

THE UNLAWFUL CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE EXPANSION OF A VINEYARD ON PORTION 13 OF ORANGE FALLS FARM NO 16, AUGRABIES FALLS WAY, NORTHERN CAPE



S24G ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Application form for the rectification of unlawful commencement or continuation of a listed activity in terms of Section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended

OCTOBER 2017

**RECTIFICATION FOR THE UNLAWFUL
CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
THE EXPANSION OF A VINEYARD ON
PORTION 13 OF ORANGE FALLS FARM NO 16,
AUGRABIES FALLS WAY, NORTHERN CAPE**

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The unlawful construction of infrastructure for the expansion of a vineyard on Portion 13 of Orange Falls Farm no 16, Augrabies Falls Way has commenced. The soil in which the grapes are planted gets ripped in order to create favourable conditions, no soil gets removed by this action. The 10ha area that is developed is done on previously grazed fields. The activity commenced in different time frames: 5ha were developed in 2010; 2.5ha were developed in 2012 and 2.5ha were developed in 2016. During this development there were no new roads constructed. The warehouse in which the grapes gets processed and packed was built in 2001. The site is approximately 9km north-west of Augrabies. The site co-ordinates are **28°39'30.16"S, 20°20'28.81"E**.

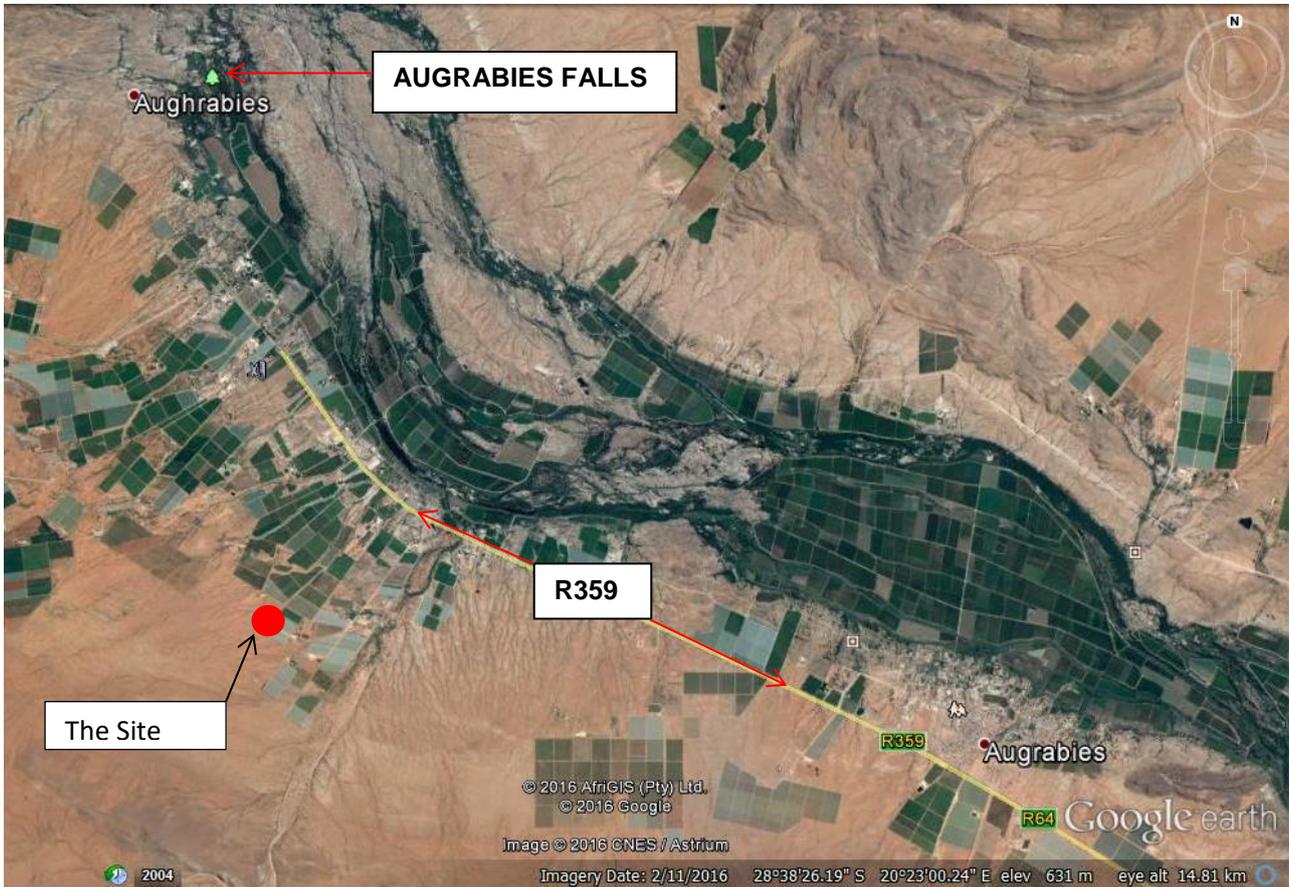


Figure 1: Arial image showing the location of the proposed site and surrounding area.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE R983 (LISTING NOTICE 1):

Government Notice R544 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 56; Government Notice R546 (Listing Notice 3): Activity No. 12

Government Notice R983 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 27 and 67; Government Notice R985 (Listing Notice 1): Activity No. 12; Government Notice R327 (Listing Notice 1): Activities No. 12 & 19; and Government Notice R324 (Listing Notice 3): Activity 14.

Activity 56: Phased Activity for all the activities listed in this Schedule which commenced on or after the effective date of this Schedule, where any one phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specific threshold; -

Excluding the following activities listed in this Schedule;

2;11(i)-(vii);16(i)-(iv);17;19;20;22(i) &22(ii); 25;26;27;28;39;45(i)-(iv) 7 (vii)-(xv);50;51;53; and 54.

Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

Activity 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.

Activity 67: Phased activities for all activities listed in this Notice, which commenced on or after the effective date of this Notice; or similarly listed in any of the previous NEMA notices, which commenced on or after the effective date of such previous NEMA Notices; where any phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold; excluding the following activities listed in this Notice;

