



EIA REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B5/16/1032/19
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0000601/2019
ENQUIRIES: Lorretta Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: 2019 -11- 0 8

The Board of Directors
Darlingbrug and Wagenboomsrivier Irrigation Boards
PO Box 3395
MATIELAND
7602

Attention: Mr SB Albertyn

Cell: 084 626 8666
E-mail: wagenboomsrivier@gmail.com

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014, (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER DISTRIBUTION STRUCTURE (WEIR AND DIVISION CHAMBER) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG THE SNEL RIVER AND THE WABOOMS RIVER, WOLSELEY

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation and to **adopt** the Maintenance Management Plan, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarized in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully


DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Ms I Erasmus (EnviroAfrica CC)
(2) Ms H Truter (Witzenberg Municipality)
(3) Ms P Huntly (CapeNature)
(4) Ms E Rossouw (Breedee-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency)
(5) Mr C Meintjies (Department of Agriculture)

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REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B5/16/1032/19
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ENQUIRIES: Lorretta Osborne
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ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER DISTRIBUTION STRUCTURE (WEIR AND DIVISION CHAMBER) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG THE SNEL RIVER AND THE WABOOMS RIVER, WOLSELEY

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B below with respect to Water Structure Alternative 1, Route Alternative 1 and River Crossing Alternative 1, described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated July 2019.

In terms of the NEMA, viz, the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and (Listing Notices 1 and 3 of 2014 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 7 April 2017) the Competent Authority hereby **adopts the Maintenance Management Plan** for the water distribution structure (weir and diversion chamber), associated infrastructure and related river maintenance included as Appendix H2 in the BAR dated July 2019.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in Section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Board of Directors
Darlingbrug and Wagenboomsrivier Irrigation Boards

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Private Bag X9086, Cape Town, 8000
www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp

% Mr SB Albertyn
 PO Box 3395
MATIELAND
 7602

Cell: 084 626 8666
 E-mail: wagenboomsrivier@gmail.com

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "**the holder**".

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity/Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 12</p> <p>The development of -</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs -</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; -</p> <p>excluding -</p> <p>(aa) <i>the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</i></p> <p>(bb) <i>where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</i></p> <p>(cc) <i>activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</i></p> <p>(dd) <i>where such development occurs within an urban area;</i></p> <p>(ee) <i>where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or</i></p> <p>(ff) <i>the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</i></p>	<p>The development footprint of the proposed water distribution structure (weir and division chamber) and associated infrastructure will be more than 100 square metres in extent.</p>

<p>Listing Notice 1 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 19 <i>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—</i></p> <p>(i) a watercourse;</p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</i></p> <p><i>(d) will occur behind a development setback;</i> <i>(e) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</i> <i>(f) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</i> <i>(g) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</i> <i>(h) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</i></p>	<p>Infilling, depositing and excavation of more than 10 cubic metres of material will take place within the river.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 of 2014-</p> <p>Activity Number: 12 <i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>i. In the Western Cape:</i></p> <p>(i) within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p><i>(ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback</i></p>	<p>The development will require the clearance of more than 300 square metres of endangered indigenous vegetation.</p>

<p><i>line on erven in urban areas; or</i></p> <p><i>(iv) on land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning;</i></p> <p><i>(v) On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.</i></p>	
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The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activities as it relates to the development:

The proposal entails the construction of a mass fill and reinforced concrete weir across the Snel River, with its connecting division chamber of 42m² outside the river, along with the necessary piped outlet works of approximately 10m in length and approximately 900mm in diameter. The total footprint of the concrete weir, division chamber and associated infrastructure will be approximately 430m². A new pipeline of approximately 2,7km, with a diameter of 350mm will be developed along the banks of the Wabooms River. The pipeline will be routed along existing farm roads and will cross the Wabooms River and a non-perennial stream via a steel piped bridge and concrete anchors. Four concrete anchors of approximately 4m² each will be constructed to keep the pipeline in position over the river and the non-perennial stream. An existing weir and canal will also be rehabilitated within its existing footprint.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on:

Farm name and number	Development component
Portion 2 of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Worcester	Water distribution structure (weir and division chamber)
Portion 6 of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Worcester	Water structure (weir)
Remaining Extent of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Worcester	Pipeline and river crossing (anchor 1, 2 and 3)
Remaing Extent of Farm No. 706, Worcester	Pipeline
Portion 5 of Farm Pietersvlei No. 196, Worcester	Pipeline and river crossing (anchor 4)
Portion 9 of Farm Pietersvlei No. 196, Worcester	Pipeline
Farm Onverwacht No. 918, Worcester	Existing water canal rehabilitation

Co-ordinates,

Weir and division chamber:

Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
33° 29' 55.20"	19° 16' 48.17"

Pipeline:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Start	33° 29' 55.20"	19° 16' 48.17"
Middle	33° 30' 15.05"	19° 16' 06.67"
End	33° 30' 34.11"	19° 15' 27.37"

Anchors:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Anchor 1	33° 30' 20.39"	19° 16' 1.42"
Anchor 2	33° 30' 20.89"	19° 16' 2.13"
Anchor 3	33° 30' 21.12"	19° 16' 2.20"
Anchor 4	33° 30' 21.52"	19° 16' 2.09"

The SG digit codes are: C0850000000060200002
C0850000000060200006
C0850000000060200000
C0850000000070600000
C0850000000019600005
C0850000000019600009
C0850000000091800000

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

EnviroAfrica CC
% Ms I Erasmus
P. O. Box 5367
HELDERBERG
7135

Tel.: (021) 851 1616
Fax: (086) 512 0154

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with, and restricted to, Water Structure Alternative 1, Route Alternative 1 and River Crossing Alternative 1 described in the BAR dated July 2019 at the site as described in Section C above.
2. The Environmental Authorisation is valid for a period of **five years** from the date of issue within which commencement must occur.
3. The development must be concluded within **ten years** from the date of commencement of the listed activities.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in Section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information, in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities. The notice must:
 - 6.1 make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above; and
 - 6.2 include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8, 12 and 18.

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.

- 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section G below;
- 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
- 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder;
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder;
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and
 - 7.4.6 contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended).
8. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notifies the registered I&APs of this decision. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The draft Environmental Management Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "EMPr") dated July 2019, submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation, is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The MMP adopted as part of this Environmental Authorisation must be implemented.
11. The EMPr and MMP must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

12. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of any clearing or construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, MMP, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request, including on a publicly accessible website.
14. Access to the site referred to in Section C must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

15. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr, MMP, and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The holder must undertake an environmental audit quarterly for the duration of the construction phase and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority once every six months during the construction phase. The final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority six months after operation commenced.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of each of the above-mentioned reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

Specific Conditions

16. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

17. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.
18. The development areas must be clearly demarcated prior to commencement of clearing and construction activities. All areas outside the development footprint must be treated as no-go areas.
19. The environmental flow release and the flow downstream of the water distribution structure (weir and division chamber) must be monitored by the Irrigation Boards. The structure at the previous abstraction point must also be included in the monitoring process and monitoring must take place on an on-going basis. An aquatic and water quantity monitoring plan must be compiled and submitted to CapeNature for approval.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with the listed activities within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry of the environmental authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date on which the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and

- 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organs of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organs of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659) .
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za

- A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 2659, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



MR ZA AHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 08/11/2019

CC: (1) Ms I Erasmus (EnviroAfrica CC)
(2) Ms H Truter (Witzenberg Municipality)
(3) Ms P Huntly (CapeNature)
(4) Ms E Rossouw (Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency)
(5) Mr C Meintjies (Department of Agriculture)

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ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP

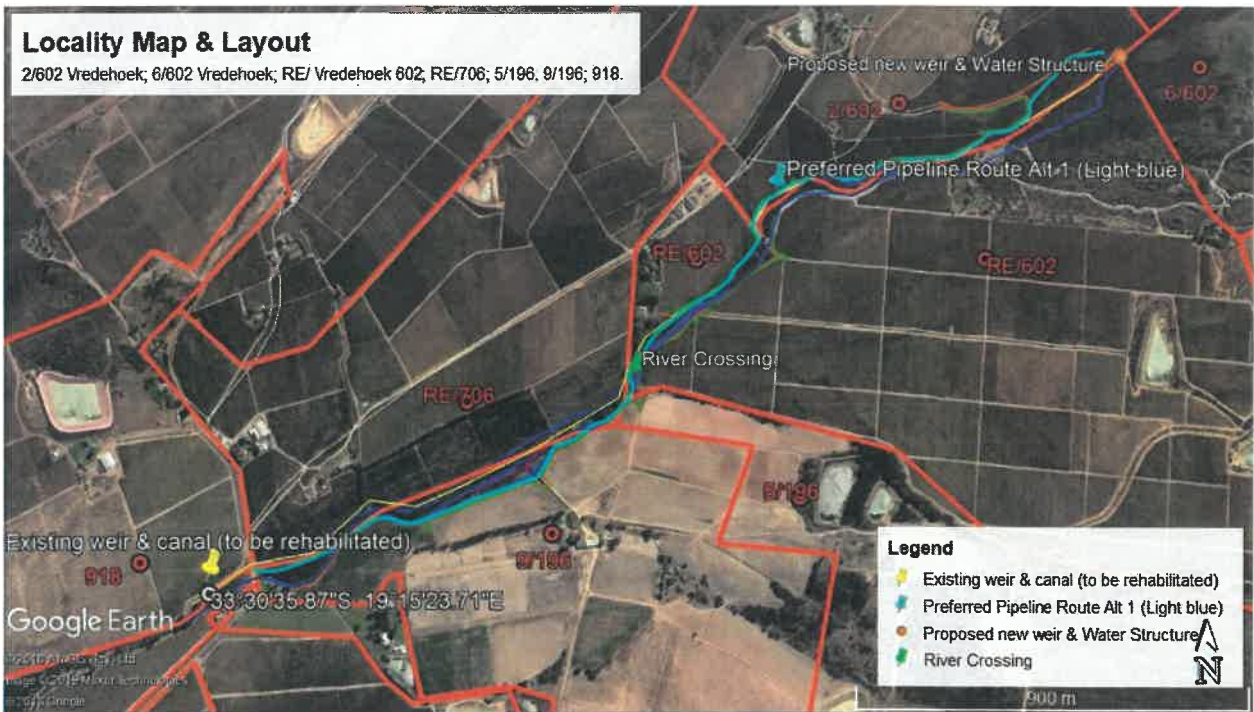


Figure 1: Locality map of Portions 2 and 6 of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Remaining Extent of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Remaining Extent of Farm No. 706, Portions 5 and 9 of Farm Pietersvlei No. 196 and Farm Onverwacht No. 918, Worcester

ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

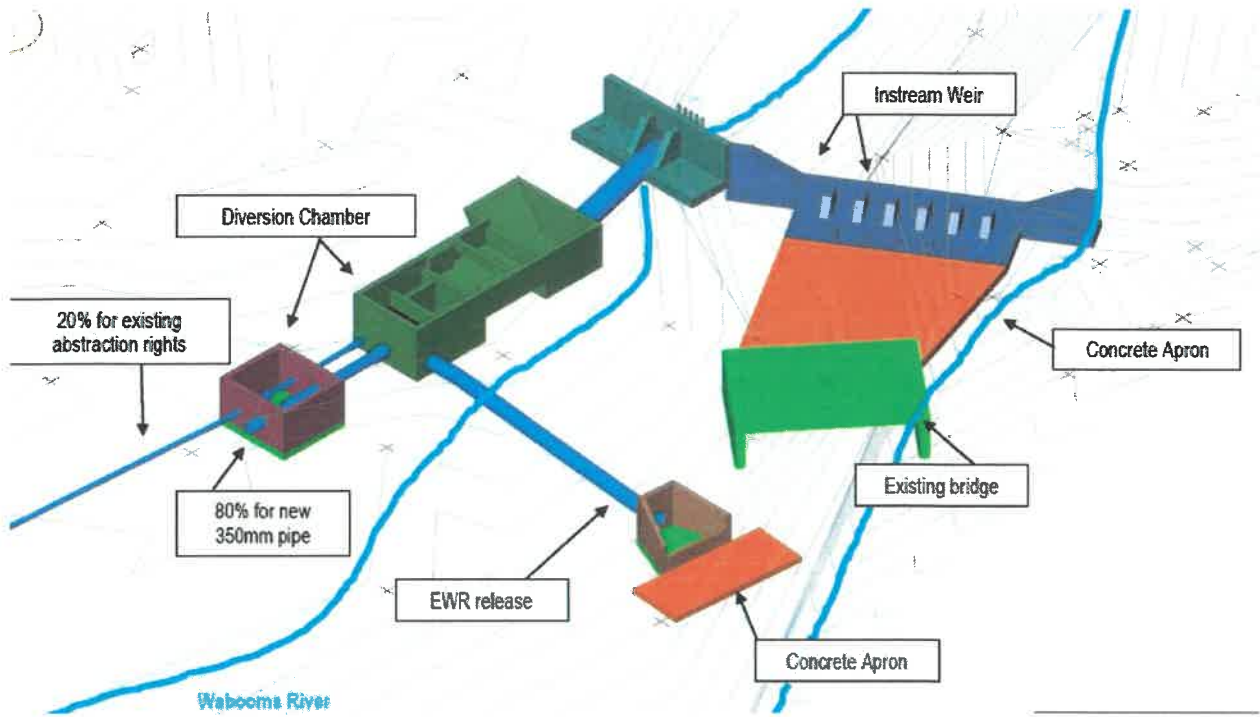


Figure 2: Site Plan of the components to be constructed on Portions 2 and 6 of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Remaining Extent of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Remaining Extent of Farm No. 706, Portions 5 and 9 of Farm Pietersvlei No. 196 and Farm Onverwacht No. 918, Worcester

ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, amongst others, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form submitted on 7 May 2019, the amended application form and the BAR dated July 2019, the EMPr and the MMP submitted together with the BAR on 25 July 2019;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated July 2019; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The competent authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account during the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- Placing a newspaper advertisement in the "Standard" newspaper on 9 November 2017;
- Giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various Organs of State having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 10 November 2017;
- Placing of site notices during November 2017;
- Circulating the pre-application BAR for comment to I&APs for public review from 14 August 2018; and
- Circulating the in-process BAR for comment to I&APs for public review from 6 May 2019.

All the concerns raised by I&APs were responded to, and adequately addressed during the public participation process. Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation, MMP and in the EMPr, in order to adequately address the concerns raised.

The Competent Authority notes the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's responses to the issues raised during the public participation process and has included appropriate conditions in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr.

2. Alternatives

The following alternatives were considered:

Water Structure Alternative 1, Route Alternative 1 and River Crossing Alternative 1 (Herewith authorised):

This alternative entails the construction of a mass fill and reinforced concrete weir across the Snel River, with its connecting division chamber of 42m² outside the river, along with the necessary piped outlet works of approximately 10m in length and approximately 900mm diameter. The total footprint of the concrete weir, division chamber and associated infrastructure will be approximately 430m². A new pipeline of approximately 2,7km, with a diameter of 350mm will be developed along the banks of the Wabooms River. The pipeline will be routed along existing farm roads and will cross the Wabooms River and a non-perennial stream via a steel piped bridge and concrete anchors. Four concrete anchors of approximately 4m² each will be constructed to keep the pipeline in position over the river and the non-perennial stream. An existing weir and canal will also be rehabilitated within its existing footprint.

From a botanical perspective, this alternative is preferred due to a smaller impact on the receiving environment and the pipeline alignment within existing roads and along areas already disturbed. The pipeline will be routed around a Poplar forest, which will prevent the risk of erosion in future and the encroachment on indigenous vegetation that could be present between the Poplar trees.

Water Structure Alternative 2, Route Alternative 2 and River Crossing Alternative 1:

This alternative is similar to Water Structure Alternative 1 and Route Alternative 1, except that a larger weir with an in-stream division chamber and associated infrastructure is proposed. An existing bridge on the Remaining Extent of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Worcester can be utilised as pipeline crossing over the river.

