

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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reference date SSD14/2/6/1/9/2/602_Water_Distribution_Snel_Worcester
11 September 2018

Inge Erasmus
EnviroAfrica
P O Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Inge,

RE: CapeNature comment on Pre-Application BAR for Wagenboomsrivier & Darling Brug Irrigation Boards: proposed water distribution structure and pipeline structure in the Snelriver/ Waaboomsrivier on farms

DEA&DP: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B5/16/1368/17 (NOI)

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application and wish to make the following comments:

1. CapeNature's comments of 22 November 2017 have been adequately addressed including the potential for a fish impact study which has been deemed unnecessary. As noted previously, the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan of 2017 indicates that there are Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) on site. These have been correctly reflected in the report as has their desired management state. Both the proposed pipeline route and the distribution chamber are located in CBAs however given that the proposed development is located specifically in already disturbed areas and the impact of construction is temporary, we concur with the EAP and the botanical and freshwater specialist that the potential impact on the CBAs are not likely to be significant. Additionally given that the impact is of a temporary nature it is not expected to have any significant impact on connectivity.
2. The mapped natural vegetation for the area is Breede Alluvial Fynbos (Endangered) and Breede Shale Fynbos (Least Threatened), however the only potential impact is from the pipeline, the proposed footprint of which is located within already disturbed areas devoid of indigenous vegetation. While it is noted that the biodiversity specialist is of

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

Board Members: Prof Denver Hendricks (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Bond-Smith, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis, Mr Paul Slack

the opinion that the impact of the proposed development is expected to be medium/low, it is still important that mitigation measures are implemented in order to reduce the potential environmental impact. The mitigation measures recommended by the Botanical Specialist area supported.

3. CapeNature thus does not oppose this application from the Darling Brug and Wagenboomsrivier Irrigation Boards. The proposed development will enable improved regulation of water use and specifically improved ecological reserve flow.
4. Water Structure (weir and associated infrastructure) Alternative 1 is preferred due to the smaller impact in the receiving environment.
5. Pipeline Route 1 is preferred as it will have a smaller impact on the receiving environment due to alignment with existing roads and along areas already disturbed.

Please note that our comments pertain only to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application. CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Huntly For: Manager (Scientific Services)