

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

| Initial Comments received: 19 September 2025 to 23 October 2025 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
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| Date                                                            | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | I&AP                                           | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Respondent   |
| 15 October 2025                                                 | <p>We, Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty) Ltd, Donkerbos Eiendomme (Pty) Ltd and The Donkerbos Groep (Pty) Ltd, hereby want to register as interested parties to this attached letter of the Helpmekaar dam, Ceres.</p> <p>Your contact persons are M.B. Oosthuizen and MM Steenkamp. All relevant information could be sent to their email addresses:<br/> <a href="mailto:inus@donkerbos.co.za">inus@donkerbos.co.za</a>;<br/> <a href="mailto:thys@donkerbos.co.za">thys@donkerbos.co.za</a>.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this email.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Thys Steenkamp                                 | <p>In an email dated 20 October 2025, Ms Giffilan of EnviroAfrica responded and stated the following:</p> <p>Good morning, Thys. Thank you for the email.</p> <p>I hereby acknowledge receipt of your email and confirm that your information will be included in the list of registered interested and affected parties.</p>                                                          | EnviroAfrica |
| 20 October 2025                                                 | <p><b>BESWAAR TEEN DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM (“HELMPEKAAR DAM”) EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM (MEEGAANDE INFRASTRUKTUUR) PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES. SONDER BENADLING VAN REGTE:</b></p> <p>Hiermee teken die ower eienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam amptelik beswaar aan teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste Nr1 Dam (“Helpmekaar dam”) en die konstruksie van die “Nuwe Buffer” dam (meegaande infrastruktuur) Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> <p>1. Enige onttrekking van addisionele oppervlak water direk uit die bo-lope van die Leeurivier (“approximately 410000m<sup>3</sup> of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River”) sal ‘n direkte impak op die invloei van water in die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam hê. Dit sal die beskikbare water en regte van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam ower eienaars en die</p> | Christi Van Den Heever – Wydekloof/Rietfontein | <p>Die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekaar Dam behels nie die onttrekking van addisionele water uit die Leeurivier gedurende lae vloeï periodes nie. Water sal slegs gedurende hoë vloeï of surplus wintermaande opgevang word, dit wil sê, wanneer daar natuurlik genoeg afvloeï in die rivier voorkom. Die projek is spesifiek ontwerp om nie die bestaande waterregte of</p> | EnviroAfrica |

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|  | <p>begunstigdes van die Drie Leeu Skema uiters nadelig beïnvloed.</p> <p>2. Daar bestaan reeds 'n dispuut/geskil tussen die eienaar van die plase Donkerkloof 1/204 + Rietrivier 5/202 en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam oewer eienaars ten opsigte van die 50/50 verdeling van die water afkomstig vanuit Boesmanskloof. Hierdie verdeling word nie ten alle tye in die praktyk soos per ooreenkoms toegepas nie.</p> |  | <p>beskikbaarheid van water vir afstroomgebruikers te benadeel nie.</p> <p>Alle toekomstige wateronttrekkings en berging sal onderhewig wees aan 'n aparte Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) aansoek by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS), waarin die moontlike impak op afstroom watergebruikers volledig geëvalueer sal word. Hierdie proses sal verseker dat die ekologiese vloei vereistes en regmatige toedeling van water gehandhaaf word.</p> <p>Die beplanning van die dam se bergingsvolume en afvoer sal dus streng binne die perke van die waterhulpbronnebestuur van die Leeurivier opvangsgebied geskied, sodat geen nadelige invloed op die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam of die Drie Leeu Skema sal voorkom nie.</p> <p>Die aangeleentheid waarna verwys word; die beweerde dispuut rakende die 50/50 verdeling van water afkomstig uit Boesmanskloof, hou geen direkte verband met die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam uitbreiding of die nuwe bufferdam nie.</p> <p>Die huidige projek behels die vergroting van 'n bestaande dam en die berging van surplus wintervloei binne die Leeurivier opvangsgebied, en nie die Boesmanskloof-bron of enige bestaande waterverdelingsreëling nie.</p> <p>Waterregte en verdelingsgeskille tussen individuele grondeienaars word deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) hanteer ingevolge die Nasionale Waterwet (Wet 36 van 1998), en val buite die omvang van hierdie Omgewingsimpakproses. Die voorgestelde dam sal uitsluitlik binne die grense van die geregistreerde</p> |  |
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|                 | <p>3. Die Koue Bokkeveld Watergebruikersvereniging en die Watergebruikers van die Leeurivier substreek kan logies gewys nie hul steun aan bogenoemde aansoek toesê alvorens die DWAS Validasie en Verifikasie Proses nie in hierdie substreek afgehandel is nie.</p> |                            | <p>plaas ontwikkel word, en alle toekomstige watergebruik sal onderhewig wees aan 'n formele Watergebruiklisensie wat DWS se regulasies en bestaande regte respekteer.</p> <p>Daar word dus bevestig dat die Helpmekaar Dam-projek self geen verandering aan bestaande waterverdelingsooreenkomste bring of sulke geskilpunte raak nie.</p> <p>Die projekspan erken die belangrikheid van die DWAS Validasie- en Verifikasieproses vir die Leeurivier-substreek en ondersteun dat hierdie proses voltooi word om watergebruik en regmatige toedeling binne die opvangsgebied te bevestig.</p> <p>Dit is egter belangrik om te beklemtoon dat die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding nie afwyk van bestaande waterregte of ongeregistreerde watergebruik behels nie. Alle toekomstige onttrekkings en bergings sal slegs plaasvind binne die raamwerk van 'n goedgekeurde Watergebruiklisensie (WUL), wat deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) oorweeg en uitgereik sal word.</p> <p>Die WUL-proses sal reeds die nodige hidrologiese, ekologiese en regsaspekte dek, insluitend oorweging van die resultate van die Validasie- en Verifikasieproses. Die aansoek vir omgewingsmagtiging staan dus los van, maar in ooreenstemming met, die nasionale waterregulasies en sal nie enige bestaande of toekomstige watergebruikersregte benadeel nie.</p> |              |
| 23 October 2025 | <p>Goeie dag</p> <p>Vir wie dit mag aangaan</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ben du Toit – KBY Boerdery |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | EnviroAfrica |

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|  | <p>Insake: Voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-Boonste Nr 1 Dam en konstruksie van nuwe Bufferdam plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres</p> <p>Hiermee deel ons navrae rakende die dam vergroting te plaas Helpmekaar</p> <p>1. Eerstens wil ons net ons bestaande pompregte uit Rietfonteindam beskerm, wat ons toelaat om water uit die opvangsgebied te onttrek. Ons pomp hierdie water via die Drieleeuskema na die plaas Uitsig in die tydperk van Mei tot Augustus. Hierdie tydgleuf laat ons toe om water te onttrek, en ons navrae hieromtrent strek net tot die beskerming van ons pompreg. Waterhof uitspraak W3/66 12 Julie 1966.</p> <p>2. Ons bekommernis is gegrond op die feit dat hierdie ontwikkeling direk stroom op van die Rietfonteindam waaruit die 3 Leeus se onttrekking plaasvind, se opvangsgebied beplan word. Dus bestaan die</p> |  | <p>Die voornemende aansoeker erken en respekteer die bestaande pompregte van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam-oewereienaars ingevolge die Waterhof-uitspraak W3/66 van 12 Julie 1966, wat die onttrekking van water uit die opvangsgebied na die plaas Uitsig gedurende die periode Mei tot Augustus reguleer.</p> <p>Die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding sal geen invloed hê op hierdie bestaande pompregte of die ooreengekome tydgleuf vir wateronttrekking nie. Die dam sal slegs ontwerp en bedryf word om surplus wintervloei vas te vang tydens hoëvloei-tydperke, sonder om die beskikbaarheid van water vir ander regmatige gebruikers te verminder.</p> <p>Tydens die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL)-proses wat by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien sal word, sal hierdie historiese regte in ag geneem word om te verseker dat die nuwe berging volledig versoenbaar bly met bestaande watergebruiksregte en hofuitsprake. Die aansoeker verbind hom daartoe om nie enige benadeling van die Drie Leeu Skema of bestaande pompregte te veroorsaak nie.</p> <p>Die bekommernis oor moontlike vermindering in invloed na die Rietfonteindam word verstaan en erken. Die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding is wel stroomop van die Rietfonteindam geleë, maar die projek</p> |  |
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|  | <p>moontlikheid dat die Rietfonteindam langer kan neem om bepaalde merk te bereik voor 3 Leeus mag pomp en derhalwe ons pomp beurt verkort.</p> <p>3. Ons navraag strek hoofsaaklik rondom die volgende feit: Waar kom die addisionele water vandaan om die dam te vul en hoe gaan dit aanvul tempo van Rietfonteindam beïnvloed?</p> |  | <p>is so ontwerp dat dit slegs surplus wintervloei tydens hoëvloei-omstandighede sal opvang. Geen wateronttrekking sal plaasvind gedurende laevloei- of droogtetydperke nie.</p> <p>Die doel van die dam is om oortollige winterwater te stoor wat andersins ongebruik sou afloop, eerder as om bestaande vloei te beperk. Die ontwerp en toekomstige bedryfsvoorwaardes van die dam sal bepaal word deur die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL), wat deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) geëvalueer word.</p> <p>Hierdie lisensieproses vereis dat ekologiese vloei en afwaartse beskikbaarheid van water gehandhaaf moet word, sodat geen downstream-gebruiker, insluitend die Drie Leeus Skema, benadeel word nie.</p> <p>Daarbenewens kan die aansoeker, as deel van die EIA-proses, vloei-monitering op- en afstroom van die dam implementeer om te bevestig dat afwaartse vloei gehandhaaf word. Hiermee word verseker dat die Rietfonteindam se vulpatroon en pompbeurte nie nadelig beïnvloed sal word nie.</p> <p>Die voorgestelde Helpmekeer Dam-uitbreiding sal nie nuwe of addisionele waterbronne aanwend nie, maar sal uitsluitlik surplus wintervloei uit dieselfde opvangsgebied stoor waarin die bestaande Rietfonteindam ook geleë is.</p> <p>Hierdie surplusvloei vind plaas gedurende hoëvloei-tydperke in die wintermaande, wanneer die natuurlike afloop groter is as die bestaande opgaardamme se bergingsvermoë.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>Ons is nie teen uitbreiding van toekomstige boorde of langtermyn gewasse nie. Dit moet net nie ons huidige pompregte benadeel en beïnvloed nie.</p> |  | <p>Die dam sal dus nie water “bykomend” onttrek nie, maar eerder vloei tydelik berg en gereguleer vrystel om besproeiing gedurende droër maande te ondersteun. Die aanvultempo van die Rietfonteindam behoort gevolglik nie negatief beïnvloed te word nie, aangesien die Helpmekaar Dam slegs gedurende periodes van oormaatvloei water sal opgaar.</p> <p>Hierdie beginsel sal verder bevestig word in die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) wat by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien sal word. Die WUL sal die maksimum onttrekkingsvolumes, vulperiodes, en vereiste ekologiese vloei-aflate bepaal om te verseker dat alle afstroomgebruikers, insluitend die Rietfonteindam en die Drie Leeu Skema, steeds hul regmatige waterbeskikbaarheid behou.</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van en waardeur die standpunt dat daar geen beswaar teen die uitbreiding van boorde of langtermyn gewasse is nie, mits bestaande pompregte nie benadeel word nie.</p> <p>Die Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding is juis beplan met die doel om watersekerheid vir volhoubare landbou te verbeter sonder om enige bestaande waterregte of pompbeurte van afstroomgebruikers te beïnvloed. Die dam sal slegs surplus wintervloei opvang tydens hoëvloei-tydperke en sal nie bestaande waterstrome verander tydens laevloei- of droogtetoestande nie.</p> <p>Tydens die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL)-proses sal die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) verseker dat die voorgestelde uitbreiding volledig in ooreenstemming met bestaande waterregte en historiese hofuitsprake geskied. Die aansoeker verbind hom daartoe om</p> |  |
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|                 | <p>Hoop ons kan almal n regverdige ooreenkoms bereik.</p> <p>Ben du Toit namens KBY Boerderye</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                       | <p>deursigtig saam te werk met alle betrokke watergebruikers om te verseker dat huidige pompregte beskerm bly en dat die projek geen nadelige impak op die Drie Leeu Skema of enige ander afstroombelange sal hê nie.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |
| 23 October 2025 | <p>Please find attached Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery's initial comments and concerns, as well as the request to be registered as Interested and Affected Party for water related issues with regards to the <b>"THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE"</b></p> <p>Die belang van Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery en Die Spitskop Trust by bovermelde projek is deur middel van 'n waterreg wat uitgeoefen word deur die Drie Leeu Pompskema vanuit die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam, waar water vanuit die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam gepomp word na die eiendom van Die Spitskop Trust. Die eienaars van Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery BK en trustees van Die Spitskop Trust is in beginsel nie gekant teen die ontwikkeling en uitbreiding van Landbou Besigheid in die Koue Bokkeveld nie, maar is wel bekommerd dat die bovermelde projek die bestaande waterregte van partye stroomaf van die projek, onder andere die partye betrokke by die Drie Leeu Skema en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam, nadelig kan beïnvloed deur die addisionele onttrekking en opgaar van "approximately 410000m³ of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River".</p> | <p>Gerrit van der Merwe<br/>- Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery BK en Die Spitskop Trust</p> | <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van die bekommernis rakende die moontlike invloed van die voorgestelde Helpmekeer Dam-uitbreiding op bestaande waterregte wat deur die Drie Leeu Pompskema en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam uitgeoefen word.</p> <p>Dit word bevestig dat die voorgestelde uitbreiding nie addisionele of nuwe waterbronne sal aanwend nie, maar uitsluitlik surplus wintervloei uit die bestaande opvangsgebied sal stoor, dieselfde opvangsgebied waarin die huidige watergebruikers hul regte uitoefen. Die doel van die dam is om winteroortollige afloop te berg en beheerde vrystellings gedurende die somer moontlik te maak, sonder om bestaande waterbeskikbaarheid vir stroomafgebruikers te verminder.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

