what is to be affected.

Extent of the impact

Extent defines the physical extent or spatial scale of the impact. The impact could:

- **Site specific:** limited to the site.
- **Local:** limited to the site and the immediate surrounding area (1-10km)
- **Regional:** covers an area that includes an entire geographic region or extends beyond one region to another.
- **National:** across national boundaries and may have national implications.

Duration of the impact

The specialist should indicate whether the lifespan of the impact would be:

- **Short term:** 0-5 years.
- **Medium term:** 5-15 years.
- **Long term:** beyond the operational phase, but not permanently.
- **Permanent:** where mitigation either by natural processes or by human intervention will not occur in such a way or in such time span that the impact can be considered transient or temporary.
- **Discontinuous or intermittent:** where the impact may only occur during specific climatic conditions or during a particular season of the year.

Consequence of impact

Indicate what will happen if the impact occurs.

Probability of occurrence

Probability describes the likelihood of the impact occurring. The likelihood can be described as:

- **Improbable/unlikely:** low likelihood of the impact occurring.
- **Probable:** distinct possibility the impact will occur.
- **Highly probable:** most likely that the impact will occur.
- **Definite:** impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures.

Irreplaceable loss of resources

Specialists should state whether the impacts may be irreversible or may result in an irreplaceable loss of resources. It can be **no loss**, **marginal loss**, **significant loss** or **complete loss** of resources.

Reversibility

This refers to the degree to which an impact can be reversed.

- **Fully reversible:** where the impact can be completely reversed.
- **Partly reversible:** where the impact can be partially reversed.
- **Irreversible:** where the impact is permanent.

Indirect impacts

Indirect impacts are secondary impacts and usually occur at a different place or time. Specialists will need to elaborate on any indirect or secondary impacts of proposed activities. If there are no indirect impacts specialist will need to briefly explain so.

Cumulative impact

An effect which may not be significant but may become significant if added to other existing or potential impacts that may result from activities associated with the proposed development or similar developments in the surrounding area. Cumulative impacts must be assessed prior to and post mitigation. Such impacts will be either positive or negative, and will be graded as being of **negligible**, **low**, **medium** or **high impact**.

Degree to which impact can be avoided

This indicates the degree to which an impact can be avoided. Impacts can either be **fully avoided** (impact is completely avoidable), **partly avoided** (impact is avoidable with moderate mitigation and/or management) or the impact is **unavoidable** (the impact cannot be avoided even with significant mitigation measures and/or management).

Degree to which impact can be managed

This indicates the degree to which an impact can be managed. Impacts can either be **fully managed** (impact is completely manageable), **partly managed** (impact is manageable with moderate mitigation and/or management) or the impact is **unmanageable** (the impact cannot be managed even with significant mitigation measures).

Degree to which an impact can be mitigated

This indicates the degree to which an impact can be reduced. The degree of mitigation can either be **high** (the impact can be fully mitigated), **moderate** (the impact can be partly mitigated) or **not mitigated at all**.

Significance

Based on a synthesis of the information contained in the above-described procedure, the significance of the potential impacts can be assessed (prior and post mitigation) in terms of the following significance criteria:

- No impact/Negligible
- **Low negative:** where it would have minor negative effects and would require little or no mitigation.
- **Low positive:** the impact will have minor positive effects.
- **Medium negative:** the impact will have moderate negative effects and will require moderate mitigation.
- **Medium positive:** the impact will have moderate positive effects.
- **High negative:** the impact will have significant effects and will require significant mitigation measures to achieve an accepted level of impact.
- **High positive:** the impact will have significant positive effects.
- **Very high negative:** the impact will have highly significant effects and are unlikely to be able to be mitigated adequately.
- **Very high positive:** the impact will have highly significant positive effects.

Residual impacts

Residual impacts are those impacts that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures. Residual impacts must be identified and discussed. If there are no residual impacts, the specialist will need to briefly explain that the activity will have no residual impacts.

4. Assessment of each impact and risk identified for each alternative

Note: The following table serves as a guide for summarising each alternative. The table should be repeated for each alternative to ensure a comparative assessment. The EAP may decide to include this section as Appendix J to this BAR.

