

CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE: LANDSCAPE CENTRAL

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reference **SSD14/2/6/1/9/2/481-12_Cult&Dam_exp_ScherpenHeuvel**
date **30 October 2020**

Clinton Geyser
EnviroAfrica
PO Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: clinton@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Mr Geyser

RE: Proposed agricultural development and dam expansion on portion 12 of Farm Scherpen Heuvel No. 481, Worcester – Background Information Document.
DEA&DP Ref: TBC

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notification/Background Information Document for this application and wish to make the following initial comments:

Agricultural expansion:

1. The applicant is proposing a blueberry orchard in the northern part of the property (according to coordinates provided as site is not indicated on the map). The site supports Robertson Karoo, which is not currently listed as a threatened ecosystem. Consideration must still be given to the potential for any special microhabitats or species occurring on site. Erosion control measure must also be considered.

Dam expansion:

2. In general, CapeNature does not support new instream dams or enlargement of existing instream dams unless it can be shown that the condition of the catchment, particularly downstream of the dam, will not worsen and that other compensation measures are put in place. In this case we acknowledge that the dam site is in a non-perennial watercourse and that much of the immediate surrounding area has been degraded and even transformed. However, we would still like to request that the freshwater specialist terms of reference include determination of whether an Ecological Flow Reserve is required. Please also indicate if the additional storage capacity is within the existing lawful user amount allocated.

General:

3. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) needs to include requirements for monitoring post-construction success of rehabilitation, alien clearing and erosion control.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alana Duffell-Canham', written in a cursive style.

Alana Duffell-Canham