

APPENDIX K - NEED AND DESIRABILITY

This Appendix provides a description of the rationale and motivation for the proposed development. It outlines key aspects of the 'need and desirability' of the proposal, as required by the EIA Regulations.

According to the DEADP's Guidelines on Need and Desirability, the concept of need and desirability can be explained as *need* refers to *time* and *desirability* to *place* – i.e., is this the right time and place for locating the type of land use being proposed? Need and desirability can be equated to *wise use of land* – i.e., the question of what the most sustainable use of land is.

It is believed that through the adequate consideration of need and desirability throughout the environmental process, it will ensure that the "best practicable environmental option" is pursued.

The table below is based on the Guideline for Need and Desirability (DEA, 2014) and sets out the key considerations motivating the need and desirability of the project proposal.

Guideline	EAP Response
▪ How will this development (and its separate elements/aspects) impact on the ecological integrity of the area? ▪ How were the following ecological integrity considerations taken into account: • Threatened Ecosystems, • Sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems, such as coastal shores, estuaries, wetlands, and similar systems require specific attention in management and planning procedures, especially where they are subject to significant human resource usage and development pressure, • Critical Biodiversity Areas ("CBAs") and Ecological Support Areas ("ESAs"), • Conservation targets, • Ecological drivers of the ecosystem, • Environmental attributes and management proposals contained in relevant Environmental Management Frameworks, • Environmental attributes and management proposals contained in relevant Spatial Development Framework, and • Global and international responsibilities relating to the environment (e.g. RAMSAR sites, Climate Change, etc.).	The following specialist study was commissioned as part of this Basic Assessment Process: • Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Assessment The proposal for the clearing of 17ha of land for cultivation purposes and an additional 1.4ha for an irrigation dam was found to be acceptable from a terrestrial biodiversity and plant species perspective. The potential direct impact includes: • Physical transformation natural vegetation. Indirect impacts may include: 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 study found that the proposed 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. Overall, the impacts on terrestrial biodiversity should be Very Low. Mitigation are proposed to prevent impacts on the bordering Hex River. According to the 2023 Biodiversity Spatial Plan for the Breede Valley Municipal Area (CapeNature, 2023): • 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 (Figure 4). • 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. The Botanist confirmed 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 until 2026, 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. According to the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas map (NFEPA) layers, the Hex River is identified as a natural wetland. The proposed cultivation area will be setback 32m (between 32m and 71m) from the edge of the Hex River riverbank. According to the Screening Report, the site is not intersecting with any EMF areas.
- How will this development disturb or enhance ecosystems and/or result in the loss or protection of biological diversity? What measures were explored to firstly avoid these negative impacts, and where these negative impacts could not be avoided altogether, what measures were explored to minimise and remedy? - How will this development pollute and/or degrade the biophysical environment? What measures were explored to firstly avoid these impacts, and where impacts could not be avoided altogether, what measures were explored to minimise and remedy (including offsetting) the impacts? What measures were explored to enhance positive impacts?	The project team has attempted to firstly avoid negative impacts by locating a site with minimal ecological impacts, high agricultural potential land and close to existing infrastructure. Minimal mitigation measures are recommended to reduce any potential impacts. Any potential impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of the EMPr. To date, the following mitigation measures have been recommended for implementation should the application be approved: - 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. - 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). - All mitigation measures detailed in the EMPr (Appendix H) must be adhered.
What waste will be generated by this development? What measures were explored to firstly avoid waste, and where waste could not be avoided altogether, what measures were explored to minimise, reuse and/or recycle the waste? What measures have been explored to safely treat and/or dispose of unavoidable waste?	Very little to no waste or pollution will be generated by this proposal.