PLANNING, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT PHASE

	Preferred Alternative	No-Go
Potential impact and risk:	Terrestrial Biodiversity	
Nature of impact:	Physical transformation natural vegetation.	Continued infestation by aliens
Extent and duration of impact:	Site, Permanent	Site, Permanent
Consequence of impact or risk:	Loss of ± 18 ha degraded habitat.	Alien infestation and spread
Probability of occurrence:	High	High
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Very restricted loss	Very restricted loss
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Irreversible	Irreversible

Indirect Impacts:	The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area. The development will result in the permanent eradication of alien vegetation on site which should reduce spread into riverine areas.	Aliens may spread to riparian area.
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low	Low
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation	Low	Low
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	Low	Low
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	Partially	Partially
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Partially	Partially
Proposed mitigation:	- The development area should be clearly demarcated along the southern portion of the site, adjacent to the Hex River. - The Hex River floodplain and a 32m buffer area should be excluded from any development or disturbances. The development should be restricted to areas above the paleo-terrace adjacent to the Hex River. - Rocks and vegetation debris should not be dumped within the Hex River floodplain area. - Alien vegetation should continuously be managed and controlled within the Hex River using standard DWAF methodology. The Department of Agriculture Landcare should be consulted regarding alien control along the riverbank to prevent destabilization of the riverbank.	Cultivation of the site and implementation of riparian buffer zone.
Residual Impacts:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low	Low
Significance rating of impact after mitigation	Very Low	Low positive
	Preferred Alternative	No-Go
Potential impact and risk:	Potential for soil erosion and loss of topsoil	
Nature of impact:	Soil erosion	No impact.
Extent and duration of impact:	Site specific; Short-term	No impact.
Consequence of impact or risk:	Erosion of the base soil exposed to the elements (e.g. rain and wind)	No impact.
Probability of occurrence:	Probable	No impact.
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Partially to fully reversible through mitigation (if it were to occur)	No impact.
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium loss	No impact.
Indirect Impacts:	None are evident should mitigation measures be implemented	No impact.
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium negative	No impact.
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation	Medium negative	No impact.
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	High	No impact.
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	High	No impact.
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High	No impact.

Proposed mitigation:	- Areas where signs of erosion occur as a result of construction shall be stabilised. Potential methods of stabilisation include brush-cut packing, mulch or chip cover, straw stabilising, sodding, hydroseeding, soil binders. - Traffic and movement over stabilised areas should be restricted and controlled, and damage to stabilised areas shall be repaired and maintained. - All eroded areas within the construction site shall be rehabilitated	-
Residual Impacts:	None	No impact.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Negligible	No impact.
Significance rating of impact after mitigation	Negligible	No impact.

OPERATIONAL PHASE

	Preferred Alternative	No-Go
Potential impact and risk:	Social Impacts	
Nature of impact:	Job security	No socio-economic benefits
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and long term	N/A
Consequence of impact or risk	Existing jobs will be secured.	N/A
Probability of occurrence:	Definite	N/A
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	No need to reverse.	N/A
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	No loss	N/A
Indirect Impacts:	Additional job opportunities.	N/A
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low to medium positive	N/A
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation	Low to medium positive	N/A
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	No need to avoid	N/A
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	Impact can be fully managed (enhanced) by employing individuals from the surrounding community.	N/A
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Low	N/A
Proposed mitigation:	Local community members should be employed where possible.	N/A
Residual Impacts:	None	N/A
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low to medium positive	N/A
Significance rating of impact after mitigation	Low to medium positive	N/A

DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASE

The proposed development will not be decommissioned.