17(i)(a-d); 17(ii)(a-d); 17(iii)(a-d); 17(iv)(a-d); 17(v)(a-d); 20; 21; 22; 24(i); 29; 30; 31; 32; 34; 54(i)(a-d); 54(ii)(a-d); 54(iii)(a-d); 54(iv)(a-d); 54(v)(a-d); 55; 61; 62; 64; and 65.

Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

Activity 12: The development of—

dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or
infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;

where such development occurs—

- (a) within a watercourse;
- (b) in front of a development setback; or
- (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;

Activity 14: The development of;

- (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 10 square metres;
- (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;

where such development occurs;

- (a) within a watercourse;
- (b) in front of a development setback; or
- (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

Excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site developed into vineyards for table grape production. The site is located on an area that is relatively flat and is surrounded by vineyards. The site is agricultural zoned and the surrounding area of the site is already disturbed as a result of past grazing activities on site. The warehouse in which the grapes are processed and packed was built in 2001. Access to the site is gained via existing gravel roads on the farm.

CIVIL AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES

The water supply is from the canal next to the Orange river and currently they have an existing amount of 10ha water rights on their farm they have a 20ha development and therefore they currently rent and extra 10.8ha water rights in order to supply the other 10ha of developed vineyards. They are now on their way to do application for transferring the water rights to their name in order to do away with the renting of the water rights.

The sewerage on the farm gets emptied by a honey sucker by the Kai Garib Local Municipality when full, and the effluent disposed at a municipal safe zone.

The electricity is supplied by Eskom.

ACCESS

The R359 is approximately 2km north-east of the site. Access to the site is gained via existing gravel roads on the farm.



Figure Figure 2: Google Earth aerial photo indicating the affected farm layout and development in each timeframe. The site is indicated by the red rectangle..

CONCLUSION

The best environmental option would be the no-go alternative. However, the social benefits of the proposed project would not be realised.

Although the establishment of vineyards cause some disturbance, with the implementation of the Environmental Management Programme and recommendations from the specialist, the proposed activity is expected to have a low negative impact. However, the benefits of the proposed activity are expected to outweigh any potential negative environmental impacts

It is therefore recommended that this application be authorised with the necessary conditions of approval as described throughout this S24G EIR.