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reference SSD14/2/5/1/7/3/161-0_cons_mast_Buffeljagsrivier
date 7 January 2019

Swellendam Municipality
P.O. Box 20
Swellendam
6740

Attention: Clinton Uys

Dear Mr Uys

Application for consent use to erect 30 m telecommunications mast on FA 161/0, Buffeljagsrivier
(Swellendam Municipality ref: 15/2/3/BJ154)

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity-related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.

The application is for the consent use to erect a 30 m telecommunications mast on FA 161/0, Buffeljagsrivier, contained within a 100 m² fence.

According to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (CapeNature 2017), the proposed site is adjacent to an Ecological Support Area with restoration potential (ESA2), which is associated with a non-perennial tributary of the Buffeljags River. This watercourse is approximately 70 m east of the proposed footprint. While critically endangered Cape Lowland Alluvial Vegetation would have occurred here naturally, the site has been completely transformed and no natural vegetation remains. Given that the site is sufficiently buffered from the watercourse and ESA2, and does not contain natural vegetation, the proposed development will likely have no significant impacts on biodiversity.

The National Environmental Management Act Listing Notice 3, Activity 3 (i) will be triggered for the development of telecommunication masts exceeding 15 metres in height. Environmental authorisation is being sought from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, to which CapeNature may provide further comment.

In conclusion, no significant biodiversity impacts are foreseen; therefore, CapeNature does not object to the application. However, CapeNature will be providing further comments on the application for environmental authorisation where necessary.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Chanel Rampartab
For: Manager (Scientific Services)