SECTION I: FINDINGS, IMPACT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1.	Provide a summary of the findings and impact management measures identified by all Specialist and an indication of how these findings and recommendations have influenced the proposed development.
<u>SOIL STUDY</u> A soil analysis was undertaken to determine the agricultural potential of the land. The analysis showed that the soils are chemically well-balanced with no major limitations that would restrict the establishment or long-term production of table grapes. The low acid saturation confirms that liming requirements will be minimal, although slight adjustments may be beneficial in lower pH zones. Phosphorus levels are sufficient to support early root development and establishment. Calcium dominance is highly favourable for grapevine performance and soil physical condition. Sodium levels are low, reducing the risk of soil structure degradation and ensuring good permeability over time. Some variability in potassium and magnesium ratios exists between samples and should be managed through a balanced fertilisation programme to optimise vine nutrition. The analysis concluded that the soils at Vredelus are suitable for table grape production and can be classified as highly productive when appropriate soil preparation and nutrient management practices are applied. <u>TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY AND PLANT SPECIES ASSESSMENT</u> A Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Assessment was undertaken because the Screening Tool identified the site as having very high terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity, based principally on the mapped terrestrial CBA/CBA2 and the Endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld vegetation type. The specialist assessment found that the proposed cultivation area comprises old agricultural fields. Remnants of historical vineyards and tilling furrows are still evident, and the area has subsequently been used for grazing. The vegetation is highly degraded, has very low natural plant diversity and has a history of recurring Port Jackson (<i>Acacia saligna</i>) infestation. The site is not recognised as a natural remnant of Breede Alluvium Renosterveld. The specialist further considered ecological connectivity, CBAs, aquatic features, threatened ecosystems, threatened plant species and biodiversity processes. The assessment concluded that the proposed development would not significantly compromise terrestrial biodiversity or natural connectivity, given the highly transformed and isolated nature of the site. The principal biodiversity constraint identified was the Hex River, which borders the proposed cultivation area and is recognised as an aquatic CBA. The development has therefore been planned to maintain an appropriate setback from the river and avoid disturbance of the river and its associated floodplain. The proposed dams are off-stream and will not be located in close proximity to the river. The assessment concluded: The proposed development of a dam (either site 1 or 2) and new cultivation within the target site is acceptable from a terrestrial biodiversity and plant species perspective. It is recommended that the development be authorised based on the following: • The site is highly degraded and was completely transformed in the past. • There is very little representation of the original ecosystem evident on site. Natural plant diversity is very low. • The development will not impact on natural connectivity. • The site is bound by cultivation and completely isolated from other natural areas. • It is highly unlikely that the site will ever regenerate back to the original ecosystem due to the overall lack of improvement over the years, a lack of source populations, continuous disturbances including grazing and alien infestation. • There are no water courses or wetlands evident on site. • There are no threatened plant species evident on site.	

2.	List the impact management measures that were identified by all Specialist that will be included in the EMPr
<u>SOIL STUDY</u> To maximise production potential, the following practices are recommended: • Soil preparation: ○ Deep ripping to alleviate compaction ○ Installation of effective drainage where required ○ Ridging in heavier or poorly drained areas • Soil amendments: ○ Apply lime selectively where pH < 5.5 ○ Adjust potassium levels based on block-specific requirements ○ Maintain balanced Ca:Mg:K ratios	
<u>TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY AND PLANT SPECIES ASSESSMENT</u> • The development area should be clearly demarcated along the southern portion of the site, adjacent to the Hex River. • The Hex River floodplain and a 32m buffer area should be excluded from any development or disturbances. The development should be restricted to areas above the paleo-terrace adjacent to the Hex River. • Rocks and vegetation debris should not be dumped within the Hex River floodplain area. • Alien vegetation should continuously be managed and controlled within the Hex River using standard DWAF methodology. The Department of Agriculture Landcare should be consulted regarding alien control along the riverbank to prevent destabilization of the riverbank.	
3.	List the specialist investigations and the impact management measures that will not be implemented and provide an explanation as to why these measures will not be implemented.
All measures proposed and recommended by the specialists will be implemented and will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).	
4.	Explain how the proposed development will impact the surrounding communities.
• The proposal will be in line with the surrounding land uses and will not have a negative impact on surrounding land uses. • The proposal may result in additional job-opportunities which will benefit the community. • The proposal will increase agricultural produce which will benefit the economic growth of the region. • The proposal will ensure job security for those already employed by the Applicant.	
5.	Explain how the risk of climate change may influence the proposed activity or development and how has the potential impacts of climate change been considered and addressed.
Climate change is anticipated to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, potentially increasing the risk of flooding, bank erosion and associated soil loss. In response to these risks, the proposed development will maintain a minimum setback of 32 m from the Hex River. The setback will be measured from the extent of the most recent observed flooding event, specifically the point at which the river previously overtopped or breached its banks. This setback is intended to provide an appropriate buffer between the proposed development and the watercourse, thereby reducing the potential risk of flood-related impacts and allowing for continued natural movement and functioning of the river system.	
6.	Explain whether there are any conflicting recommendations between the specialists. If so, explain how these have been addressed and resolved.
N/A – there are no conflicting recommendations	
7.	Explain how the findings and recommendations of the different specialist studies have been integrated to inform the most appropriate mitigation measures that should be implemented to manage the potential impacts of the proposed activity or development.
The preferred portion within the target area, to be cleared of vegetation, has been informed by the terrestrial biodiversity specialist. In addition, the 32m setback from the Hex River has been incorporated in the preferred layout. Mitigation measures as incorporated into the EMPr must be implemented (to be monitored). The soil study informed the applicability of the proposal and the use of the lands for planting of vineyards. This study will also inform the CARA application.	
8.	Explain how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied to arrive at the best practicable environmental option.

THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY WAS APPLIED AS FOLLOWS

AVOID IMPACTS:

The preferred layout has been setback from the hex river with a minimum buffer area of 32m to avoid any potential impacts on the watercourse.

MINIMISE IMPACTS:

Mitigation measures and recommendations from the terrestrial biodiversity and plant species specialist, the soil scientist and the EAP will become conditions of approval and be included in the EMPr.

RESTORE AND REHABILITATE:

Rehabilitation will be done in accordance with the EMPR.

OFFSET:

None required.

Based on the above, the mitigation hierarchy has been appropriately applied, and the proposed development represents the best practicable environmental option, as impacts have been avoided where possible and reduced to acceptable levels through mitigation and management measures.

SECTION J: GENERAL

1. Environmental Impact Statement

1.1. Provide a summary of the key findings of the EIA.

An area of approximately 17 ha on Farm 800, Worcester (Vredelust Farm) has been identified for cultivation. Two alternative sites have been identified for the development of a dam. The total footprint and storage capacity are not yet established but two sites are broadly defined, approximately 1.4 ha each.

- Site 1 is located within the north-western portion of Farm 800, Worcester.
- Site 2 is located on Farm 31/319, Worcester and comprises of a current cultivated site (therefore no listed activities would occur on this property).

According to the SA Vegetation Map (Mucina and Rutherford 2006 & 2024 update) the entire site (cultivation area and both dam sites) comprised Breede Alluvium Renosterveld prior to any disturbances.

Dam site 1:

The area targeted for dam site 1 is highly degraded with no significant natural vegetation. The site is dominated by *Cynodon dactylon* (kweek), *Carpobrostus edulis* (suurvy) and *Acacia saligna* (port jackson), with scattered individuals of *Athanasia trifurcata* (kouterbos) and the weedy *Senecio burchellii* (geelgifbossie). There is an existing small dam / water abstraction pond which is completely overgrown by Port Jackson. There is currently no representation of the original ecosystem, Breede Alluvium Renosterveld, on site.

Dam site 2:

Dam site 2 has no remaining natural vegetation. The site is currently used for cultivation.

Proposed cultivation area:

The entire area targeted for cultivation comprises old fields (previous cultivation areas). Remnants of old vineyard and tilling furrows are still evident on site. Subsequent to cultivation, the site was utilised for grazing for many years and the site is currently still utilised for grazing. Previous cultivation occurred more than 10 years ago and some natural vegetation re-established on site. The site has a history of alien *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson) infestation with various attempts to eradicate alien vegetation over the years, followed by recurring Port Jackson infestations.

Currently the vegetation on site is highly degraded and natural plant diversity is very low, making it very difficult to distinguish the relevant ecosystem present on site. Considering the substrate, which is loamy sand and cobble, it is assumed that site would have supported Breede Alluvium Renosterveld as depicted in the SA vegetation

map. There is no reference vegetation remaining within the immediate vicinity of the site as it is bounded by cultivation.

The target site is not recognised as a natural remnant of Breede Alluvium Renosterveld in the SANBI Red List of Ecosystems: Remnants layer of June 2021.

In terms of plant species, the national web based environmental screening tool recognizes the northern portion of the site to be of low sensitivity. The southern portion is of medium sensitivity in terms of plant species. The on-site assessment by the specialist, confirms that the study area is of “low” sensitivity for terrestrial plant species. None of the Medium Sensitive plant species listed in the Screening Tool nor any other Red Data List plant species were recorded on site. It is highly unlikely that the proposed development will impact on any plant species of conservational concern based on the overall poor habitat condition and low plant diversity.