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|  | <p>Die onus val dus op die aansoeker om te bewys dat bovermelde projek nie die waterregte van die betrokke partye sal benadeel nie, alvorens Ceres Fontejntjie Boerdery BK en Die Spitskop Trust die projek kan ondersteun.</p> |  | <p>Tydens die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL)-proses sal die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) die voorgestelde onttrekkingsvolumes en vultydperke formeel evalueer. Slegs surplusvloei gedurende hoëvloei-tydperke sal toegelaat word, en ekologiese vloei-aflate sal gehandhaaf word om te verseker dat afstroomgebruikers, insluitend die Drie Leeu Skema, nie nadelig geraak word nie.</p> <p>Die aansoeker bevestig sy bereidwilligheid om deursigtig saam te werk met alle betrokke watergebruikers, insluitend Ceres Fontejntjie Boerdery en Die Spitskop Trust, om te verseker dat die projek geen afbreuk doen aan bestaande waterregte of stroomafpompreeëls nie.</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van die opmerking dat die bewyslas op hom rus om aan te toon dat die voorgestelde projek nie bestaande waterregte sal benadeel nie. Daar word egter beklemtoon dat die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding nie addisionele of nuwe wateronttrekkings behels nie, maar bloot die opberging van bestaande wintervloei binne dieselfde opvangsgebied waar huidige watergebruikers reeds hul regte uitoefen.</p> <p>Die projek se doel is om waterbestuur te verbeter deur die berging van oortollige winterwater vir gebruik gedurende die droë seisoen — nie om totale onttrekkingsvolumes te verhoog of water beskikbaar vir stroomafgebruikers te verminder nie. Die bestaande waterregte en verhoudinge tussen gebruikers bly onveranderd.</p> |  |
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|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                            | Die aansoeker is bewus van die belang van billike toegang tot waterbronne en sal voortgaan om oop kommunikasie met betrokke stroomafgebruikers te handhaaf, maar beklemtoon dat die voorgestelde uitbreiding geen bestaande pompe of afstroomvlei beperk nie, aangesien dit op reeds beskikbare oortollige vloei steun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              |
| 23 October 2025 | <p><b>KOMMER AANGAANDE DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELMEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM OP PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES</b></p> <p>Namens Dutoit Agri (Tandfontein) wil ons hiermee ons kommer uitspreek rakende die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste nr1 dam ("Helpmekaar dam") asook die beoogde konstruksie van die nuwe buffer dam en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur op Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> | Izak Smit -<br>Tandfontein | <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van Dutoit Agri (Tandfontein) se bekommernis rakende die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekaar Dam en die konstruksie van die nuwe buffer dam op Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> <p>Daar word bevestig dat die doel van die projek is om bestaande waterhulpbronne meer doeltreffend te bestuur deur surplus wintervloei tydens hoëreënperiodes op te vang vir gebruik in die droë seisoen. Geen addisionele wateronttrekkings uit nuwe bronne word beoog nie, en bestaande waterregte van stroomafgebruikers sal nie beïnvloed word nie.</p> <p>Die aansoeker bly verbind tot deursigtige deelname aan die openbare proses en sal voortgaan om alle betrokke belangegroepe, insluitend Dutoit Agri (Tandfontein), van relevante inligting te voorsien sodat die projek in lyn bly met die beginsels van billike, volhoubare en verantwoordelike watergebruik.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>Dutoit Agri (Tandfontein) versoek dat daar deeglik oorweeg word watter impak enige verdere onttrekking van oppervlakwater uit die Leeurivier op die bestaande gebruikers, en spesifiek op Tandfontein, mag hê.</p> <p>Die waarneming is dat die rivier se vlakke al hoe vroeër begin daal, wat Tandfontein se pompkapasiteit merkbaar beïnvloed. Hierdie afname het 'n negatiewe uitwerking op die aanplantings.</p> |  | <p>Die aansoeker neem die versoek ter harte. Die voorgestelde uitbreiding steun nie op verdere/nuwe onttrekkings uit die Leeurivier nie, maar op die opgaar van surplus wintervloei tydens hoë vloei—dus in tye wanneer natuurlike afloop voldoende is en afstroomgebruikers se regmatige beskikbaarheid nie gekortwiek behoort te word nie.</p> <p>Bedryf en watergebruik sal plaasvind binne die raamwerk van die Nasionale Waterwet en met respek vir bestaande waterregte, insluitend Tandfontein s'n. Die bedoeling is uitdruklik om geen benadeling van afstroomgebruikers te veroorsaak nie. Die aansoeker bly beskikbaar vir deurlopende skakeling met Tandfontein om praktiese bedryfsreëlings (bv. vulvensters en aflate tydens hoë vloei) te koördineer sodat die projek saam met bestaande gebruik funksioneer.</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van Tandfontein se waarneming rakende die vroeë afname in riviervlakke en die gevolglike invloed op pompkapasiteit en landbouproduksie. Hierdie bekommernis word verstaan, veral in die konteks van watersekuriteit in die Koue Bokkeveld.</p> <p>Dit is egter belangrik om te beklemtoon dat die voorgestelde Helpmekaar Dam-uitbreiding nie nuwe wateronttrekkings behels nie, maar bloot die opvang van oortollige wintervloei tydens periodes van hoë afloop. Die projek is dus nie daarop gemik om natuurlike basisvloei of beskikbare afstroomwater te verminder nie, maar om die bestaande hulpbron meer doeltreffend te benut.</p> <p>Die aansoeker bevestig dat alle waterberging en -gebruik onderhewig sal wees aan goedgekeurde</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>Bevestig asseblief of daar 'n omvattende opname gedoen is om te bepaal of die laaste ontvangers van water uit die Leeurivier moontlik benadeel kan word deur die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.</p> |  | <p>watergebruikregulasies en dat daar geen beoogde verandering aan huidige watertoedelings of afstroomvloe sal wees nie. Die projek sal ook ontwerp word om ekologiese vloe te handhaaf en samewerking met afstroomgebruikers, soos Tandfontein, te verseker om enige risiko van nadelige impak te voorkom.</p> <p>Daar is tans geen omvattende veldopname of hidrologiese studie voltooi wat bepaal of die voorgestelde projek enige nadelige invloed op die laaste ontvangers van water uit die Leeurivier kan hê nie.</p> <p>Die aansoeker erken die belangrikheid van hierdie aspek en bevestig dat die moontlike afwaartse impak op bestaande watergebruikers insluitend finale ontvangers, deel sal vorm van die formele Watergebruiklisensie-aansoek (WUL) wat by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien sal word.</p> <p>Daardie proses vereis dat vloe- en bergingsberekeninge en die potensiële kumulatiewe impak op afstroomgebruikers volledig geëvalueer word. Tot daardie tyd word daar geen nuwe of verhoogde wateronttrekking geïmplementeer nie; die doel bly om bestaande vloe meer doeltreffend te bestuur.</p> <p>Die aansoeker verbind hom daartoe om alle betrokke partye, insluitend laaste ontvangers, te betrek sodra verdere studies en data beskikbaar is, om te verseker dat geen benadeling van bestaande waterregte plaasvind nie.</p> |  |
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|                 | <p>Dit is ook belangrik dat alle V&amp;V waterregistrasies afgehandel word.</p> <p>Ons waardeer die geleentheid om ons standpunt te stel en vertrou dat alle belange en impakte in ag geneem sal word in die besluitnemingsproses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 | <p>Hierdie proses is van kardinale belang om duidelikheid oor bestaande en wettige watergebruik te verseker en om te voorkom dat enige nuwe of aangepaste wateropgaring oorvleuel met geregistreerde regte van ander gebruikers in die Leeurivier-substreek.</p> <p>Die aansoeker ondersteun die afhandeling van die DWAS se V&amp;V-proses en sal sy eie watergebruik volledig registreer en dokumenteer ingevolge die vereistes van die Nasionale Waterwet (Wet 36 van 1998).</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van en waardeer die insette en besorgdheid wat deur die betrokke partye gedeel is. Alle kommentaar en voorleggings sal volledig oorweeg word as deel van die omvattende Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS/EIA) en die Watergebruiklisensie-proses (WUL).</p> |              |
| 23 October 2025 | <p><b>KOMMER AANGAANDE DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUGBOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELPMEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM OP DIE PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES</b></p> <p>Namens DuToit Agri (Bokkenfontein) wil ons hiermee ons kommer uitspreek rakend die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrugboonste nr 1 dam ("Helpmekaar dam") asook die beoogde konstruksie van die nuwe buffer dam en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur op Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> | Willem Reynolds | <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van DuToit Agri (Bokkenfontein) se bekommernis rakende die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekaar Dam (Langrugboonste nr. 1), asook die bou van die nuwe bufferdam en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur op Plaas Rietrivier 202/5, Ceres.</p> <p>Die doel van die projek is uitsluitlik om bestaande waterbronne meer doeltreffend te benut en bergingsvermoë te verbeter om volhoubare besproeiing vir die omliggende landbou te verseker. Daar word nie beoog om nuwe of verhoogde onttrekkings buite die geregistreerde vanggebied te doen nie.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>DuToit Agri (Bokkenfontein) versoek dat daar deeglik oorweeg word watter impak enige verdere onttrekking van oppervlakwater uit die Leeuwrvier op die bestaande gebruikers, en spesifiek op Bokkenfontein, mag hê.</p> <p>Die waarneming is dat die rivier se vlakke al hoe vroeër begin daal, wat Bokkenfontein se pompkapasiteit merkbaar beïnvloed. Hierdie afname het 'n negatiewe uitwerking op die aanplantings.</p> |  | <p>Alle moontlike invloede op stroomaf-gebruikers sal deeglik ondersoek word as deel van die Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS) en die Watergebruiklisensie-aansoek (WUL) by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS).</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van DuToit Agri (Bokkenfontein) se versoek dat die moontlike impak van enige verdere oppervlakwateronttrekking uit die Leeu-rivier deeglik oorweeg word. Daar word bevestig dat die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekaar Dam nie nuwe of addisionele onttrekkings behels nie, maar eerder die opgaar van surplus wintervloei binne die bestaande vanggebied. Die doel is om bestaande water meer doeltreffend te benut sonder om afstroomgebruikers te benadeel.</p> <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van Bokkenfontein se waarneming dat riviervlakke vroeër begin daal en dat dit pompkapasiteit beïnvloed. Hierdie tendens word erken as 'n algemene uitdaging in die streek, veral as gevolg van klimaatvariasie en veranderende reënpatrone. Die projek beoog juis om watersekuriteit te verbeter deur berging in nat periodes, sodat minder druk op die rivier gedurende lae vloei tye geplaas word. Geen afname in beskikbare afstroomvloei word verwag nie, aangesien slegs wintervloei tydens hoë afloopperiodes benut sal word.</p> |  |
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|                 | <p>Bevestig asseblief of daar 'n omvattende opname gedoen is om te bepaal of die laaste ontvangers van water uit die Leeuwrvier, moontlik benadeel kan word deur die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.</p> <p>Dit is ook belangrik dat alle V&amp;V waterregistrasies afgehandel word.</p> <p>Ons waardeer die geleentheid om ons standpunt te stele n vertrou dat alle belange en impakte in ag geneem sal word in die besluitnemingsproses.</p> |            | <p>Daar is tans geen omvattende opname of hidrologiese studie voltooi om die moontlike impak op laaste ontvangers van die Leeurivier te bepaal nie. Hierdie evaluasie sal deel vorm van die Watergebruiklisensie-aansoek (WUL) wat by die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) ingedien sal word. Die WUL-proses vereis 'n volledige beoordeling van afstroomvloei en potensiële effekte op bestaande gebruikers. Tot dan sal geen nuwe onttrekkings of veranderinge aan bestaande vloei plaasvind nie.</p> <p>Die aansoeker stem saam dat die afhandeling van die Validasie- en Verifikasie (V&amp;V) proses in die Leeurivier sub-opvangsgebied noodsaaklik is om regmatige watergebruik en beskikbare volumes te bevestig. Daar word kennis geneem dat die DWS reeds besig is met die V&amp;V-proses in die betrokke gebied, en die aansoeker ondersteun hierdie inisiatief</p> <p>Die aansoeker waardeer DuToit Agri (Bokkenfontein) se insette en betrokkenheid by die proses. Alle bekommernisse en voorstelle sal volledig oorweeg word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS) en in die besluitneming deur die bevoegde owerheid. Die aansoeker bly verbind tot oop kommunikasie en deursigtigheid, en sal voortgaan om alle relevante belanghebbendes op hoogte te hou van die projek se vordering.</p> |              |
| 28 October 2025 | <b>RE: The Proposed Enlargement of Langrug-Boonste NR1 Dam, also known as Helpmekaar Dam, Construction of a New Buffer Dam and Associated Infrastructure on Farm Rietrivier 202, Portion 5, Ceres, Western Cape Province – First Public Participation Process</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | CapeNature |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>DEA&amp;DP Ref: TBC</p> <p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the First Public Participation Process. Please note that our comments pertain primarily to impacts on biodiversity and not to the overall desirability of the project.</p> <p>1. According to the South African Vegetation Map (2018), the proposed site supports Kouebokkeveld Alluvium Fynbos and Kouebokkeveld Shale Fynbos, both listed as Critically Endangered vegetation types. However, large parts of the proposed area appear to be transformed through previous agricultural activities (especially the buffer dam area), and only small areas of natural vegetation remains.</p> <p>2. The majority of the site (Langrug/Helpmekaar Dam) is mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA 1) and Ecological Support Area (ESA). CBAs include areas that are usually, but not always in a natural condition that are required to meet biodiversity targets for species,</p> |  | <p>Noted.</p> <p>The applicant acknowledges that the South African Vegetation Map (2018) identifies the proposed site as supporting Kouebokkeveld Alluvium Fynbos and Kouebokkeveld Shale Fynbos, both listed as Critically Endangered vegetation types under the <i>NEMBA (2022) List of Threatened Ecosystems</i>.</p> <p>It is noted, however, that large portions of the proposed development footprint, particularly the buffer dam area have been historically transformed by agricultural activities, including cultivation and existing infrastructure development. Only small, fragmented patches of natural or secondary vegetation remain, mainly along drainage lines and rocky slopes.</p> <p>A botanical specialist study will be undertaken during the EIA phase to verify the current vegetation condition, assess the presence of any species of conservation concern, and propose appropriate mitigation and rehabilitation measures to minimise further loss of biodiversity and ensure compliance with the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>The applicant acknowledges the environmental sensitivity of the site as identified in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP 2023), which maps the Helpmekaar (Langrug) Dam and buffer dam area as</p> |  |