This alternative is not preferred since the owner of Remaining Extent of Farm Vredehoek No. 602, Worcester would not give consent to use the existing bridge as a river crossing. The pipeline will also be routed through a Poplar forest, which can result in erosion in future and the encroachment on indigenous vegetation that could be present between the Poplar trees.

"No-Go" Alternative

The 'no-go' alternative was considered. However, the proposal is in line with a Supreme Court Ruling, dated 22 February 2017, case number 5301/2010. Therefore, this alternative is not preferred.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activities need and desirability

The proposed construction of the water distribution structure (weir and water division chamber) and associated infrastructure is primarily to distribute water abstracted in terms of existing water rights to Darlingbrug and Wagenboomsrivier Irrigation Boards. The proposal will also prevent the unlawful taking of water by other water users in the area. Furthermore, the efficient use of water for irrigation and improved management of the water resource will be achieved.

3.2 Biodiversity and Biophysical Impacts

The development footprint of the water distribution structure (weir and division chamber) and the pipeline route falls within an area mapped as containing Breede Alluvium Fynbos, an ecosystem classified as endangered in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA") and Breede Shale Fynbos, an ecosystem classified as least threatened in terms of Section 52 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA"). The site has however been disturbed by agricultural activities such as the cultivation of land and is located within a degraded watercourse. Based on the findings of the Botanical Assessment, dated 7 August 2018, compiled by PB Consult Environmental Management Services, the proposed water division structure falls within an Ecological Support Area 2. The proposed pipeline and the river crossing fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area and an Ecological Support Area 2. However, the pipeline and the water division structure will be developed within existing disturbed areas. The pipeline will also be routed around a Poplar forest to prevent an impact on indigenous vegetation present within the forest. The potential impacts on vegetation that may result from the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation and the mitigation measures in the EMPr (accepted in Section E, Condition 9).

According to the Freshwater Technical Report, dated February 2018, compiled by Sarel Bester Ingenieurs BK, the Wabooms River was determined to be within a Category D/E (moderately to largely modified). The specialist concluded that the Snel River is not sensitive to dry conditions and will recover as the flow of water returns. The riparian zone in which the water division structure is proposed has been classified as largely modified. The development of the smaller water division structure will also have a smaller impact on the riparian zone. The anchors for the pipeline crossing will fall outside of the river bed. The potential impacts on aquatic features that may result from the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, the maintenance measures of the MMP and the mitigation measures in the EMPr. In addition, a Water Use Licence Application ("WULA") in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 38 of 1998) has been submitted to the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency, for the water division structure and associated infrastructure, who will further investigate the watercourse related impacts.

Furthermore, a MMP has also been compiled to address routine maintenance activities taking place in the affected stretch of the watercourses. The maintenance of the structures authorised in this Environmental Authorisation forms part of this MMP. It must be noted that the accepted maintenance activities only relate to the activities described in the MMP. Should any new activities and associated infrastructure, not included in the MMP, require maintenance and if any of the applicable listed activities are triggered, an Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to the undertaking of such activities. It remains the responsibility of the proponent to determine if any other listed activities are triggered and to ensure that the necessary Environmental Authorisation is obtained.

The fact that the MMP is adopted by the Competent Authority does not absolve the applicant from its general "duty of care" set out in Section 28(1) of the NEMA, which states that *"Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or*

degradation of the environment." (Note: When interpreting their "duty of care" responsibility, cognisance must be taken of the principles of sustainability contained in Section 2 of NEMA).

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- The development will result in the loss of natural vegetation and impact on the freshwater resource during construction and operation, which will be effectively mitigated to a low negative significance.
- It was determined that the potential negative impacts during the construction phase of the development, such as noise and visual impacts, will be of low significance after mitigation.

Positive impacts:

- The proposal will give effect to a Supreme Court Ruling.
- The proposed development will increase the efficient use of water for irrigation.
- It will allow the rehabilitation of an existing canal.
- Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase.
- A more controlled and monitored water abstraction and environmental release system will be implemented.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in Section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, compliance with the EMPr and the MMP, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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