There are no apparent biodiversity processes directly associated with the target site. The target site does not form part of a biodiversity corridor and the development will not impact on local connectivity. The site is bounded by cultivation directly towards the north, east and west, of which most areas are covered by netting, with the Hex River towards the south and cultivation further south.

There are no NFEPA, watercourses or wetlands identified within the target cultivation areas or any of the dam sites. The cultivation area is bounded by the Hex River towards the south. The neighbouring Hex River (excluded from the target site) is recognised as a perennial river and an important NFEPA flat wetland area and river corridor. A minimum buffer of 32m should be maintained between cultivation areas and the Hex River floodplain. There is a clear terrace between terrestrial areas on site and the lower lying river floodplain area.

Dam site 1 is recognised as a terrestrial CBA. The site partly overlaps with an existing cultivation area, currently not recognised as any CBA or ESA. Dam Site 2 is an existing cultivation area and is also not recognised as any CBA or ESAs. The entire area targeted for cultivation is recognised as a terrestrial CBA. The target cultivation area borders the Hex River towards the south. The Hex River is recognised as an aquatic CBA, with degraded areas regarded CBA2.

The reason for this site being recognised as a CBA is presumably as it is likely to support a near-natural form of an endangered ecosystem and that the preservation of this site should contribute to the preservation of the remaining extent of endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld. It is however the specialist's opinion that the site is currently not contributing to the preservation of the original ecosystem on site. It is very unlikely that the site will contribute to the preservation of this ecosystem in future:

The soils are chemically well-balanced with no major limitations that would restrict the establishment or long-term production of table grapes. The low acid saturation confirms that liming requirements will be minimal, although slight adjustments may be beneficial in lower pH zones. Phosphorus levels are sufficient to support early root development and establishment. Calcium dominance is highly favourable for grapevine performance and soil physical condition. Sodium levels are low, reducing the risk of soil structure degradation and ensuring good permeability over time. Some variability in potassium and magnesium ratios exists between samples and should be managed through a balanced fertilisation programme to optimise vine nutrition.

Based on the analytical results and interpretation, the soils at Vredelus are suitable for table grape production and can be classified as highly productive when appropriate soil preparation and nutrient management practices are applied.

The proposed development has the potential to contribute positively to these existing socio-economic characteristics by increasing agricultural production and creating additional employment opportunities, both seasonal and permanent.

No significant negative socio-economic impacts on the surrounding community have been identified. The development is not expected to result in displacement of existing communities or residential land uses. Similarly, it will not introduce a land use that is incompatible with the existing agricultural character of the area.

There will be a loss of ± 18 ha degraded habitat. The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area. The development will result in the permanent eradication of alien vegetation on site which should reduce spread into riverine areas.

Development of the site (dam and cultivation) will not significantly compromise biodiversity. Should the site not be developed, alien re-infestation will continue throughout the site. . The development may indirectly impact on the adjacent Hex River floodplain area but with the implementation of the 32m buffer, this is unlikely.

Public participation will be conducted in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The BAR will be available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), state departments, and relevant authorities for a 30-day comment period. All feedback received will be addressed and incorporated into this assessment where relevant.

- 1.2. Provide a map that that superimposes the preferred activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers. (Attach map to this BAR as Appendix B2)