How will this development use and/or impact on non-renewable natural resources? What measures were explored to ensure responsible and equitable use of the resources? How have the consequences of the depletion of the non-renewable natural resources been considered? What measures were explored to firstly avoid these impacts, and where impacts could not be avoided altogether, what measures were explored to minimise and remedy (including offsetting) the impacts? What measures were explored to enhance positive impacts?	The proposed development entails the clearing of vegetation for cultivation and dam construction purposes. No non-renewable resources will be required.
- How will this development use and/or impact on renewable natural resources and the ecosystem of which they are part? Will the use of the resources and/or impact on the ecosystem jeopardise the integrity of the resource and/or system considering carrying capacity restrictions, limits of acceptable change, and thresholds? What measures were explored to firstly avoid the use of resources, or if avoidance is not possible, to minimise the use of resources? What measures were taken to ensure responsible and equitable use of the resources? What measures were explored to enhance positive impacts? - Does the proposed development exacerbate the increased dependency on increased use of resources to maintain economic growth or does it reduce resource dependency (i.e., de-materialised growth)? (Note sustainability requires that settlements reduce their ecological footprint by using less material and energy demands and reduce the amount of waste they generate, without compromising their quest to improve their quality of life) - Does the proposed use of natural resources constitute the best use thereof? Is the use justifiable when considering intra- and intergenerational equity, and are there more important priorities for which the resources should be	Use of non-renewable resources, such as electricity and water, will be limited. The actual water requirement can be reduced through the implementation of efficient irrigation and water-management practices. The use of low-flow drip irrigation allows water to be applied directly to the effective root zone of the vines, thereby reducing losses through evaporation, surface runoff and application outside the root zone. Where appropriate, micro-sprinkler systems can similarly be managed to improve application efficiency. Further improvements in water-use efficiency can be achieved through soil-moisture monitoring, precision irrigation scheduling and appropriate mulching practices. Soil moisture monitoring allows irrigation to be scheduled according to the actual moisture status of the root zone rather than applying water according to a fixed schedule. Mulching can reduce evaporation from the soil surface and assist in maintaining moisture within the root zone. In addition, the proposed cultivation of table grapes under protective netting can moderate the vineyard microclimate by reducing direct solar radiation and wind exposure, thereby reducing evaporative demand and plant water stress. The selection of suitable, relatively water-efficient table grape cultivars, together with the moisture retention characteristics of the soils on the property, further supports the efficient use of irrigation water. This approach supports the sustainable use of the available water allocation while minimising unnecessary water losses.

used (i.e., what are the opportunity costs of using these resources for the proposed development alternative?). Do the proposed location, type and scale of development promote a reduced dependency on resources?	
- How will the ecological impacts resulting from this development impact on people's environmental right in terms following: - Negative impacts: e.g. access to resources, opportunity costs, loss of amenity (e.g. open space), air and water quality impacts, nuisance (noise, odour, etc.), health impacts, visual impacts, etc. What measures were taken to firstly avoid negative impacts, but if avoidance is not possible, to minimise, manage and remedy negative impacts? - Positive impacts: e.g. improved access to resources, improved amenity, improved air or water quality, etc. What measures were taken to enhance positive impacts? - Describe the linkages and dependencies between human wellbeing, livelihoods and ecosystem services applicable to the area in question and how the development's ecological impacts will result in socio-economic impacts (e.g. on livelihoods, loss of heritage site, opportunity costs, etc.)? - Based on all of the above, how will this development positively or negatively impact on ecological integrity objectives/targets/considerations of the area? - Considering the need to secure ecological integrity and a healthy biophysical environment, describe how the alternatives identified (in terms of all the different elements of the development and all the different impacts being proposed), resulted in the selection of the "best practicable environmental option" in terms of ecological considerations? - Describe the positive and negative cumulative ecological/biophysical impacts bearing in mind the	The proposed project will not unduly impact on people's environmental rights. Agriculture is standard practice within the area and therefore little impact will be caused to people's health and wellbeing (in terms of noise, odours, visual character, and sense of place) as a result of this activity. The location of the site also limits the impacts that the activity will have on people as the site is located outside the urban area of Worcester. The activities do not introduce risks to public health, nor do they place pressure on community infrastructure or services. No negative socio-economic impacts are therefore expected should this proposal be approved. No significant ecological impacts are expected; 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 Hex River, located south of the site is an important biodiversity process area. The riverine area and an adequate buffer of a minimum of 32m will be excluded from the development, or any disturbances. Increasing the agricultural productive land contributes to an increase in the economic activity of the region and an increase in agricultural production. At a broader level, the continued use and expansion of cultivated land contribute to food production and food security, which are recognised national priorities. Although the activity is limited to a single farming unit, it forms part of the wider agricultural sector that supports regional and national supply chains. At a local level, the activities support the economic viability of an existing farming operation, which in turn contributes to employment opportunities, both directly (farm workers) and indirectly (associated services such as transport, supply, and maintenance). Sustaining agricultural operations in the area also helps maintain the rural economy and livelihoods that depend on it. The activities further contribute to the productive use of land that has historically been used for agriculture, thereby avoiding land abandonment and supporting ongoing land management. Managed agricultural land may also reduce the risk of invasive species proliferation and contribute to overall land stewardship. This water use will not have any impact on other water users. Existing enlisted water will be used to irrigate the cultivated lands.

