

**SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION (“SSV”) REPORT: THE PROPOSED BULK WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE OF APPROXIMATELY 2.5KM IN LENGTH ON ERVEN 1886 AND 1887, CERES**



**May 2023**

Prepared for:       Witzenberg Local Municipality  
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**CERES**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

This SSV Report was undertaken in terms of the *Protocols for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes* (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocols”) as per Government Notice No. 320 (published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020)<sup>1</sup>. These Protocols, with effect from 09 May 2020 must be complied with for every new application submitted on the effective date and thereafter. According to the Protocols, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”) must verify the current use of the proposed site for development as well as the environmental sensitivity of the proposed site in terms of the Screening Tool to determine the need for specialist inputs in relation to the Themes (and proposed specialist assessments) included in the Protocols.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

The SSV Report was compiled using desktop studies [that include using the DEA Screening Tool, BGIS and GoogleEarth) as well as a site visit that was conducted on 14 November 2022 and 28 April 2023 to investigate, identify, and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment. The SSV Report was compiled by the EAP (Mr. Bernard de Witt).

## **AIM OF THE SSV REPORT:**

The aim of the SSV Report is to;

- Verify land use and Theme sensitivities as identified by the Screening Tool;
- Confirm whether or not the need exists for the specialist assessment(s) indicated in the Screening Tool Report; and
- Should the need for a specialist assessment be disputed, provide motivation as to why the proposed specialist assessment is unwarranted for the proposed establishment of the approximately 2.5km long bulk water supply pipeline on /Erven 1886 and 1887, Ceres.

This will assist in providing an understanding of the transformed state of the proposed site.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

As noted during the site visit, an alien vegetation eradication programme has been conducted in the past few years on Erven 1886 and 1887, Ceres and the vegetation thereon has recovered to almost pristine wilderness. The pipeline to be constructed on the said erven will extend from an intake point in the Tierhokskloof Stream onto a mountainside and head westwards for approximately 1.8km into a valley. This approximately 1.8km length of the pipeline will be above the ground. The remaining length of the pipeline will be approximately 700m long and will extend underground to a connection point at the Wittebrug Water Purification Plant (“WPP”). The proposed pipeline will be constructed alongside the route of an old bulk water supply pipeline constructed in 1953 that has become unreliable and must urgently be replaced. Please see the photographs below:



**Photo 1:** West to east view of the proposed site showing the existing bulk water supply pipeline



**Photo 2:** View of gabions at the weir where the intake point in the Teirhokskloof Stream is located



**Photo 3:** View of valley area close to the Wittebrug WPP

**Table 1.** Themes and associated sensitivity

No	Theme	Sensitivity as per the Screening Tool	Confirm/ dispute sensitivity rating of Screening Tool	Verification of site sensitivity
1	Agriculture	Medium	Confirm	An agricultural specialist has been appointed to provide written input on the proposed development.
2	Animal Species	High	Confirm	A terrestrial biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity investigation and compile the required report. The report will <i>inter alia</i> , cover the Animal Species Theme  A separate Animal Species Assessment for the proposed development is therefore deemed unwarranted.
3	Aquatic Biodiversity	Very High	Confirm	The EAP accepts that the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme is high, as the proposed pipeline is partly located within the Tierhoksklook Stream and partly outside but in close proximity to the stream. An aquatic biodiversity specialist has therefore been appointed to conduct an Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment.

4	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Low	Confirm	The EAP does not dispute the sensitivity rating for the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme. However, a heritage impact specialist has been appointed to investigate the proposed site concerning this <i>inter alia</i> , this theme, as the length of the proposed pipeline exceeds the 300m threshold specified in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
5	Civil Aviation	Low	Confirm	The EAP is of the opinion that the Screening Tool has given an accurate sensitivity rating of Low for the Civil Aviation Theme.
6	Defence	Low	Confirm	The EAP is of the view that the proposed site is devoid of features that would warrant a sensitivity result higher than the Low sensitivity rating given by the Screening Tool. The EAP is therefore of the view that the sensitivity rating for the Defence Theme is indeed Low.
7	Palaeontology	High	Confirm	A heritage impact specialist has been appointed to investigate the proposed site concerning this <i>inter alia</i> , this theme, as the length of the proposed pipeline exceeds the 300m threshold specified in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)
8	Plant Species	Medium	Confirm	A terrestrial biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity investigation and compile the required report. The report will <i>inter alia</i> , cover the Plant Species Theme
9	Terrestrial Biodiversity	High	Confirm	A Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct an investigation and compile the required report on the theme.