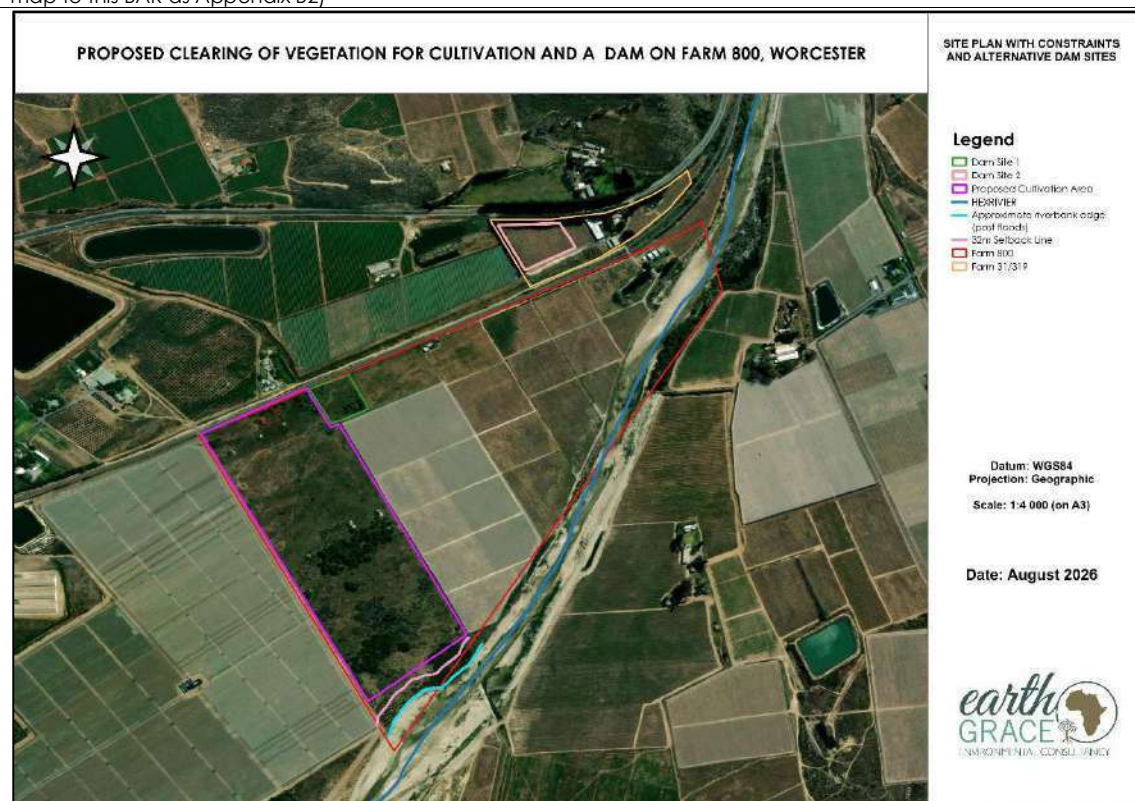


Figure 26: Proposal with constraints

- 1.3. Provide a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks that the proposed activity or development and alternatives will have on the environment and community.

The table below presents the significance of impacts for both the preferred alternative and the No-Go Option, indicating the ratings before and after the implementation of mitigation measures, where applicable.

Impact	Preferred Alternative		No-Go	
	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation	Without Mitigation	With Mitigation
CONSTRUCTION PHASE				
Loss of natural vegetation for cultivation purposes	Low negative	Very Low negative	Low negative	Low positive
Soil erosion	Medium negative	Negligible	No impact.	No impact.
OPERATIONAL PHASE				
Job security and increase in agricultural produce	Low to medium positive	Low to medium positive	No impact.	No impact.

2. Recommendation of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP")

2.1.	Provide Impact management outcomes (based on the assessment and where applicable, specialist assessments) for the proposed activity or development for inclusion in the EMPr
The following impact management outcomes for the proposed development is included in the EMPr. PRE-DEVELOPMENT PHASE • Demarcation of No-Go areas: no disturbance is allowed within these areas. All watercourses are considered no-go areas. • Access roads: Minimise impact to the environment by only using existing roads. • Site facilities: Provide clean toilet facilities, eating areas and potable water to all staff in an effort to minimise the risk of disease and impact on the environment and health impacts. DEVELOPMENT PHASE • Workshop, equipment maintenance and storage areas: Soil, surface water and groundwater contamination must be minimised. • Storage, handling, use and disposal of hazardous substances: Safe storage, handling, use and disposal of hazardous substances. • General aesthetics: Neat and well-maintained site to minimise visual impacts. • Solid waste management: Wastes are appropriately stored, handled and safely disposed of at a licensed waste facility. • Noise control: To prevent unnecessary noise in the environment by ensuring that noise from construction activity is mitigated, as far as possible. • Dust control: Dust prevention measures are applied to minimise the generation of dust. • Storm- and wastewater management: To avoid pollution and erosion as a result of storm- or wastewater runoff. • Topsoil use: Impacts on the environment are minimised when topsoil is removed, and sufficient topsoil is available for rehabilitation. • Stockpiling and stockpile areas: To reduce erosion and sedimentation as a result of stockpiling. • Protection of fauna: Any animals encountered during construction should be left unharmed and allowed to move to natural areas safely. • Protection of heritage resources (if any): Impact on heritage resources is minimised. • Emergency procedures: Emergency procedures are in place to enable a rapid and effective response to all types of environmental emergencies. • Fire Prevention: Prevention of uncontrollable fires. • Site safety and security: All safety and security measures are in place. • Public safety: All precautions are taken where possible to minimise the risk of injury, harm or complaints. • Landscaping and rehabilitation: No environmental degradation occurs as a result of the development. OPERATIONAL PHASE • Invasive alien clearing: Invasive alien plants must be removed from all watercourses on the property. • Soil erosion: Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated to prevent erosion.	
2.2.	Provide a description of any aspects that were conditional to the findings of the assessment either by the EAP or specialist that must be included as conditions of the authorisation.