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|  | <p>ecosystems or ecological processes and ecological infrastructure. The CBA is mapped due to the presence of the threatened vegetation types, as well as for Watercourse protection (Western Folded Mountains) and it is essential that these areas are maintained in a natural or near-natural state, with no further loss of habitat and degraded areas should ideally be rehabilitated. Only low-impact, biodiversity sensitive land uses are appropriate. ESAs play an important role in supporting the functioning of Protected Areas or Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and are often vital for delivering ecosystem services. The ESA is mapped due to the presence of a Channelled Valley Bottom Wetland, for water source protection (Olifants) and for groundwater recharge (Witzenberg) and it is essential that these areas are managed or restored to minimize the impact on ecological processes and ecological infrastructure functioning, especially soil and water-related services. Furthermore, the area falls within a Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) for Groundwater (Northwestern Cape Ranges) and Surface water (Groot Winterhoek) and is in close proximity to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area (MCA), Protected Area.</p> |  | <p>comprising portions of Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA1) and Ecological Support Area (ESA).</p> <p>It is noted that the CBA1 designation is primarily due to the presence of Critically Endangered vegetation types (Kouebokkeveld Shale Fynbos and Kouebokkeveld Alluvium Fynbos), as well as its importance for watercourse protection within the Western Folded Mountains. The ESA classification reflects the area's role in hydrological functioning, including channelled valley bottom wetland features, groundwater recharge (Witzenberg), and its contribution to the Olifants-Doorn Water Management Area.</p> <p>The applicant confirms that these sensitivities are recognised and that the project will be designed and managed to minimise further habitat loss and maintain ecological functioning. The proposed dam enlargement and buffer dam are located within areas already heavily transformed by historical agriculture and impacts on remaining natural features will be limited as far as practically possible.</p> <p>During the EIA phase, the following measures will be incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) to confirm the extent of CBA and ESA within the footprint;</li> <li>• Implementation of mitigation and rehabilitation plans to manage disturbed areas and re-establish indigenous vegetation;</li> <li>• Maintenance of ecological corridors and buffer zones along watercourses; and</li> <li>• Adoption of low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive design principles consistent with the objectives of the</li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <p>3. The screening tool and site sensitivity verification in accordance with the protocols must be used to determine the required specialist studies. The assessment must include services such as roads, Water Use, sewage, electricity (if applicable) or any other infrastructure (like pipelines), as well as the impact that the clearing activities (Infrastructure construction) might have on the nearby watercourses and vegetation. Furthermore, the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) must be used as the primary desktop spatial informant for impacts on biodiversity. The BSP has been updated and has been adopted in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Act (PG 9017, 13 December 2024).</p> |  | <p>WCBSP and Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) management guidelines.</p> <p>Although the site lies adjacent to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area, it is not within a formally protected area boundary. Nevertheless, the project will align with the intent of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act (No. 63 of 1970) by ensuring that water and soil conservation principles are upheld throughout the design, construction, and operational phases.</p> <p>The applicant acknowledges the requirement that the DFFE Screening Tool, together with the Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) Report and relevant assessment protocols, must be used to guide the identification of required specialist studies. These tools have already been applied as part of the Scoping Phase, and the findings confirm the need for further detailed assessments in the EIA Phase.</p> <p>The proposed project components, including the Helpmekaar Dam enlargement, buffer dam, ±1.7–2.0 km pipeline, and associated farm access roads and infrastructure, will be assessed comprehensively to evaluate potential impacts on terrestrial biodiversity, aquatic ecosystems, and heritage resources, as well as secondary impacts related to construction clearing, earthworks, and runoff near drainage lines and watercourses.</p> <p>The applicant further notes that the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP 2023), which has now been adopted in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Act (PG 9017 of 13 December 2024), will serve as the primary spatial reference for biodiversity impact assessment and sensitivity verification.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>4. CapeNature will provide further comment once more detailed information is available in the Pre Application Scoping Phase and the associated/applicable specialist studies.</p> |  | <p>Specialist studies to be undertaken during the EIA Phase will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic) Assessment to determine vegetation condition, habitat loss, and mitigation needs;</li> <li>• Freshwater Assessment to evaluate hydrological and wetland impacts;</li> <li>• Agricultural Assessment to assess land capability and soil productivity; and</li> </ul> <p>A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) in accordance with Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). HWC will review the submission and advise whether a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is required. The findings and recommendations from HWC will be included in the EIA Phase.</p> <p>These studies, together with the SSV findings, will inform the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and ensure that all project components, including services infrastructure, are developed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and the objectives of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan.</p> <p>The comment from CapeNature is acknowledged and appreciated. The applicant confirms that the Pre-Application Scoping Phase has now been completed and that the relevant specialist studies (including biodiversity, freshwater, agricultural, and heritage assessments) will be undertaken during the EIA Phase in accordance with the DFFE Screening Tool protocols and Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2023).</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|                 | CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                        | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              |
| 20 October 2025 | <p><b>BESWAAR TEEN DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELMPEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM (MEGAANDE INFRASTRUKTUUR) PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES.</b></p> <p>SONDER BENDELING VAN REGTE:</p> <p>Hiermee teken die owereienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam amptelik beswaar aan teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste Nr1 Dam ("Helpmekaar dam") en die konstruksie van die "Nuwe Buffer "dam (meegaande infrastruktuur) Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> <p>1. Enige onttrekking van addisionele oppervlak water direk uit die bo-lope van die Leeurivier ("approximately 41000m<sup>3</sup> of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River") sal 'n direkte impak op die invloei van water in die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam hê. Dit sal die beskikbare water en regte van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam owereienaars en die begunstigdes van die Drie Leeu Skema uiters nadelig beïnvloed.</p> | Christi Van Den Heever | <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van die bekommernis dat enige verdere wateronttrekking uit die Leeurivier se bo-lope moontlik 'n invloed kan hê op die vloei na die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam en die Drie Leeu Skema.</p> <p>Dit is egter belangrik om te benadruk dat die huidige EIA-proses nie watergebruiksvolumes bepaal of toeken nie. Alle toekomstige wateronttrekkings, hetsy vir damopgaring of besproeiing, sal uitsluitlik gereuleer word deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) deur middel van 'n aparte Watergebruiklisensie (WUL).</p> <p>Die WUL-proses vereis dat DWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• die beskikbaarheid van water in die Leeurivier-opvangs bepaal,</li> </ul> | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>2. Daar bestaan reeds 'n dispuut/geskil tussen die eienaar van die plase Donkerkloof 1/204 + Rietrivier 5/202 en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam owereienaars ten opsigte van die 50/50 verdeling van die water afkomstig vanuit Boesmanskloof. Hierdie verdeling word nie ten alle tye in die praktyk soos per ooreenkoms toegepas nie.</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• die impak op alle stroomaf watergebruikers beoordeel,</li> <li>• bevestig of voldoende vloei en ekologiese reserwes gehandhaaf kan word, en</li> <li>• verbied enige watergebruik wat bestaande, regmatig gereistreerde waterregte kan benadeel.</li> </ul> <p>Die damvergrooting op sigself verander nie waterregte nie; dit is slegs 'n infrastruktuurontwikkeling om bestaande of wettig toegewyde volhoubare water op te gaar.</p> <p><u>Daarbenewens:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geen finale wateronttrekking is goedgekeur of toegestaan nie.</li> <li>• Geen water mag opgegaar of gebruik word totdat DWS die WUL oorweeg, evalueer en toestaan nie.</li> <li>• Alle impakte op stroomafgebruikers—insluitend Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam en die Drie Leeu Skema—sal volledig deur DWS beoordeel word.</li> </ul> <p>Die aangehaalde dispuut staan onafhanklik van die huidige EIA-proses en is 'n waterregtelike aangeleentheid wat uitsluitlik deur die DWS hanteer moet word. Hierdie EIA kan nie ingryp in bestaande waterverdelingsgeskille of historiese ooreenkomste nie.</p> <p>Nietemin sal die EIA en daaropvolgende WUL-proses verseker dat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alle bestaande gereistreerde waterregte in ag geneem word,</li> <li>• geen nuwe ontwikkeling die regmatige toekenning van water aan enige partye kan beperk nie, en</li> </ul> |  |
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|                 | <p>3. Die Koue Bokkeveld Watergebruikersvereniging en die Watergebruikers van die Leeurivier substrekk kan logies gewys nie hul steun aan bogenoemde aansoek toesê alvorens die DWAS Validasie en Verifikasie Proses nie in hierdie substrekk afgehandel is nie.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enige toekomstige watergebruik in streng ooreenstemming met die DWS se uiteindelijke besluit sal wees.</li> </ul> <p>Sterkwater Boerdery erken die belang van die DWS Validasie- en Verifikasie-proses en ondersteun die finalisering daarvan. Volgens die inligting beskikbaar aan die aansoeker is die V&amp;V-proses in die breër Olifants-Doornstroom reeds in proses, maar nog nie finaal afgehandel nie.</p> <p>Dit is belangrik om te beklemtoon dat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>die V&amp;V-proses en die WUL-proses onafhanklik van mekaar bestuur word,</li> <li>geen water kan onttrek of opgegaar word sonder 'n goedgekeurde WUL nie, en</li> <li>die WUL slegs toegestaan word indien DWS bevestig dat die projek nie bestaande regmatige watergebruikers benadeel nie.</li> </ul> <p>Die EIA en WUL sal dus volledig versoenbaar wees met enige V&amp;V-uitkomst wanneer dit deur DWS afgehandel word.</p> |              |
| 4 November 2025 | <p>IE: Public Participation: Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) are hereby notified of the proposed application and invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments and identify any issues, concerns or opportunities relating to this project to the contact details provided below, on or before 24 November 2025</p> <p>We, Wydekloof Boerdery (Pty) Ltd and Langrivier Boerdery (Pty) Ltd, hereby want to register as interested parties to this attached letter of the Helpmekaar dam, Ceres. Please find attached the objection to the enlargement of Helpmekaar Dam.</p> | Jaco du Toit | <p>We hereby confirm that you will be included on the Interested and Affected Party (I&amp;AP) List for the project.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>Your contact person is Jaco du Toit. All relevant information could be sent to his email address:</p> <p><b>BESWAAR TEEN DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELMPEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM (MEGAANDE INFRASTRUKTUUR) PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES.</b></p> <p>SONDER BENDELING VAN REGTE:</p> <p>Hiermee teken die owereienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam amptelik beswaar aan teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste Nr1 Dam ("Helpmekaar dam") en die konstruksie van die "Nuwe Buffer "dam (meegaande infrastruktuur) Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> <p>1. Enige onttrekking van addisionele oppervlak water direk uit die bo-lope van die Leeurivier ("approximately 410000m³ of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River") sal 'n direkte impak op die invloei van water in die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam hê. Dit sal die beskikbare water en regte van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam owereienaars en die begunstigdes van die Drie Leeu Skema uiters nadelig beïnvloed.</p> |  | <p>Die aansoeker neem kennis van die bekommernis dat enige verdere wateronttrekking uit die Leeurivier se bo-lope moontlik 'n invloed kan hê op die vloei na die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam en die Drie Leeu Skema.</p> <p>Dit is egter belangrik om te benadruk dat die huidige EIA-proses nie watergebruiksvolumes bepaal of toeken nie. Alle toekomstige wateronttrekkings, hetsy vir damopgaring of besproeiing, sal uitsluitlik gereguleer word deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) deur middel van 'n aparte Watergebruiklisensie (WUL).</p> <p>Die WUL-proses vereis dat DWS:</p> |  |
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|  | <p>2. Daar bestaan reeds 'n dispuut/geskil tussen die eienaar van die plase Donkerkloof 1/204 + Rietrivier 5/202 en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam owereienaars ten opsigte van die 50/50 verdeling van die water afkomstig vanuit Boesmanskloof. Hierdie verdeling word nie ten alle tye in die praktyk soos per ooreenkoms toegepas nie.</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• die beskikbaarheid van water in die Leeurivier-opvangs bepaal,</li> <li>• die impak op alle stroomaf watergebruikers beoordeel,</li> <li>• bevestig of voldoende vloei en ekologiese reserwes gehandhaaf kan word, en</li> <li>• verbied enige watergebruik wat bestaande, regmatig geregistreerde waterregte kan benadeel.</li> </ul> <p>Die damvergrooting op sigself verander nie waterregte nie; dit is slegs 'n infrastruktuurontwikkeling om bestaande of wettig toegewyde volhoubare water op te gaar.</p> <p><u>Daarbenewens:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geen finale wateronttrekking is goedgekeur of toegestaan nie.</li> <li>• Geen water mag opgegaar of gebruik word totdat DWS die WUL oorweeg, evalueer en toestaan nie.</li> <li>• Alle impakte op stroomafgebruikers—insluitend Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam en die Drie Leeu Skema—sal volledig deur DWS beoordeel word.</li> </ul> <p>Die aangehaalde dispuut staan onafhanklik van die huidige EIA-proses en is 'n waterregtelike aangeleentheid wat uitsluitlik deur die DWS hanteer moet word. Hierdie EIA kan nie ingryp in bestaande waterverdelingsgeskille of historiese ooreenkomste nie.</p> <p>Nietemin sal die EIA en daaropvolgende WUL-proses verseker dat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alle bestaande geregistreerde waterregte in ag geneem word,</li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <p>3. Die Koue Bokkeveld Watergebruikersvereniging en die Watergebruikers van die Leeurivier substrekkings kan logies gewys nie hul steun aan bogenoemde aansoek toesê alvorens die DWAS Validasie en Verifikasie Proses nie in hierdie substrekkings afgehandel is nie.</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• geen nuwe ontwikkeling die regmatige toekenning van water aan enige partye kan beperk nie, en</li> <li>• enige toekomstige watergebruik in streng ooreenstemming met die DWS se uiteindelijke besluit sal wees.</li> </ul> <p>Sterkwater Boerdery erken die belang van die DWS Validasie- en Verifikasie-proses en ondersteun die finalisering daarvan. Volgens die inligting beskikbaar aan die aansoeker is die V&amp;V-proses in die breër Olifants-Doornstroom reeds in proses, maar nog nie finaal afgehandel nie.</p> <p>Dit is belangrik om te beklemtoon dat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• die V&amp;V-proses en die WUL-proses onafhanklik van mekaar bestuur word,</li> <li>• geen water kan onttrek of opgegaar word sonder 'n goedgekeurde WUL nie, en</li> <li>• die WUL slegs toegestaan word indien DWS bevestig dat die projek nie bestaande regmatige watergebruikers benadeel nie.</li> </ul> <p>Die EIA en WUL sal dus volledig versoenbaar wees met enige V&amp;V-uitkomst wanneer dit deur DWS afgehandel word.</p> |  |