size, scale, scope and nature of the project in relation to its location and existing and other planned developments in the area?	
■ What is the socio-economic context of the area, based on, amongst other considerations, the following considerations?: ○ The IDP (and its sector plans' vision, objectives, strategies, indicators and targets) and any other strategic plans, frameworks of policies applicable to the area, ○ Spatial priorities and desired spatial patterns (e.g. need for integrated or segregated communities, need to upgrade informal settlements, need for densification, etc.), ○ Spatial characteristics (e.g. existing land uses, planned land uses, cultural landscapes, etc.), and ○ Municipal Economic Development Strategy ("LED Strategy").	The site is zoned for agriculture and it is an operational farming enterprise which is successfully farmed. The site is surrounded by agricultural land/operating farms consisting of crops, farm dams, farm worker housing and homesteads. The proposed development will therefore be consistent with the existing land use on the farm as well as the surrounding areas.
■ Considering the socio-economic context, what will the socio-economic impacts be of the development (and its separate elements/aspects), and specifically also on the socio-economic objectives of the area? ○ Will the development complement the local socio-economic initiatives (such as local economic development (LED) initiatives), or skills development programs?	The benefits are primarily economic and localised, rather than broad-scale societal gains. However, in a rural agricultural area, the activity is considered to provide meaningful support for local livelihoods and economic stability, while contributing to broader agricultural objectives.
■ How will this development disturb or enhance landscapes and/or sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage? What measures were explored to firstly avoid these impacts, and where impacts could not be avoided altogether, what measures were explored to minimise and remedy (including offsetting) the impacts? What measures were explored to enhance positive impacts?	No significant cultural or heritage impacts will result from the proposed expansion of agricultural land within a farming area. The site is located on an operational farm located within an agricultural area – the sense of place and history of the area will not be affected by the expansion of existing cultivated lands.

How will this development address the specific physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social needs and interests of the relevant communities?	Those already employed on the farm will have increased job security, there will be additional permanent and seasonal job opportunities and the economic development of the area will benefit. There will be an increase in agricultural produce since the agricultural potential of the farming unit will be improved and this in turn will boost the GDP.
Will the development result in equitable (intra- and inter-generational) impact distribution, in the short- and long-term? Will the impact be socially and economically sustainable in the short- and long-term?	The proposal is considered to provide a net positive socio-economic outcome, with benefits accruing to the applicant, agricultural workers and the broader local and regional economy, while the principal environmental impacts are limited through site-specific mitigation and avoidance measures.
- In terms of location, describe how the placement of the proposed development will: - result in the creation of residential and employment opportunities in close proximity to or integrated with each other, - reduce the need for transport of people and goods, - result in access to public transport or enable non-motorised and pedestrian transport (e.g. will the development result in densification and the achievement of thresholds in terms public transport), - compliment other uses in the area, - be in line with the planning for the area, - for urban related development, make use of underutilised land available within the urban edge, - optimise the use of existing resources and infrastructure, consider opportunity costs in terms of bulk infrastructure expansions in non-priority areas (e.g. not aligned with the bulk infrastructure planning for the settlement that reflects the spatial reconstruction priorities of the settlement), discourage "urban sprawl" and contribute to compaction/densification, - contribute to the correction of the historically distorted spatial patterns of settlements and to the optimum use of existing infrastructure in excess of current needs, - encourage environmentally sustainable land development practices and processes,	The proposed development is highly compatible with the surrounding land uses. The property is located within an established farming area, with surrounding agricultural cultivation and dams. The proposed cultivation and irrigation dam will therefore complement the existing agricultural land use rather than introduce an incompatible land use. The EAP further considers that the cultivated land and dam will be visually in keeping with the surrounding agricultural landscape. The property is zoned for Agricultural Use and the proposed development supports the established agricultural function of the area. The proposal is therefore aligned with the agricultural character and planning intent for the rural area. The proposal also supports the role of agriculture within the Breede Valley Municipality's rural economy and is consistent with the agricultural objectives identified in the relevant municipal planning framework. Environmental considerations have been incorporated into the location and planning of the development. Although the proposed cultivation area is mapped as a terrestrial CBA and is associated with Endangered Breede Alluvium Renosterveld, the specialist assessment established that the area has been historically cultivated, is highly degraded, has very low natural plant diversity and is not recognised as a natural remnant of Breede Alluvium Renosterveld. The development layout has also taken account of the Hex River, which is the principal sensitive aquatic feature in the vicinity. The proposed cultivation area will be sufficiently set back from the river, and the proposed dams are off-stream and not located in close proximity to the river. The consideration of alternative dam locations has further assisted in minimising environmental impacts. Dam Site 2 is located within an area that is already cultivated and has no remaining natural vegetation, while Dam Site 1 is highly degraded and also contains no significant representation of the original ecosystem.