	The following mitigation measures must be included as conditions of approval: • The EMPr must be adhered to. • The development area should be clearly demarcated along the southern portion of the site, adjacent to the Hex River. • The Hex River floodplain and a 32m buffer area should be excluded from any development or disturbances. The development should be restricted to areas above the paleo-terrace adjacent to the Hex River. • Rocks and vegetation debris should not be dumped within the Hex River floodplain area. • Alien vegetation should continuously be managed and controlled within the Hex River using standard DWAF methodology. The Department of Agriculture Landcare should be consulted regarding alien control along the riverbank to prevent destabilization of the riverbank.
2.3.	Provide a reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity or development should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be included in the authorisation.
	It is the EAP's opinion that development should be authorised. Should the site not be developed for agricultural purposes, alien re-infestation will continue throughout the site and possibly within the Hex River riparian area. Due to the highly degraded and transformed nature of the site, development of the site (dam and cultivation) will not significantly compromise biodiversity. Overall, the impacts on terrestrial biodiversity will likely be Very Low Negative. Additional reasons why the proposed development is considered acceptable: • There is very little representation of the original ecosystem evident on site. Natural plant diversity is very low. According to the specialist, it is highly unlikely that the site will ever regenerate back to the original ecosystem due to the overall lack of improvement over the years, a lack of source populations, continuous disturbances including grazing and alien infestation. • The development will not impact on natural connectivity. The site is bound by cultivated lands and completely isolated from other natural areas. • There are no threatened plant species evident on site. • The proposed cultivated lands will be sufficiently setback from the Hex River. • The soils are suitable for table grape production. • There is sufficient water to irrigate the proposed cultivation area. The following mitigation, management and monitoring measures must be conditions of approval: • An Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to oversee the construction phase (including the implementation of the EMPr and any applicable conditions of the environmental authorisation). • ECO should conduct at least one site visit per month. • All mitigation measures detailed in the EMPr (Appendix H) must be adhered.
2.4.	Provide a description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge that relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed.
	ASSUMPTIONS <u>The EAP's assumptions:</u> • All mitigation, management, and monitoring measures prescribed in this BAR and the accompanying EMPr will be implemented by the developer. • Effective management of the site is essential, and the specialist's recommended mitigation measures must be implemented. This has a significant bearing on the reliability of the predictions of the significance of impact. <u>The Biodiversity and Plant Species specialist's limitations and assumptions:</u> The latest field work was conducted during summer (February 2026). There were thus seasonal constraints to spring flowering plants and geophytes. The site was, however, surveyed in detail during spring as part of the previous 2019 assessment. The specialist is confident that the 2019 species list will be sufficient in the prediction of the plant species that are likely to be found on site during spring 2026. Rationale: The site was cultivated in the past (>10 years ago) and some natural plant species established on site as confirmed in the 2019 assessment. It is very unlikely that additional geophyte plants would have

	established on site since the 2019 assessment, primarily based on the overall lack of improvement over the past few years. This is most likely the result of a deficient seed bank and the lack of nearby source populations. The site is completely bound by cultivation areas of which most areas are covered by netting. UNCERTAINTIES Uncertainties result when mitigation measures are proposed and must be implemented. The management and implementation of these mitigation measures must be closely monitored and effectively managed to ensure that all identified mitigation measures are successfully brought to fruition. GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE At this stage, there are no identified gaps in knowledge within this report.
2.5.	The period for which the EA is required, the date the activity will be concluded and when the post construction monitoring requirements should be finalised. • Commencement of the EA should occur within 5 years from the date of issue of the EA. • Completion of the activities should occur within 5 years from the date of commencement. • It is recommended that ECO monitoring be undertaken once a month during construction/clearing. • An Environmental Audit must be undertaken within 3 months of commencement (clearing activities) and within 3 - 6 months from the completion of clearing activities.