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| Comments received: 16 January 2026 to 20 February 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |
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| Date                                                   | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | I&AP                                                                            | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Respondent   |
| 16 February 2026                                       | <p><b>COMMENT ON THE PRE-APPLICATION SCOPING REPORT (“SR”) IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) (“EIA”) FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NO. 1 DAM (HELPMEKAAR DAM), THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES</b></p> <p>4. This Directorate has the following comments that must be addressed and included in the SR:</p> <p>4.1 Activity description</p> <p>4.1.1. Page 10 of the SR refers to the buffer dam being 27 000m<sup>2</sup> and page 23 refers to 27 000m<sup>3</sup>. The correct storage capacity of the dam must be included in all sections of the report that refer to the storage capacity.</p> <p>4.1.2. It is noted that the water pipeline will have a diameter between 300-360mm and a length of approximately 1,7 to 2km. The correct pipeline diameter and length must be included in the final report.</p> | <p>WCDEADP –<br/>Directorate:<br/>Development<br/>Management (Region<br/>1)</p> | <p><u>Response to Point 4.1.1:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The correct storage capacity of the proposed buffer dam is 27 000 m<sup>3</sup> (storage volume), and not 27 000 m<sup>2</sup>. The activity description in the Draft Scoping Report has been updated accordingly to ensure consistency throughout the report. The storage volumes and dam characteristics are also confirmed in the Hydrology Report, which formed part of the specialist investigations for the project and is included as part of the specialist assessment documentation.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.1.2:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The pipeline diameter and length have been confirmed and the Draft Scoping Report has been updated to reflect the correct specifications. The</p> | EnviroAfrica |

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|  | <p>4.1.3. It is noted that storage capacity and wall height of the existing dam is not included in the activity description. Please ensure that the activity description is updated to include details of the above.</p> <p>4.1.4 No details have been provided in the SR regarding where the infill material for the expansion of the dam and the construction of the new dam will be sourced. These details must be included in the activity description.</p> <p>4.2. Applicable listed activities</p> <p>4.2.1. It is noted that Activity 12 of Listing Notice ("LN") 1 and Activity 14 of LN 3 have both been included as part of the</p> |  | <p>pipeline will have an approximate diameter of 300–360 mm and a length of approximately 1.7–2.0 km, depending on the final alignment selected. These dimensions were used in the hydrological and engineering assessments and are reflected in the Hydrology Report and associated infrastructure planning.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.1.3:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The activity description in the Draft Scoping Report has been updated to include the existing storage capacity and wall height of the Helpmekaar Dam, as well as the proposed enlarged storage capacity and wall height. These details are also reflected in the Hydrology Report, which assessed the dam enlargement in terms of storage volumes, inflows, and operational parameters within the Upper Leeu River catchment.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.1.4:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The material required for the enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam wall and the construction of the buffer dam will be sourced from suitable material obtained from within the dam basin footprint and/or from approved borrow areas located on the farm. The exact source and volumes of material will be confirmed during the detailed design phase and will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). No material will be sourced from watercourses or sensitive areas without the necessary authorisations.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.2.1:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The applicable listed activities have been reviewed and corrected in the Draft Scoping Report.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>listed activities applicable to the proposed development. Confirmation must be provided as to which activity is applicable to the proposed development.</p> <p>4.2.2. It is noted that the listed activities are incorrectly quoted in the SR, specifically Activity 66 of Listing Notice 1 and Activity 23 of Listing Notice 3. Please ensure that the wording of the applicable listed activities is quoted from the Regulations.</p> <p>4.2.3. The motivation for the listed activities must be updated. The expansion activities relate to the enlargement of the existing dam and the development activities relate to the buffer dam, and this must be clearly reflected as such.</p> <p>4.3. Alternatives</p> <p>4.3.1. It is noted that two 2 pipeline route alternatives have been identified for assessment. However, the length of the preferred alternative has not been specified.</p> <p>4.3.2. This section on alternatives must be updated to include the length of the preferred pipeline route.</p> |  | <p>The enlargement of the existing dam relates to expansion activities, while the buffer dam and associated infrastructure relate to new development activities. The Draft Scoping Report clearly distinguishes between the applicable listed activities for the dam enlargement and the construction of the new buffer dam.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.2.2:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The wording of the applicable listed activities has been corrected in the Draft Scoping Report and now reflects the exact wording as per the NEMA EIA Regulations Listing Notices.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.2.3:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The motivation for the listed activities has been revised in the Draft Scoping Report to clearly distinguish between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities related to the enlargement of the existing Helpmekaar Dam, and</li> <li>• Activities related to the construction of the new buffer dam and associated infrastructure. The motivation now clearly explains why each listed activity is triggered and how it relates to the specific project components.</li> </ul> <p><u>Response to Point 4.3.1 and 4.3.2:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The length of the preferred pipeline route has been included in the Draft Scoping Report and is approximately 1.7–2.0 km, depending on the final alignment. The alternatives assessment section has been updated accordingly. The pipeline routing alternatives will be assessed further during the EIA phase to confirm the</p> |  |
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|  | <p>4.4. Plan of Study ("POS")</p> <p>4.4.1. Appendix 2(1)(h)(i) requires that the POS include a description of the alternatives to be considered and assessed within the preferred site. However, the POS does not include a description of the alternatives to be assessed as part of the EIA phase.</p> <p>4.4.2. The POS of study must be updated to include the above.</p> <p>4.5. Water use license</p> <p>4.5.1. Since additional water will be abstracted (410 000m<sup>3</sup>) for the proposed enlarged dam, it is imperative that assurance regarding the availability of water is provided.</p> |  | <p>preferred alignment based on environmental sensitivity, technical feasibility, and agricultural constraints.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.4.1 and 4.4.2:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The Plan of Study for EIA has been updated to include a description of the alternatives to be assessed during the EIA phase.</p> <p>These alternatives will be assessed in detail during the EIA phase with input from the relevant specialist studies, including the freshwater/hydrology assessment, biodiversity assessment, and agricultural assessment.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.5.1:</u></p> <p>The comment is noted. The proposed enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam and the construction of the buffer dam will require a Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).</p> <p>A Hydrology Report has been completed as part of the specialist investigations for the project, which assessed catchment runoff, storage volumes, dam yield, and downstream flow implications within the Upper Leeu River catchment. The findings of the Hydrology Report indicate that the catchment is strongly seasonal, with most runoff occurring during the winter rainfall months, and that surplus winter runoff is available for storage above the Environmental Water Requirement. The modelling further indicates that the increased storage at the Langrug dams would improve irrigation supply at the dams, while the</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|                  | <p>4.5.2. Please note that the water use license must be included in the final report for decision-making. Should this information not be included in the final report, this may prejudice the outcome of your application.</p> <p>4.6. A Maintenance Management Plan (“MMP”) must be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which addresses all future maintenance of infrastructure within a watercourse.</p> |                                                  | <p>reduction in spill to downstream systems such as the Wydekloof Dam is small and, under the modelled scenario, does not affect the irrigation supply from the Wydekloof Dam. The operation of the dam will nevertheless remain subject to ecological flow requirements and downstream water user considerations as part of the Water Use Licence (WUL) process.</p> <p>The EIA and WUL processes will therefore be aligned, and the final dam operation will be subject to the conditions of the WUL to ensure that downstream users and ecological flow requirements are not unlawfully affected. The Hydrology Report forms part of the specialist input that will inform the WUL application and the impact assessment phase of the EIA.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.5.2:</u></p> <p>The applicant notes the requirement that the water-use licence be included in the EIA report for decision-making and will engage further with DWS regarding the WULA process and associated timing.</p> <p><u>Response to Point 4.6:</u></p> <p>A Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) addressing future maintenance of infrastructure within a watercourse will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p> |              |
| 19 February 2026 | <p>COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS: Helpmekaar Dam   Pre-application Scoping Report – November 2025</p> <p>1. As stated in this Scoping report on page 12, which read “Water availability in the Ceres/Koue Bokkeveld region has become increasingly constrained due to climate variability, reduced streamflow during summer, and high</p>                                                                                              | M.B. Oosthuizen – Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. | <p><u>Response to Points 1 and 2:</u></p> <p>The concern regarding the potential impact of additional storage on downstream water availability is noted. A Hydrology Report was undertaken as part of the specialist</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>demand within the agricultural sector. Seasonal water shortages threaten both the sustainability and productivity of farming operations, making secure winter storage infrastructure essential.” Your client Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd. wants to “Ensuring a regulated and reliable water supply during the dry summer months” – This is also true for the direct downstream water users and landowners.</p> <p>2. “From an environmental perspective, the development has been carefully planned to minimise impacts:” and “The desirability of the proposed development is underpinned by its alignment with regional and national objectives for sustainable agriculture, rural development, and water resource resilience.” – This is also true for the direct downstream water users and landowners. The subtraction of an additional 437 000 cubic meters of water (410 000 + 27 000 cubic meters) in the upper Leeu Rivier system will have a direct negative impact on water availability to downstream water users.</p> <p><u>Main concerns and response are.:</u><br/>Any future proposed project within the catchment area will have the same “alignment with regional and national objectives for sustainable agriculture, rural development,</p> |  | <p>studies for the project, which assessed runoff and water availability within the Upper Leeu River catchment. The report indicates that the proposed storage is intended to capture winter high-flow runoff within the catchment and that the operation of the dams will be subject to ecological flow requirements and downstream water user considerations through the Water Use Licence process. The potential downstream and cumulative impacts will be assessed in detail during the EIA and WUL processes, where operating rules and abstraction limits will be determined by the Department of Water and Sanitation.</p> <p>The concern regarding possible impacts on downstream users is noted. The Hydrology Report assessed the effect of the proposed increased storage and found that, although the average annual spill volume from Langrug 1 and 2 decreases, the effect on the downstream Wydekloof Dam is small, and under the modelled scenario the upstream water use has no impact on the supply of irrigation abstracted from Wydekloof Dam.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The Hydrology Report found that the Upper Leeu River catchment is strongly seasonal, with most runoff occurring during the winter rainfall months, and that surplus water is available when present-day flows are</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>and water resource resilience.” Therefor this project is not unique in any way that it would be better for agriculture than any other project or current water uses.</p> <p>Surplus water availability in the Upper Leeurivier (upstream from the Wydekloof Grootdam) is not validated. Your assumption “sourced from surplus water runoff from the upper tributaries from the Leeu River” (Pre-application scoping report November 2025) needs to be scientifically verified. The proposed dam enlargement and additional buffer dam is upstream from the Wydekloof Grootdam. The proposed dams will have a direct negative impact on the water availability for the downstream water users who are dependent on the Wydekloof Grootdam to irrigate existing long term and short-term crops.</p> |  | <p>compared with the Environmental Water Requirement. The proposed Helpmekaar Dam enlargement and buffer dam are therefore intended to store a portion of this winter high-flow runoff for use during the dry summer months. The concern that the proposed dam enlargement and buffer dam, located upstream of the Wydekloof Grootdam, may have a direct negative impact on water availability for downstream users is recognised as a key issue. It is important to note, however, that the NEMA environmental process does not authorise water use or amend existing water rights. Any abstraction and storage of water associated with the proposed development will be subject to approval by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) through a Water Use Licence.</p> <p>The WUL process requires DWS to assess water availability, ecological reserve requirements, existing lawful water use, and potential impacts on downstream users before any water use may be authorised. The potential impact on the Wydekloof Grootdam and its dependent users will therefore be specifically considered within this regulatory process.</p> <p>The comment and objection are hereby acknowledged and will be taken into consideration during the ongoing EIA and WULA processes.</p> |  |