○ consider special locational factors that might favour the specific location (e.g. the location of a strategic mineral resource, access to the port, access to rail, etc.), ○ result in investment in the settlement or area in question that will generate the highest socioeconomic returns (i.e. an area with high economic potential), ○ impact on the sense of history, sense of place and heritage of the area and the socio-cultural and cultural-historic characteristics and sensitivities of the area, and ○ in terms of the nature, scale and location of the development, promote or act as a catalyst to create a more integrated settlement?	
▪ How were a risk-averse and cautious approach applied in terms of socio-economic impacts?: ○ What are the limits of current knowledge (note: the gaps, uncertainties and assumptions must be clearly stated)? ○ What is the level of risk (note: related to inequality, social fabric, livelihoods, vulnerable communities, critical resources, economic vulnerability and sustainability) associated with the limits of current knowledge? ○ Based on the limits of knowledge and the level of risk, how and to what extent was a risk-averse and cautious approach applied to the development (and its alternatives)?	No negative socio-economic impacts of significance were identified.
▪ How will the socio-economic impacts resulting from this development impact on people's environmental right in terms following: ○ Negative impacts: e.g. health (e.g. HIV-Aids), safety, social ills, etc. What measures were taken to firstly avoid negative impacts, but if avoidance is not	Due to the localised nature of the proposed development and the relatively small scale, it is anticipated that this application will have no impact on the existing rights of surrounding properties. In addition, the water to be taken is a lawful use and should not impact on downstream users. I&APs and Stakeholders have had the opportunity to consider the proposal and submit comment, thereby ensuring that all people's needs, rights and concerns relating to the application, are addressed throughout this process.

possible, to minimise, manage and remedy negative impacts? ○ Positive impacts. What measures were taken to enhance positive impacts?	
▪ Considering the linkages and dependencies between human wellbeing, livelihoods and ecosystem services, describe the linkages and dependencies applicable to the area in question and how the development's socio-economic impacts will result in ecological impacts (e.g. over utilisation of natural resources, etc.)?	The anticipated ecological impacts will not result in significant negative socio-economic impacts or vice versa.
▪ What measures were taken to pursue the selection of the "best practicable environmental option" in terms of socio-economic considerations?	The proposal will result in job security for those already employed on the working farm and increase in incomes for the farmer and possibly the farm workers.
▪ What measures were taken to pursue environmental justice so that adverse environmental impacts shall not be distributed in such a manner as to unfairly discriminate against any person, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged persons (who are the beneficiaries and is the development located appropriately)?	The proposed development therefore seeks to ensure that the environmental costs associated with the development are limited and appropriately managed, while the socio-economic benefits are available beyond the applicant alone. The use of an already disturbed agricultural area, avoidance of the sensitive river system, and implementation of the recommended biodiversity mitigation measures assist in achieving a more equitable distribution of impacts. From an inter-generational perspective, the proposal will support continued agricultural production and investment in irrigation infrastructure while retaining important environmental resources. The protection of the Hex River and the implementation of the recommended environmental management measures will assist in ensuring that the natural resources on which surrounding communities and future agricultural activities depend are not unnecessarily compromised.
▪ Considering the need for social equity and justice, do the alternatives identified, allow the "best practicable environmental option" to be selected, or is there a need for other alternatives to be considered?	The preferred alternative is considered the best practicable environmental option.
▪ What measures were taken to pursue equitable access to environmental resources, benefits and services to meet basic human needs and ensure human wellbeing, and what special measures were taken to ensure access	The proposed development therefore seeks to ensure that the environmental costs associated with the development are limited and appropriately managed, while the socio-economic benefits are available beyond the applicant alone. The use of an already disturbed agricultural area, avoidance of the sensitive river system, and implementation of the recommended biodiversity mitigation measures assist in achieving a more equitable distribution of impacts.

