

INITIAL COMMENTS RECEIVED - RUSTENBERG WINES

Date	Issue	Comment	I&AP	Response	Respondent
20/12/2018	Biodiversity	The area proposed for cultivation of vineyards is classified as Ecological Support Area (ESA) 2 with a strip of Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) 2 along the westernmost section according to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSPP). The natural vegetation that would have occurred on the site is Boland Granite Fynbos listed as Vulnerable. There is a watercourse mapped along the western section leading to an in-stream dam just south of the proposed cultivation area	Rhett Smart - CapeNature	Noted. The vegetation type and conservation planning has been addressed in the Botanical Assessment (Appendix G3) as well as in Section B.6 of this report. The watercourse indicated on desktop maps has been ground-truthed, and no watercourse was described.	EnviroAfrica
		"...both areas have been previously ploughed however the subject area was last ploughed over 10 years ago and hence is determined to have returned to natural vegetation in terms of NEMA and therefore triggers the 1 ha vegetation clearing threshold for a Vulnerable vegetation type in terms of NEMA		Noted, a NEMA Application (this application) is therefore required before development can take place.	
		Since the area has been previously ploughed it is likely that the vegetation does not contain the full complement of species that would be typical of this vegetation type. However the precautionary principle must be applied and a botanical scan should be undertaken in late winter/spring to assess the conservation value of the area and identify the presence of any threatened species. The WCBSPP will need to be taken into consideration.		Noted. This has been addressed in the Botanical Assessment (Appendix G3).	
		As mentioned above, there is a watercourse mapped along the western section of the site, with which the CBA 2 area is associated. It should be noted that there could be additional listed activities triggered in relation to the watercourse. It is recommended that there is no cultivation within a minimum of 32 m of the delineated watercourse. Should this be adhered to there would not be the need for an additional freshwater specialist scan, however a ground-truthed delineation of the watercourse and the 32 m buffer would be necessary.		Noted. A freshwater specialist was appointed to ground-truth the watercourse, and conducted a Freshwater Verification (Appendix G2) of the site. The freshwater verification concluded that there is no longer any watercourse within the study area. It can thus also be said that no water use activity would be triggered with the proposed cultivation of the valley as there would not be any change made to a bed. Banks or characteristic of any watercourse nor would any flow in a watercourse need to be impeded or diverted. The proposed activities are also located approximately 75m upstream of the more natural wetland areas associated with the downstream dams and are unlikely to impact on these aquatic features.	
05/10/2018		We have no problem with this. I don't intend to go through the process of registering as an I and A Party, but will have no objections or input.	Simon Rosholt - Hoogeind	Noted	EnviroAfrica