|  | <p>3. Figure 6 - Pre-Application scoping report November 2025 on page 30 creates the impression that the 2 existing dams on Helpmekaar is not built in the Leeu River. This, however, is not the case. The existing Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam and the “Large dam” directly downstream are both instream dams in one of the larger Leeu River tributaries.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | <p>The comment regarding Figure 6 in the Pre-Application Scoping Report (November 2025) is acknowledged and noted.</p> <p>It is confirmed that the existing Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam) and the larger downstream dam are located within a tributary of the Leeu River and are therefore considered instream dams. If Figure 6 creates the impression that these dams are not situated within a watercourse, this is not the intended interpretation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>4. "The addition of a small buffer dam downstream has been strategically positioned" (2.1.1 page 13). Pre-Application scoping report, November 2025, refers: According to Google earth it seems that the proposed new "buffer dam" is at a much higher elevation than the proposed enlarged Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam.</p> <p>5. The objection submitted on the 20th of October 2025 by Christi van den Heever (to which Donkerbos Estate is part of), below, refers:</p> <p><b>"BESWAAR TEEN DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELMPEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM (MEEGAANDE INFRASTRUKTUUR) PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES.</b></p> <p><b>SONDER BENADELING VAN REGTE:</b></p> <p>Hiermee teken die oewereienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam amptelik beswaar aan teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste Nr1 Dam ("Helpmekaar dam") en die konstruksie van die "Nuwe Buffer "dam (meegaande infrastruktuur) Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.</p> |  | <p>Figure 6 is based on available desktop mapping and is intended to provide a general spatial overview of the site. It is acknowledged that such representations may not always fully reflect the exact relationship between existing infrastructure and watercourses.</p> <p>This aspect will be clarified and, where necessary, corrected in the subsequent EIA documentation, supported by the findings of the freshwater specialist assessment, which will accurately delineate watercourses, confirm the instream nature of existing infrastructure, and assess associated impacts in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements.</p> <p>The comment is appreciated and will be taken into account in refining the accuracy of the project documentation.</p> <p>The reference to the objection already submitted by Christi van den Heever is noted. The issues raised in that submission have already been recorded and responded to in this Comments and Response Report.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|                  | <p>1: Enige onttrekking van addisionele oppervlak water direk uit die bo-lope van die Leeurivier ("approximately 410000m3 of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River") sal 'n direkte impak op die invloei van water in die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam hê. Dit sal die beskikbare water en regte van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam oewereienaars en die begunstigdes van die Drie Leeu Skema uiters nadelig beïnvloed.</p> <p>2: Daar bestaan reeds 'n dispuut/geskil tussen die eienaar van die plase Donkerkloof 1/204 + Rietrivier 5/202 en die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam oewereienaars ten opsigte van die 50/50 verdeling van die water afkomstig vanuit Boesmanskloof. Hierdie verdeling word nie ten alle tye in die praktyk soos per ooreenkoms toegepas nie.</p> <p>3: Die Koue Bokkeveld Watergebruikersvereniging en die Watergebruikers van die Leeurivier substreek kan logies gewys nie hul steun aan bogenoemde aansoek toesê alvorens die DWAS Validasie en Verifikasie Proses nie in hierdie substreek afgehandel is nie."</p> <p>The objections above are clear and valid. Therefore, Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. cannot support these proposed projects.</p> |            | <p><u>Conclusion:</u></p> <p>The objection from Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. is formally acknowledged and has been recorded. The comments raised will be carried forward into the EIA and WULA processes.</p> |              |
| 20 February 2026 | <p><b>RE: The Proposed Enlargement of Langrug-Boonste NR1 Dam, also known as Helpmekaar Dam, Construction of a New Buffer Dam and Associated Infrastructure on Farm Rietrivier 202, Portion 5, Ceres, Western Cape Province – Pre-Application Scoping Report</b></p> <p>1. CapeNature commented on the First Public Participation Process (letter dated 28 October 2025). These comments still have reference.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | CapeNature | <p>The comment is acknowledged. CapeNature's earlier comments dated 28 October 2025 remain relevant and have been retained in the environmental process.</p>                                                    | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>2. As stated previously, according to the South African Vegetation Map (2018), the proposed site supports Kouebokkeveld Alluvium Fynbos and Kouebokkeveld Shale Fynbos, both listed as Critically Endangered vegetation types. However, large parts of the proposed area appear to be transformed through previous agricultural activities (especially the buffer dam area), and only small areas of natural vegetation remain. Furthermore, the majority of the site (Langrug/Helpmekaar Dam) is mapped as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA 1) and Ecological Support Area (ESA). CBAs include areas that are usually, but not always in a natural condition that are required to meet biodiversity targets for species, ecosystems or ecological processes and ecological infrastructure. The CBA is mapped due to the presence of the threatened vegetation types, as well as for Watercourse protection (Western Folded Mountains) and it is essential that these areas are maintained in a natural or near-natural state, with no further loss of habitat and degraded areas should ideally be rehabilitated. Only low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive land uses are appropriate. ESAs play an important role in supporting the functioning of Protected Areas or Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and are often vital for delivering ecosystem services. The ESA is mapped due to the presence of a Channelled Valley Bottom Wetland, for water source protection (Olifants) and for groundwater recharge (Witzenberg) and it is essential that these areas are managed or restored to minimize the impact on ecological processes and ecological infrastructure functioning, especially soil and water-related services. Furthermore, the area falls within a Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) for Groundwater (Northwestern Cape Ranges) and</p> |  | <p>The environmental sensitivity of the site is acknowledged, including the presence of Critically Endangered vegetation types, the mapping of the site within CBA and ESA categories, the Strategic Water Source Area context, and its proximity to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area. These sensitivities will continue to inform the specialist studies and mitigation hierarchy in the EIA phase.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>Surface water (Groot Winterhoek) and is in close proximity to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area (MCA), Protected Area.</p> <p>3. The Comments and Response Report (C&amp;RR) stated that "Specialist studies to be undertaken during the EIA Phase will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic) Assessment to determine vegetation condition, habitat loss, and mitigation needs;</li> <li>• Freshwater Assessment to evaluate hydrological and wetland impacts;</li> <li>• Agricultural Assessment to assess land capability and soil productivity; and</li> <li>• A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC)."</li> </ul> <p>This was a response to our previous comments. Furthermore, the C&amp;RR stated that "The applicant confirms that the Pre-Application Scoping Phase has now been completed and that the relevant specialist studies (including biodiversity, freshwater, agricultural, and heritage assessments) will be undertaken during the EIA Phase in accordance with the DFFE Screening Tool protocols and Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2023)." However, the current Process/Phase out for comments (this letter or application) is the Pre-Application Scoping Report. Please can you clarify what is meant by the statement that the 'Pre-Application Scoping Phase has now been completed' and why additional comments are required without the availability of any Specialist Reports.</p> |  | <p>The wording in the previous C&amp;RR is acknowledged as having caused uncertainty. The intention was to indicate that the initial pre-application public participation step had been undertaken and that the process had progressed to the pre-application scoping report stage, not that the overall environmental process had been concluded. Further comments are required at this stage because the Pre-Application Scoping Report itself is being circulated for review and comment prior to the EIA phase. The specialist studies will be undertaken and/or finalised during the EIA phase, after which the resulting information will be made available for further comment.</p> |  |
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|                  | 4. CapeNature will provide further comment once more detailed information is available in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase and the associated/applicable specialist studies are included.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                               | The applicant notes that CapeNature will provide further comment once the relevant specialist studies are available in the EIA phase.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              |
| 20 February 2026 | <p><b>FORMELE BESWAAR: VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN HELPMEKAAR DAM</b></p> <p>Ons neem kennis dat die voorverslag onvoldoende inligting verskaf rakende die beskikbaarheid van surplus water in die opvanggebied. Gegewe die erkende seisoenale watertekorte, kan daar nie aanvaar word dat verhoogde wateronttrekking en waterberging sonder nadelige gevolge vir stroomaf gebruikers sal plaasvind nie.</p> <p>Daar word vermeld dat 'n Watergebruiklisensie Aansoek ingedien sal word om die impak van wateronttrekking te evalueer. Hierdie impak behoort egter reeds tydens die</p> | Christi van den Heever – Graaff Fruit (Pty) Ltd / Rietfontein | <p>Die bekommernis rakende die beskikbaarheid van surplus water in die opvanggebied en die moontlike impak daarvan op afstroomgebruikers word erken en kennis van geneem. 'n Hidrologiese studie is vir die projek onderneem en het bevind dat die boonste Leeurivier-opvangsgebied sterk seisoenaal is, met die grootste deel van afloop wat gedurende die winterreënmaande plaasvind, en dat surplus wintervloei vir opgaring beskikbaar is. Die studie het verder bevind dat, hoewel die voorgestelde vergroting van Langrug 1 en Langrug 2 se opgaarput die gemiddelde jaarlikse oorloopvolume verminder, dit baie min impak op die afwaartse Wydekloofdam het, en dat die opstroomse watergebruik onder die gemodelleerde scenario geen impak op die besproeiingsvoorraad wat uit die Wydekloofdam onttrek word, het nie.</p> <p>Hierdie bevindings vorm deel van die tegniese basis vir die projek. Die finale oorweging van waterbeskikbaarheid, die ekologiese reserwe, bestaande wettige watergebruik en die moontlike impak op afstroomgebruikers sal egter steeds deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) plaasvind as deel van die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) proses, voordat enige watergebruik gemagtig kan word.</p> <p>Die bekommernis rakende die beskikbaarheid van surplus water in die opvanggebied en die moontlike impak daarvan op afstroomgebruikers word erken en kennis van geneem.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|                  | <p>omvangsbepalingsfase deeglik ondersoek en beoordeel te word. Op hierdie stadium is daar onvoldoende geverifieerde inligting om 'n ingeligte oordeel oor die omgewingsimpak te vel.</p> <p>Aangesien kernaspekte nie voldoende nagevors en aangespreek is nie, kan die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekaar Dam tans nie ondersteun word nie. Geliewe ons formele beswaar teen die projek te registreer.</p> |                                                                              | <p>'n Hidrologiese studie is vir die projek onderneem en het bevind dat die boonste Leeurivier-opvangsgebied sterk seisoenaal is, met die grootste deel van afloop wat gedurende die winterreënmaande plaasvind, en dat surplus wintervloei vir opgaring beskikbaar is.</p> <p>Die finale beoordeling van waterbeskikbaarheid, die ekologiese reserwe, bestaande wettige watergebruik en die moontlike impak op afstroomgebruikers sal egter deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) as deel van die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) proses gedoen word.</p> <p>Die formele beswaar word hiermee erken en geregistreer. Die kernaspekte wat geopper is, insluitend die beskikbaarheid van surplus water, die moontlike impak op afstroomgebruikers en die behoefte aan verdere geverifieerde inligting, sal verder oorweeg word as deel van die Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS/EIA) en die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) proses.</p> <p>Die beswaar sal dus deel vorm van die amptelike Comments and Response Report en sal in ag geneem word tydens die verdere beoordeling van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.</p> |              |