**Table 2. Specialist assessments specified in the Screening Tool Report**

No	Proposed Specialist Assessment	Verification of Site Sensitivity And Motivation On The Need For Specialist Investigation
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	An agricultural specialist has been appointed to conduct an investigation and compile the required report on the proposed development.
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	A heritage impact specialist has been appointed to investigate the proposed site and submit a NID to Heritage Western Cape concerning <i>inter alia</i> , this theme.
3	Palaeontological Impact Assessment	A heritage impact specialist has been appointed to investigate the proposed site and submit a NID to Heritage Western Cape concerning <i>inter alia</i> , this theme.
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment	A Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct an investigation on the proposed site and compile the required report.
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	An aquatic biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct an Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment.
6	Hydrology Assessment	The same amount of water currently being abstracted from the Tierhokskloof Stream and subsequently delivered to the WPP through the existing pipeline will be delivered by the proposed pipeline. The hydrological characteristics of the stream as a result of the usage of the current pipeline will therefore remain the same when the new pipeline comes into operation and so a Hydrology Impact Assessment is not warranted.
7	Geotechnical Assessment	A geotechnical assessment will be conducted for the proposed development.
8	Health Impact Assessment	The proposed pipeline is merely going to deliver bulk water abstracted from the Tierhokskloof Stream to the Wittebrug WPP in the same way as the current ailing pipeline has been doing for the past 70 years. The EAP is therefore of the view that no health risks are likely to be introduced by the proposed pipeline replacing the old pipeline and that conducting a Health Impact Assessment is unwarranted.
9	Socio-economic Assessment	The proposed pipeline is merely going to deliver bulk water abstracted from the Tierhokskloof Stream to the Wittebrug WPP in the same way as the existing pipeline has been doing for the past 70 years. The EAP is therefore of the view that no socio-economic issues are likely to be introduced by the proposed pipeline replacing the old pipeline and that conducting a Socio-economic Assessment is unwarranted.
10	Ambient Air Quality Assessment	The proposed pipeline is merely going to deliver bulk water abstracted from the Tierhokskloof Stream to the Wittebrug WPP in the same way as the existing pipeline has been doing for the past 70 years. The EAP is therefore of the view that no ambient air quality issues are likely to be introduced by the proposed pipeline replacing the old pipeline and that conducting an Ambient Air Quality Assessment is unwarranted.

11	Plant Species Impact Assessment	A Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct an investigation on the proposed site for the proposed development and compile the required report. The EAP is therefore of the view that <b>a separate Plant Species Impact Assessment for the proposed development is unwarranted.</b>
12	Animal Species Assessment	A Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist has been appointed to conduct an investigation on the proposed site for the proposed development and compile the required report. The EAP is therefore of the view that <b>a separate Animal Species Impact Assessment for the proposed development is unwarranted.</b>



**Figure 1:** Proposed pipeline route indicated in red on Erven 1886 and 1887, Ceres

All the Specialist Assessments and Compliance Statements compiled by specialists and the written opinions of other suitably qualified professionals will be appended to the Basic Assessment Report and submitted to the competent authority for review.

Please do not hesitate to contact EnviroAfrica for any further information or clarity regarding the above.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard de Witt



*Environmental Assessment Practitioner*

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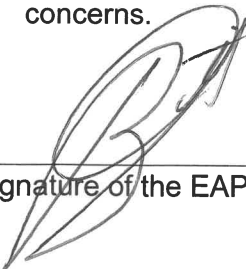
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## DECLARATION OF THE EAP

I, Bernard de Witt, EAPASA Registration Number: 2021/3903 as the appointed EAP hereby declare/affirm that:

- the information provided or to be provided as part of this SSV Report, is true and correct:
- in terms of the general requirement to be independent:
  - other than fair remuneration for work performed/to be performed in terms of this non-application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity;
- in terms of the remainder of the general requirements for an EAP, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- I have disclosed/ will disclose, to the proponent, the specialist (if any), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Competent Authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of this NOI;
- I have ensured/will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in the SSV Report was/will be distributed or was/will be made available to registered interested and affected parties and that participation will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were/will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- I have ensured/will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties were/will be considered, recorded and submitted to the Competent Authority;
- I have ensured/will ensure the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from any specialists, where relevant;
- I have kept/will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participate in the public participation process;
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations; and
- All specialist investigations must comment on how the potential impacts relate to climate change concerns.



Signature of the EAP:

29/05/2023

Date:

EnviroAfrica CC