thereto by categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination?	
▪ What measures were taken to ensure that the responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of the development has been addressed throughout the development's life cycle? ▪ What measures were taken to ensure that the interests, needs and values of all interested and affected parties were considered, and that adequate recognition were given to all forms of knowledge, including traditional and ordinary knowledge?	The Applicant is accountable for the potential impacts of the activities and is responsible for managing these impacts throughout the development's life cycle. The Applicant must implement the EMPr and ensure that both the EMPr and the Environmental Authorisation are always complied with. The Applicant is also responsible for ensuring that all other environmental and water related legislation is complied with. An EMPr for the construction and operational phases of the proposed development has been compiled (Appendix H) which specifies the responsibilities for the potential environmental issues throughout the life of the development. A Public Participation Process (PPP) has been undertaken as part of this Basic Assessment Process as detailed in Section F of the BAR. Various methods were employed to notify potential Interested and Affected Parties of the proposed project, including site notices, advertisements in newspapers and written notifications of all adjacent landowners and occupiers.
▪ Considering the interests, needs and values of all the interested and affected parties, describe how the development will allow for opportunities for all the segments of the community (e.g. a mixture of low-, middle-, and high-income housing opportunities) that is consistent with the priority needs of the local area (or that is proportional to the needs of an area)?	The PPP involves the engagement with neighbours, local councillors, farming associations and the Irrigation Boards. The local community will have opportunities to raise any concerns they may have, and these concerns will be addressed throughout the process, where reasonably possible and where the concerns are within the scope of this application.
▪ What measures have been taken to ensure that current and/or future workers will be informed of work that potentially might be harmful to human health or the environment or of dangers associated with the work, and what measures have been taken to ensure that the right of workers to refuse such work will be respected and protected?	An EMPr has been compiled to address health and safety concerns. An Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to monitor compliance. This will be a condition of the environmental authorisation, should the application be approved.
▪ Describe how the development will impact on job creation in terms of, amongst other aspects: ○ the number of temporary versus permanent jobs that will be created,	With an increase in the agricultural potential of the farming unit, existing jobs will be secured.

○ whether the labour available in the area will be able to take up the job opportunities (i.e. do the required skills match the skills available in the area), the distance from where labourers will have to travel, the location of jobs opportunities versus the location of impacts (i.e. equitable distribution of costs and benefits), and ○ the opportunity costs in terms of job creation (e.g. a mine might create 100 jobs in the short and medium term, but impact on 1000 permanent agricultural jobs, etc.).	
▪ What measures were taken to ensure: ○ that there were intergovernmental coordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment, and ○ that actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state were resolved through conflict resolution procedures?	The authority consultation process carried out by the EAP will assist in coordinating the policies, legislation and mandates of the various state departments/organs of state. This will be done as per the requirements of DEA&DP'S circular EADP 0028/2014: one environmental management system. In terms of the Agreement for the One Environmental System (section 50A of the NEMA and sections 41 (5) and 163 A of the NWA) the process for a Water Use License Application (WULA) and EIA will be aligned and integrated with respect to the fixed synchronised timeframes, as prescribed in the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and the 2017 WULA Regulations (GN R. 267 of 24 March 2017). The EIA process taken cognisance of this and will be carried out accordingly.
▪ What measures were taken to ensure that the environment will be held in public trust for the people, that the beneficial use of environmental resources will serve the public interest, and that the environment will be protected as the people's common heritage?	The EIA process, including the public participation, is a means of managing potential impacts on environmental resources and determining whether the proposed use of resources is in the public interest. In addition, potential ecological impacts were evaluated in the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species Assessment.
▪ Are the mitigation measures proposed realistic and what long-term environmental legacy and managed burden will be left?	Mitigation measures are realistic and will not be a burden.
▪ What measures were taken to ensure that the costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation and consequent adverse health effects and of preventing, controlling or minimising further pollution, environmental damage or adverse health effects will be borne by those responsible for harming the environment?	The following mitigation and management 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 1 site visit per month. • All mitigation measures detailed in the EMPr (Appendix H) must be adhered.

	• 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.
▪ Considering the need to secure ecological integrity and a healthy bio-physical environment, describe how the alternatives identified (in terms of all the different elements of the development and all the different impacts being proposed), resulted in the selection of the best practicable environmental option in terms of socio-economic considerations?	The current preferred alternative is considered acceptable from an environmental perspective for the following reasons: • 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.
▪ Describe the positive and negative cumulative socio-economic impacts bearing in mind the size, scale, scope and nature of the project in relation to its location and other planned developments in the area?	The agricultural potential of the area is linked to the incomes of the farmers and farm workers. By increasing agricultural production, the farmer and farm workers benefit as well as the local community.