| 20 February 2026 | <p><b>PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR 1 DAM (HELPMEKAAR DAM) - COMMENT ON SCOPING REPORT</b></p> <p>1 SECTION 2 - NEED AND DESIRABILITY</p> <p>It is correct as you say in para 2, that "Water availability in the Ceres/Koue Bokkeveld region has become increasingly constrained due to climate variability, reduced streamflow</p>                                                                 | P.J. du Toit – Storey<br>ENG (Pty) Ltd /<br>Langrivier Boerdery<br>(Pty) Ltd | <p>The comments regarding need and desirability are acknowledged. The need and desirability section explains</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>during summer, and high demand within the agricultural sector. Seasonal water shortages threaten both the sustainability and productivity of farming operations. This is true for all producers in the Koue Bokkeveld and enlarging the Helpmekaar Dam will exacerbate this situation for downstream producers.</p> <p>The statement in para 4 that “The development is therefore essential to maintain the long-term economic viability, resilience, and sustainability of farming operations in this high-value agricultural area.” We do not agree in that it will benefit the owner/user of the Helpmekaar Dam but detrimentally affect the downstream producers.</p> <p>Para 5 states that “The desirability of the proposed development is underpinned by its alignment with regional and national objectives for sustainable agriculture, rural development, and water resource resilience.” We do not agree in that it will not benefit the region as a whole.</p> |  | <p>the applicant’s rationale for the project in the context of the farming operation and the broader agricultural area. The concern that downstream users also experience water constraints is recognised. The environmental process does not determine lawful water-use allocation; this remains subject to the National Water Act and the WULA process.</p> <p>The comment regarding the statement that the development is essential for maintaining the long-term economic viability, resilience, and sustainability of farming operations is acknowledged.</p> <p>It is noted that the perceived benefits of the proposed development may differ between upstream and downstream users. The statement reflects the anticipated benefits to the applicant’s farming operation based on improved water security and agricultural planning. However, the potential for adverse effects on downstream users is recognised as a key concern and will be assessed in detail during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes.</p> <p>The comment disputing the statement that the development aligns with regional and national objectives and benefits the region as a whole is acknowledged.</p> <p>The reference to alignment with policy frameworks is intended to indicate consistency with broader planning objectives; however, it is accepted that such alignment does not automatically equate to a net benefit at a regional scale. The actual regional desirability of the project will depend on the outcome of the EIA and WULA processes, which will evaluate environmental, social, and economic impacts, including implications for downstream users and cumulative catchment effects.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>Para 6 states that “Site selection: Expansion of the existing Helpmekaar Dam is more efficient and less land intensive than constructing an entirely new dam.” The report does not provide any substantive information for this statement, and hence no value judgement can be made about this.</p> <p>2 SECTION 3 - ALTERNATIVES</p> <p>Other than for the two alternative pipeline routes presented, the report does not present any information on alternatives considered to the enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam. No information is provided on a possible dam in an alternative catchment, alternative water sources such as bore-holes, or the cultivation of alternative crops. Until this is provided, no value judgement can be made about the proposed dam enlargement.</p> <p>As can be seen from Figure 1, the buffer dam will be located at a higher elevation than the Helpmekaar Dam. No explanation is provided in the report on how water will be transferred to this higher dam. Furthermore, if water is to be pumped, no explanation is provided as to why a buffer dam is required as opposed to pumping directly into the irrigation system from the Helpmekaar Dam.</p> |  | <p>The comment regarding the lack of substantiating information for the statement that expansion of the existing dam is more efficient and less land intensive than constructing a new dam is acknowledged.</p> <p>The statement is based on preliminary engineering and planning considerations; however, it is accepted that further supporting information is required. Detailed justification, including consideration of alternatives and associated impacts, will be provided and expanded upon during the EIA phase, where the comparative assessment of alternatives will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations.</p> <p>The comment regarding alternative water sources and development alternatives is acknowledged. The alternatives assessed to date have focused on layout and technical alternatives associated with the project as proposed. The comments regarding alternative catchments, boreholes, crop alternatives, and the rationale for the buffer dam arrangement are noted and will be considered in refining the alternatives discussion and technical description. The report will also be clarified, where necessary, regarding the method of transfer between the enlarged dam and the buffer dam.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>3 SECTION 4.4 - FRESHWATER</p> <p>No information is provided on the availability of surplus water in the catchment. As stated in other sections of the report, "Seasonal water shortages threaten both the sustainability and productivity of farming operations ...". The assumption, therefore, cannot be made that there is water available for an increased taking and storing of water without impacting on downstream producers.</p> <p>4 SECTION 5.2 - FRESHWATER IMPACT</p> <p>In this section, mention is made that a Water Use Licence Application will be made and that this process will look at the impact of the abstraction of water from the water course. This impact must also be assessed as part of the scoping process as, at this stage, no value judgement can be made on the environmental impact of the abstraction.</p> <p>5 FORMAL OBJECTION</p> <p>As set out above, the pre-scoping report lacks information on key impacts of the proposed enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam. These appear not to have been researched and assessed. Until fully researched and verifiable information is presented, no value judgement can be made as to the impact of the enlargement to the dam and hence the enlargement cannot be supported. Therefore please register our objection to the project.</p> |  | <p>The concern regarding the availability of surplus water in the catchment is acknowledged. A hydrological study undertaken for the project found that the Upper Leeu River catchment is strongly seasonal, that surplus winter flows are available for storage, and that the increased storage improves irrigation supply at Langrug, while the modelled impact on Wydekloof Dam supply is small. The detailed determination of water availability and downstream impacts will be confirmed through the Water Use Licence Application process.</p> <p>The comment that the impact of abstraction should be assessed is noted. The scoping phase identifies the freshwater issue as a key impact requiring further assessment. The detailed specialist assessment of freshwater impacts will be undertaken during the EIA phase and in the WULA process.</p> <p>The formal objection is acknowledged and has been registered. The concerns raised will be carried forward into the EIA and WULA processes.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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| 20 February 2026 | <p><b>THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE</b></p> <p>The biggest concern for Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery and Die Spitskop Trust regarding the above-mentioned proposal remains the impact on freshwater availability and existing water rights of the downstream water users.</p> <p>The Pre-Application Scoping Report states that “Water availability in the Ceres/Koue Bokkeveld region has become increasingly constrained due to climate variability, reduced streamflow during summer, and high demand within the agricultural sector,” which is true for all agricultural enterprises in the Koue Bokkeveld.</p> <p>Therefore, Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery and Die Spitskop Trust are concerned that its own existing water rights and lawful water use will be negatively impacted by the taking and storage of an additional 410 000 m3 of water upstream from the Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam.</p> <p>The onus is on the applicant to prove and guarantee to all parties’ satisfaction that the taking and storing of additional surface water directly from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River will not be done at the cost of the downstream water user’s existing lawful water use and rights before Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery and Die Spitskop Trust can render their support for the proposal.</p> | <p>Gerrit van der Merwe and Thinus van der Merwe – Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery BK and Die Spitskop Trust</p> | <p>The concern regarding freshwater availability and the protection of existing downstream water rights is acknowledged. The environmental process does not determine or approve water-use quantities. Any taking and storage of water will be subject to a WULA under the National Water Act and will be assessed by DWS with regard to lawful existing water use, ecological requirements, and downstream implications.</p> <p>The comment that the onus rests on the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed taking and storage of water will not prejudice downstream lawful water use is noted. The applicant recognises that DWS will have to be satisfied, through the WULA process and supporting technical information, that lawful existing water use and rights are not unlawfully compromised before any water use may be authorised.</p> | EnviroAfrica |
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| Comments received: 16 January 2026 to 20 February 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |
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| Date                                                   | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | I&AP                                                             | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Respondent   |
| 10 June 2026                                           | <p>Before we sent through our response could you please send to us the Comments and response report referred to in your report and highlights in the draft report where these amendments are incorporated in the draft report.</p> <p>“Comments received from authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) have been captured in the Comments and Response Report, and relevant amendments have been incorporated into this Draft Scoping Report”</p> | <p>DONKERBOS<br/>LANDGOED (EDMS)<br/>BPK.<br/>Thys Steenkamp</p> | <p>Good morning, Thys.</p> <p>Thank you for the email.</p> <p>Please find attached the Draft Scoping Report together with the Comments and Response Report for the proposed enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam, construction of the buffer dam, and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The principal amendments arising from comments received during the public participation process have been incorporated into the Draft Scoping Report. These amendments are primarily reflected in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Summary;</li> <li>• Section 1.2 – Description of the Proposed Activity;</li> <li>• Section 2 – Need and Desirability;</li> <li>• Section 4.5 – Hydrology;</li> <li>• Section 5.2 – Hydrology Impact; and</li> <li>• Section 6 – Plan of Study for EIA.</li> </ul> <p>The amendments relate mainly to the project description, dam capacities and dimensions, pipeline details, hydrological considerations, downstream water-user concerns, and matters to be assessed further through the EIA and Water Use Licence Application processes.</p> <p>Should you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

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| 12 June 2026 | <p><b>COMMENTS AND OBJECTION: Helpmekaar Dam - Draft Scoping Report – May 2026</b></p> <p>Refer to our previous letter dated 19 February 2026, and Refer to your document <b>APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT</b>, which was requested and not included in your email sent 8 May 2026</p> <p>Our concerns and objections are the following, not listed in any particular order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The response from the Respondent EnviroAfrica on all the comments listed in the <b>COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT</b> are speculative and are not substantiated by any documentation, and in most of the cases in favor of the applicant and do not take in consideration the full impact on water users and landowners directly downstream. We assume that the full <b>RESPONSE REPORT</b> was made available to all affected parties for due input.</li> <li>2. All Comments and Objections in our previous letter are therefore still valid and should be addressed with substantiated documentation in the scoping report.</li> </ol> | <p>DONKERBOS<br/>LANDGOED (EDMS)<br/>BPK.<br/>Thys Steenkamp</p> | <p>The comment is noted. The purpose of the Scoping Phase is to identify issues, concerns, potential impacts, and the specialist studies required to assess these matters further during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase. The responses provided in the Comments and Response Report are intended to acknowledge and record the issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) and to indicate how these issues will be addressed through the EIA and associated specialist investigations. The findings of the specialist studies, including the hydrological assessment and Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process, will inform the detailed impact assessment and decision-making process. The Comments and Response Report forms part of the public participation process and is made available to registered I&amp;APs as part of the Draft Scoping Report review process.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The concerns and objections raised in previous correspondence remain on record and have been included in the Comments and Response Report. These issues have informed the scope of assessment for the EIA phase and will be considered further through the specialist investigations, including the hydrological assessment, freshwater assessment, and</p> | EnviroAfrica |
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|              | <p>3. "Specialist studies are at various stages of completion. The hydrological assessment will be refined and finalized during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase..." - Responses listed in the <b>COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT</b> should only be considered or substantiated after the hydrological assessments are completed for all the direct downstream water users and landowners, including the Verification and Validation process.</p> <p>The objections above are clear and valid. Therefore Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. cannot support these proposed projects.</p> |                               | <p>WULA process. No comments received during the Scoping Phase have been disregarded.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The Draft Scoping Report acknowledges that specialist studies are at various stages of completion and that detailed investigations will be undertaken and/or finalised during the EIA phase. The hydrological assessment, together with the WULA process and any applicable water-use verification and validation information available to the competent authorities, will contribute to the assessment of water availability, downstream users, ecological flow requirements, and potential impacts associated with the proposed development. The purpose of the EIA phase is to evaluate these issues in detail and to provide the necessary information to support informed decision-making by the relevant authorities.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The decision not to support the proposed development at this stage is acknowledged. The concerns and objections raised by Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty) Ltd have been recorded and will remain part of the public participation record. The issues raised, particularly those relating to water availability, downstream water users, hydrological impacts, and existing lawful water use, have informed the scope of assessment for the EIA phase and will be evaluated through the specialist studies and the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process. The findings of these assessments, together with input from Interested and Affected Parties and the relevant authorities, will inform the final decision-making process.</p> |              |
