

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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reference **SSD14/2/6/1/9/6/602_Water_Distribution_Snel**
date **22 November 2017**

Vivienne Thomson
EnviroAfrica
PO Box 5367
Helderberg
7135
By email: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Ms Thomson

RE: Proposed water distribution structure and pipeline in the Snel River for Wagenboomsrivier & Darling Brug Irrigation Boards – Background Information Document.

Thank you for providing us with a Background Information Document. We would like to be registered as a commenting authority for this project. We would also like to make the following initial comments:

The river in which the proposed distribution structure site is located has been determined as an Aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area (please refer to the 2017 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP)¹). There are also wetland areas associated with the river which are also aquatic CBAs. The river is part of a Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA) river corridor.

The site is therefore within an area of high ecological importance. A detailed freshwater impact assessment must be conducted which considers Ecological Flow Requirements in detail. The project may also have an impact on indigenous fish and a fish survey may need to be included as part of the assessment.

We will provide additional comment once more detailed information has been supplied.

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

Yours sincerely



Alana Duffell-Canham
For: Manager (Scientific Services)

¹ Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, maps and the BSP handbook are available for download on the South African National Biodiversity Institute's BGIS website: <http://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/194>. They can also be available on a viewing platform on the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's CapeFarmMapper website: <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trades as **CapeNature**

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