3. Water

Since the Western Cape is a water scarce area explain what measures will be implemented to avoid the use of potable water during the development and operational phase and what measures will be implemented to reduce your water demand, save water and measures to reuse or recycle water.

Water saving irrigation methods are currently implemented on the farm. The proposed use of drip irrigation ensures that irrigation water is delivered directly and efficiently to the root zone of the vines. This minimises losses through evaporation, runoff and application outside the effective root zone and allows irrigation applications to be closely managed according to the actual crop demand and soil moisture conditions.

4. Waste

Explain what measures have been taken to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.

No waste will be generated by the expansion of the fields/ clearance of vegetation.

5. Energy Efficiency

8.1. Explain what design measures have been taken to ensure that the development proposal will be energy efficient.

No power supply will be necessary as the use is for agricultural production and use will be made of the existing farm mechanical equipment and infrastructure.

SECTION K: DECLARATIONS

DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one Applicant.

I Ryno Johannes Palm, ID number 8103085049082 in my personal capacity or duly authorised thereto hereby declare/affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted as part of this application form is true and correct, and that:

- I am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, and any relevant Specific Environmental Management Act and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute an offence in terms of relevant environmental legislation;
- I am aware of my general duty of care in terms of Section 28 of the NEMA;
- I am aware that it is an offence in terms of Section 24F of the NEMA should I commence with a listed activity prior to obtaining an Environmental Authorisation;
- I appointed the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") (if not exempted from this requirement) which:
 - meets all the requirements in terms of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations; or
 - meets all the requirements other than the requirement to be independent in terms of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, but a review EAP has been appointed who does meet all the requirements of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations;
- I will provide the EAP and any specialist, where applicable, and the Competent Authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
- I will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the NEMA EIA Regulations and other environmental legislation including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred for the appointment of the EAP or any legitimately person contracted by the EAP;
 - costs in respect of any fee prescribed by the Minister or MEC in respect of the NEMA EIA Regulations;
 - Legitimate costs in respect of specialist(s) reviews; and
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with applicable management and mitigation measures;
- I am responsible for complying with conditions that may be attached to any decision(s) issued by the Competent Authority, hereby indemnify, the government of the Republic, the Competent Authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any report, any procedure or any action for which I or the EAP is responsible in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations and any Specific Environmental Management Act.

Note: If acting in a representative capacity, a certified copy of the resolution or power of attorney must be attached.



Signature of the Applicant:

4 September 2026

Date:

JRG Farming (Pty) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable):

DECLARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

I Lindsay Speirs du Toit, EAP Registration number 2019/1470 as the appointed EAP hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the:

- Information provided in this BAR and any other documents/reports submitted in support of this BAR;
- The inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
- The inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
- Any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties, and that:
- In terms of the general requirement to be independent:
 - other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
 - am not independent, but another EAP that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review EAP must be submitted);
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for an EAP, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- I have disclosed, to the Applicant, the specialist (if any), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Competent Authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of this application;
- I have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application was distributed or was made available to registered interested and affected parties and that participation will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- I have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties were considered, recorded, responded to and submitted to the Competent Authority in respect of this application;
- I have ensured the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports in respect of the application, where relevant;
- I have kept a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in the public participation process; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the NEMA EIA Regulations;



Signature of the EAP:

7 September 2026

Date:

EarthGrace Environmental Consultancy

Name of company (if applicable):

DECLARATION OF THE SPECIALIST

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one specialist.

I J. Krige....., as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that:

- In terms of the general requirement to be independent:
 - other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
 - am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;
- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.

J. Krige
Signature of the EAP:

3/09/2026
Date:

Johlene Krige Botanical Specialist
Name of company (if applicable):