| 12 June 2026 | <p><b>Geliewe Bianca,</b></p> <p><b>Hiermee wil ek graag kommentaar lewer op my vrae en die antwoorde wat daarop verskaf is.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Christi van den Heever</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p><b>Aanhangsel 4E – Kommentaar deur Christi van den Heever</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>Bepalings van hoe- en laevloei asook surpluswater</u></b></p> <p>Wie gaan verantwoordelik wees vir die bepaling van hoe- en laevloei, asook die tye wanneer surpluswater beskikbaar is? Na my mening is dit 'n baie grys area wat uiters moeilik gaan wees om objektief en konsekwent te bestuur. Duidelike riglyne en verantwoordelikhede behoort vooraf vasgestel te word.</p> <p><b>2. <u>50/50-Verdeling van Boesmanskloof-water</u></b></p> <p>Die praktyk toon dat die water tans nie korrek volgens die voorgestelde 50/50-verdeling by die verdelingspunt verdeel word nie. Hierdie aangeleentheid behoort eers aangespreek en reggestel te word voordat verdere besluite oor die verdeling geneem word.</p> <p><b>3. <u>Surpluswater en die V&amp;V-proses</u></b></p> <p>Solank die verifikasie- en Valideringsproses (V&amp;V) nie afgehandel is nie, is dit na my mening voortydig om die gevolgtrekking te maak dat daar surpluswater beskikbaar is. Die uitkoms van die V&amp;V-proses behoort eers afgehandel en bevestig te word voordat sodanige stellings gemaak word.</p> |  | <p>Die kommentaar word kennis van geneem. Die bepaling van waterbeskikbaarheid, vloeitoestande, omgewingsvloei-vereistes en enige operasionele reëls rakende wateronttrekking en -opgaring vorm deel van die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL) proses wat deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) geadministreer word. Hierdie aangeleenthede sal verder deur die hidrologiese assessering ondersoek word en sal, waar toepaslik, in die operasionele vereistes en voorwaardes van enige toekomstige watergebruikmagtiging aangespreek word.</p> <p>Die kommentaar word kennis van geneem. Die aangeleentheid rakende die praktyk van die bestaande 50/50-verdeling van water afkomstig vanuit Boesmanskloof word erken. Hierdie aangeleentheid hou verband met bestaande waterregte, waterverdeling en waterbestuur en val binne die mandaat van die Departement van Water en Sanitasie. Die huidige NEMA-proses verander nie bestaande waterverdelingsooreenkomste of wettige waterregte nie.</p> <p>Die kommentaar word kennis van geneem. Die belangrikheid van die Verifikasie- en Valideringsproses (V&amp;V) word erken. Die Konsep Omvangsbepalings verslag maak nie 'n finale bepaling rakende die beskikbaarheid van surpluswater nie, maar identifiseer waterbeskikbaarheid en die potensiele impak op</p> |  |
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|  | <p><b><u>Addisionele Opmerkings</u></b></p> <p>Aangesien sommige van die antwoorde wat op bogenoemde punte verskaf is na my mening misleidend is, en ek gevolglik verdere vrae oor dieselfde aangeleenthede moes stel, is daar steeds onsekerheid oor die feite en implikasies daarvan.</p> <p>Om hierdie rede is dit my standpunt dat Rietfontein nie toestemming kan gee dat daar op enige wyse met die Helpmeekaardam-Projek voortgegaan word voordat alle uitstaande vrae bevredigend beantwoord is en die relevante prosesse afgehandel is nie.</p> |  | <p>afstroomgebruikers as sleutelkwessies wat verder ondersoek moet word. Die beoordeling van waterbeskikbaarheid, bestaande wettige watergebruik en die implikasies daarvan sal deur die toepaslike spesialisstudies en die WUL-proses oorweeg word.</p> <p>Die kommentaar word kennis van geneem. Die doel van die Omvangsbepalingsfase is om die relevante omgewingskwessies, potensiële impakte en vereiste spesialisstudies te identifiseer. Die kwessies wat geopper is, insluitend waterbeskikbaarheid, afstroomgebruikers, bestaande waterregte en die V&amp;V-proses, is in die Draft Omvangsbepalingsverslag opgeneem en sal verder ondersoek en beoordeel word gedurende die Omgewingsimpakstudie (EIA) fase en die Watergebruiklisensieproses. Alle kommentaar en bekommernisse wat ontvang is, vorm deel van die openbare deelname rekord en sal in die verdere besluitnemingsproses in ag geneem word.</p> <p>Die kommentaar word kennis van geneem. Die standpunt dat Rietfontein nie die voorgestelde ontwikkeling op hierdie stadium kan ondersteun nie, word erken. Die bekommernisse rakende waterbeskikbaarheid, afstroomgebruikers, bestaande waterregte, die Verifikasie- en Valideringsproses (V&amp;V), asook die potensiële impak van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling, is op rekord geplaas en vorm deel van die openbare deelnameproses.</p> <p>Die doel van die huidige Omvangsbepalingsfase is om die relevante omgewingskwessies, potensiële impakte en vereiste spesialisstudies te identifiseer. Die aangeleenthede wat geopper is, sal verder ondersoek en beoordeel word deur die toepaslike spesialisstudies</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |         | gedurende die Omgewingsimpakstudie (EIA)-fase, sowel as deur die Watergebruiklisensie (WUL)-proses wat deur die Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) geadministreer word. Die bevindinge van hierdie prosesse sal die bevoegde owerhede in staat stel om 'n ingeligte besluit oor die voorgestelde ontwikkeling te neem.                                                                                                                                                    |              |
| 10 June 2026 | <p><b>COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (“SR”) IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) (“EIA”) FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES</b></p> <p>1. The Draft SR dated May 2026, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as “this Directorate”) on 5 May 2026, refers.</p> <p>2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Department, the following is noted:</p> <p>2.1. The enlargement of the existing Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam), the construction of a new buffer dam, and the installation of a ±2 km connecting pipeline. The project aims to secure additional water storage capacity of approximately 800 000m<sup>3</sup> (with a net gain of ±410 000m<sup>3</sup>), sourced from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River.</p> | WCDEADP | <p>Noted.</p> <p>The comment is noted and confirmed. The description of the proposed development, including the enlargement of the existing Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam), the construction of a buffer dam, and the installation of a connecting pipeline, is correctly reflected. Water availability and the operation of the proposed storage infrastructure will be further considered through the EIA and Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>2.2. The Helpmekaar Dam enlargement will increase the dam's storage capacity to approximately 800 000m<sup>3</sup>, with a net gain of about 410 000m<sup>3</sup>. The dam wall will be raised to a maximum height of approximately 13,9m, with a crest length of around 320m. At full supply level, the reservoir will inundate approximately 16,3ha (dam footprint ~20ha).</p> <p>2.3. The proposed buffer dam, located downslope of Helpmekaar Dam, will provide an additional ±27 000m<sup>3</sup> (±2,1ha) of inundated area, with a wall height of about 5,4m and a crest length of ±392 m. The buffer dam will assist in regulating irrigation supply and operational efficiency.</p> <p>2.4. A ±1,7–2km underground pipeline (Ø300–360 mm) will connect the Helpmekaar Dam to the buffer dam. The alignment has been planned to follow existing farm roads and cultivated areas as far as possible, minimising environmental disturbance.</p> <p>3. This Directorate has the following comments that must be addressed and included in the SR:</p> <p>3.1. Applicability listed</p> <p>3.1.1. As indicated in this Directorate correspondence 16 February 2026 the listed activities are incorrectly quoted in the SR, specifically Activity 66 of Listing notice 1 and Activity 23 of Listing Notice 3. Please ensure that the wording of the</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted and confirmed. The description of the proposed Helpmekaar Dam enlargement, including the proposed storage capacity, net increase in storage volume, dam wall height, crest length and anticipated inundation area, is correctly reflected.</p> <p>The comment is noted and confirmed. The description of the proposed buffer dam, including its storage capacity, inundation area, wall height, crest length and intended operational function, is correctly reflected.</p> <p>The comment is noted and confirmed. The description of the proposed pipeline, including its approximate length, diameter and preferred alignment through existing disturbed agricultural areas, is correctly reflected. The final alignment will be confirmed during the EIA phase, taking into account environmental sensitivities, technical feasibility and agricultural constraints.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The wording of the applicable listed activities has been reviewed and amended to reflect the exact wording contained in the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), including Activity 66 of Listing Notice 1 and Activity 23 of Listing Notice 3.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>applicable listed activities is quoted from the Regulations.</p> <p>3.1.2. In addition, it was indicated that the motivation for the listed activities must be updated. The expansion activities relate to the enlargement of the existing dam and the development activities relate to the buffer dam, and this must be clearly reflected as such.</p> <p>3.1.3. In addition to paragraph 3.1.2, the motivation for Activity 16 of Listing Notice 2 must reflect the information relating to the buffer dam design specifications.</p> <p>3.1.4. Please ensure that this is corrected in the final SR.</p> <p>3.2. Alternatives</p> <p>3.2.1. It is noted that two 2 pipeline route alternatives have been identified for assessment.</p> <p>3.2.2. Please ensure that the preferred alternative is clearly indicated and that the length and diameter of the pipeline is clearly specified.</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. The motivations for the applicable listed activities have been revised to clearly distinguish between activities associated with the enlargement of the existing Helpmekaar Dam and those associated with the construction of the proposed buffer dam.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The motivation for Activity 16 of Listing Notice 2 has been amended to include the relevant design specifications of the proposed buffer dam, including the storage capacity, inundation area and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The relevant amendments have been incorporated into the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>The comment is noted. Two pipeline route alternatives have been identified and assessed as part of the alternatives assessment process.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The preferred pipeline alignment (Green Route) has been clearly identified in the Draft Scoping Report and will be included in the Final Scoping Report. The pipeline length (approximately 1.7–2.0 km) and diameter (approximately 300–360 mm) have also been included. The reasons for selecting the preferred alignment, including environmental, technical and agricultural considerations, are provided in the alternatives assessment section.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>3.2.3. The evolution of the proposed development (i.e. dam design and/or location) that was undertaken during the conceptual phase of the proposal must be provided, as well as the reasons for not further assessing the options that were previously not considered feasible.</p> <p>3.3. Public Participation Process</p> <p><b>3.3.1. It has come to this Directorate's attention that the newspaper advertisement has been placed, and the commenting period closed before a Notice of Intent ("NOI") was submitted to this Directorate. Your attention is drawn to the requirement of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which requires that potential or registered I&amp;APs must be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.</b></p> <p><b>3.3.2. Since the above requirement has not been met, you are required to place a newspaper advertisement during the EIA phase to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) of the public commenting period. Please note that this is not the standard operating procedure of this Department.</b></p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. Additional information has been included in the alternatives assessment section describing the evolution of the proposed development during the conceptual planning phase, including the consideration of alternative layouts and infrastructure configurations. The reasons why certain alternatives were not considered feasible or were not assessed further have also been provided.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The Applicant acknowledges the Department's interpretation of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The issue raised regarding the timing of the newspaper advertisement and public commenting period has been noted.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. A newspaper advertisement will be placed during the EIA phase to notify Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) of the public commenting period in accordance with the Department's instruction.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p><b>3.3.3. Normally, the placement of a newspaper advertisement, the erection of site notices, and the circulation of a draft report must only be undertaken after a NOI or an application form has been submitted to the competent authority.</b></p> <p><b>3.3.4. The placement of a newspaper advertisement during the EIA phase will be permitted for this application only and must not be regarded as a precedent for future applications.</b></p> <p><b>3.3.5. In future, all public participation requirements must be undertaken following the submission of the NOI or application form to the competent authority.</b></p> <p>3.4. The dam wall height on page 4 reflects 15,5m, however, elsewhere in the SR it reflects that the dam wall height will be 13,9m. the correct dam wall height must be reflected throughout the SR.</p> <p>3.5. It is noted that a Water Use License ("WUL") Application process for the additional taking of water for the irrigation of the proposed cultivation areas is currently underway. Further to this Directorate's comment on the pre-application Draft Scoping Report dated 16 February 2026, you are reminded that this Directorate requires proof of the availability of sufficient water supply as one of the relevant</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. The Applicant acknowledges the Department's standard requirements regarding the timing of public participation activities relative to the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) or application form.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. The Applicant acknowledges that the Department's allowance to place a newspaper advertisement during the EIA phase applies only to this application and does not establish a precedent for future applications.</p> <p>The comment is noted. Future public participation processes undertaken by the Applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner will be aligned with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and the Department's procedural requirements.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The discrepancy relating to the Helpmekaar Dam wall height was reviewed against the latest engineering information. The Final Scoping Report has been amended to ensure that the correct dam wall height is reflected consistently throughout the report.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The requirement to provide proof of sufficient water availability for the proposed development is acknowledged. Water availability, water allocation and the associated water rights are being addressed through the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process. The requested supporting documentation, including any applicable correspondence from the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>considerations for the current application in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). You are therefore required to provide this Directorate with either a letter of support from Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency and/or approved Water Use License for the required additional water rights. <b>Such letter or authorisation must be submitted with the final EIA Report. Failure to include this information may prejudice the outcome of the current application.</b></p> <p>4. Regulatory requirements:</p> <p>4.1. Proof of the notifications and the copies of the notification letters sent to registered I&amp;APs for the comment on the draft SR must be included in the SR.</p> <p>4.2. All representations and comments received during the commenting period for the must be in process final SR and any responses by the EAP to those representations and comments must be tabulated in a comments and response report.</p> <p>4.3. The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&amp;APs and other role players which record the views of the participants.</p> |  | <p>and/or the relevant water use authorisation, will be submitted with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, where available and applicable. The findings of the hydrological assessment and WULA process will be incorporated into the EIA process and considered as part of the final impact assessment.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. Proof of notification and copies of the notification letters issued to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs) during the Draft Scoping Report public participation process have been included in the Public Participation Process appendices to the Final Scoping Report submission.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. All comments and representations received during the public participation process have been recorded and responded to in the Comments and Response Report. The final Comments and Response Report will be included in the Final Scoping Report submission.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. Minutes and records of meetings held with Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs), authorities and other stakeholders, where applicable, will be included in the Public Participation Process documentation accompanying the Final Scoping Report.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>4.4. Please be advised that a digitally signed and dated applicant declaration is required to be submitted with the SR to this Directorate for decision-making. It is important to note that by signing this declaration, the applicant is confirming that they are aware and have taken cognisance of the contents of the report. Furthermore, through signing this declaration, the applicant is making a commitment that they are both willing and able to implement the necessary mitigation, management and monitoring measures recommended within the report with respect to this application.</p> <p>4.5. In addition to the above, please ensure that an updated digitally signed and dated EAP and specialist declarations are also submitted with the final SR for decision-making.</p> <p>5. You are reminded that the SR must contain all the information outlined in Appendix 2 of Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>6. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p> <p>7. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by this Directorate.</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted and accepted. A digitally signed and dated Applicant Declaration will be submitted with the Final Scoping Report for decision-making purposes.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. Updated, digitally signed and dated Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and specialist declarations will be submitted with the Final Scoping Report for decision-making purposes.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. The Final Scoping Report will contain the information required in terms of Appendix 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended).</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. The Department's reference number will be quoted in all future correspondence relating to the proposed development.</p> <p>The comment is noted and accepted. The Applicant acknowledges that the proposed activity may not commence prior to the granting of an Environmental Authorisation by the competent authority.</p> |  |
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|             | 8. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |         | The comment is noted and accepted. The Applicant acknowledges that the Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request additional information based on information received during the course of the application process. |              |
| 12 May 2026 | <p><b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT ("SR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NO. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES</b></p> <p>1. The Application form dated 13 April 2026 and the Draft SR dated May 2026, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 5 May 2026, refers.</p> <p>2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned documents by this Directorate.</p> <p>3. Please note that since an application has been lodged with the Department, the pre-application file (DEA&amp;DP Reference: 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25) has been closed for administrative purposes.</p> <p>4. Please note that this Directorate will consider the draft SR and issue a comment within the prescribed timeframe, which ends on 12 June 2026.</p> | WCDEADP | <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>The comment is noted and the Directorate's acknowledgement of receipt is welcomed.</p> <p>The comment is noted.</p> <p>The comment is noted.</p>                                                                        | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|              | <p>5. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p> <p>6. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           | <p>The comment is noted and the Department's reference number will be quoted in all future correspondence relating to the proposed development.</p> <p>The comment is noted and acknowledged.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |
| 12 June 2026 | <p><b>PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR 1 DAM (HELPMEKAAR DAM) AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUFFER DAM - COMMENT ON DRAFT SCOPING REPORT</b></p> <p>We refer to the Draft Scoping Report and all the appendices issued in NEMA Public Participation Process – Availability of the Draft Scoping Report, dated 2026-05-08. Set out below are our comments on and objections to the proposed Enlargement of the Langrub-Boonste Nr 1 Dam (Help mekaar Dam) and Buffer Dam and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>1. SECTION 1.1 – BACKGROUND</b></p> <p>In paragraph 2, the following statement is made: <i>“To support the proposed conversion of approximately 45 ha of annual crops into permanent fruit orchards, Sterkwater Boerdery proposes the enlargement of the existing Langrug-Boonste Nr. 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam), the construction of a new 27 000 m³ buffer dam, and the installation of an approximately 1.7–2.0 km connecting pipeline.”</i> The drawing attached to Appendix 2B states that the dam will have a netto storage capacity of approximately 45 200 m³. This contradicts the volume quoted in the draft scoping report. The correct volumes must be presented in the reports and drawings, as well as be assessed accordingly.</p> | J du Toit | <p>The comment is noted. The comments and objections submitted have been recorded and considered as part of the public participation process. Responses to the issues raised are provided below.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The discrepancy between the storage capacity reflected in the Draft Scoping Report and that reflected on the drawing contained in Appendix 2B was identified during the review process. The storage capacity of approximately 45 200 m³ reflected on the drawing relates to an earlier design iteration of the proposed buffer dam.</p> <p>The current preferred design provides for a buffer dam with a storage capacity of approximately 27 000 m³, as reflected throughout the Draft Scoping Report. The relevant drawings and supporting documentation have been updated to ensure consistency between the project description, engineering information and associated</p> | EnviroAfrica |

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|  | <p><b>2. SECTION 1.2 – DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY</b></p> <p>In paragraph 5, the following statement is made: “<i>The primary purpose of the development is to store winter runoff from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River for use during the dry summer period, subject to confirmation of water availability through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Water Use Licence Application (WULA) processes.</i>” It is stated that the primary purpose of the development is to store winter runoff. Elsewhere, it is stated that the enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam will only store surplus winter runoff. Is this what is meant by the quoted statement? What mechanisms will be put in place to prevent the dam from additionally storing other runoff water? Will similar mechanisms be put in place to prevent the Buffer Dam from storing any water other than surplus winter runoff? The application cannot be supported without knowing about these mechanisms.</p> <p>The last paragraph lists the water uses that will be applied for, but it does not provide the volumes to be applied for in terms of section 21(a) and 21(b) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1996). This must be added to the report to clarify the application.</p> |  | <p>appendices. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess the impacts associated with the final preferred design.</p> <p>The comment is noted. The intention of the statement is that the proposed storage infrastructure is intended to store winter runoff from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River, subject to the outcome of the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process. The Final Scoping Report does not make a final determination regarding water availability or operational rules. The operation of the proposed Helpmekaar Dam enlargement and buffer dam, including the timing and conditions under which water may be abstracted, stored and transferred, will be regulated through the WULA process and associated operating rules prescribed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). These matters will be informed by the hydrological assessment and assessed further during the EIA phase.</p> <p>The comment regarding the inclusion of water-use volumes is noted. The proposed water uses in terms of Sections 21(a) and 21(b) of the National Water Act will be described in the Final Scoping Report to the extent that information is currently available. Further details relating to water allocation, abstraction volumes, storage volumes and operating requirements will be confirmed and assessed through the WULA process and presented in the EIA phase.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p><b>3. SECTION 2 – NEED AND DESIRABILITY</b></p> <p>In paragraph 1, the following statement is made: <i>“At the same time, comments from downstream users have highlighted the need to ensure that any increased storage does not unlawfully prejudice existing lawful water use.”</i> This statement does not coincide with the comments in Appendix 4E. The proposed development may not have any negative influence on the downstream users. Also, the existing lawful water uses must be confirmed by the Department: Water and Sanitation (DWS), before they can assess this application. Otherwise, they will not be in a position to fully assess the water uses downstream of the proposed development.</p> <p>In one of paragraph 2’s bullets, the following statement is made: <i>“Storing winter runoff for regulated use during the dry summer months, subject to ecological flow requirements and Water Use Licence conditions.”</i> The winter runoff in this statement must be clearly defined. And the releases from the dam must include natural streamflow releases, which include downstream users’ lawful water uses, along with the ecological release. Otherwise, the development will negatively impact downstream water users, which is unlawful under the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1996).</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. The concern regarding the potential impact of the proposed development on downstream water users and existing lawful water uses is acknowledged. The Final Scoping Report has been amended to clarify that the proposed development may not result in unlawful impacts on downstream users or existing lawful water uses. The assessment of water availability, existing lawful water use, downstream water requirements and the potential implications of the proposed development will be undertaken through the hydrological assessment and the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).</p> <p>The comment regarding the reference to winter runoff is noted. The relevant sections of the Final Scoping Report have been revised to clarify that water availability, operational rules, ecological flow requirements and downstream user considerations will be assessed through the hydrological assessment and WULA process. The operation of the proposed storage infrastructure will ultimately be subject to the requirements and conditions imposed by the Department of Water and Sanitation through the WULA process.</p> <p>The comment regarding the confirmation of existing lawful water use by the Department of Water and Sanitation is noted. Existing lawful water use, water availability and downstream user considerations form part of the matters to be considered through the hydrological assessment and WULA process and will be further assessed during the EIA phase.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p><b>4. SECTION 2.1.1 – LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY</b></p> <p>In paragraph 3, the following statement is made: <i>“The addition of a small buffer dam downstream has been strategically positioned to enhance operational efficiency and stabilise irrigation flows, while the pipeline route has been aligned along cultivated areas and farm roads to minimise environmental disturbance.”</i> The proposed position presented in Appendix 2B shows the Buffer Dam to be in another tributary of the Leeu River, which flows into the Leeu River upstream of the tributary in which the Helpmekaar Dam is situated (see the figure below). This must be clarified.</p>  <p>Figure 1 – Dam positions (courtesy: CapeFarmMapper)</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. The figure submitted by the commenter highlights the need for greater clarity regarding the location of the proposed buffer dam relative to the Helpmekaar Dam and the surrounding tributary system. The Final Scoping Report will clarify the spatial relationship between the Helpmekaar Dam, the proposed buffer dam and the connecting pipeline. The buffer dam is associated with the Helpmekaar Dam through the proposed transfer infrastructure and operational irrigation system, rather than implying that it is necessarily located directly downstream within the same tributary. The final hydraulic and operational relationship between the dams will be assessed and confirmed during the EIA and WULA processes.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p><b>5. SECTION 4.5 – HYDROLOGY</b></p> <p>In paragraph 6, the following statement is made: “<i>The study will assess the potential impact of reduced upstream spill volumes on downstream water users, including the Wydekloof Dam and associated irrigation schemes.</i>” Alternative infrastructure must be investigated to ensure that the Helpmekaar Dam discharges/releases the water similarly to what it released before the enlargement of the dam. The enlarged dam should not start discharging/releasing water once it is full. If it does, then the dam will be filled first with the downstream dams filling last, i.e., negatively influencing the downstream users.</p> <p>The hydrological study must also include losses from the enlarged dam, such as evaporation and infiltration at the dam.</p> <p><b>6. FORMAL OBJECTION</b></p> <p>As set out above, the draft scoping report lacks information on key aspects and impacts of the proposed enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam and the proposed Buffer Dam. Until fully researched and verifiable information is presented, no value judgement can be made about the impact of the</p> |  | <p>The comment is noted. The concern regarding potential changes to downstream flow patterns and the implications for downstream water users is acknowledged. The purpose of the hydrological assessment is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on downstream water availability, flow regimes, existing lawful water users, and associated irrigation schemes.</p> <p>The comment regarding the operation of the enlarged Helpmekaar Dam and the timing of releases is noted. Operational requirements, abstraction rules, storage conditions, environmental flow requirements, and downstream user considerations will be assessed through the hydrological assessment and the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The findings of these processes will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase and any operational conditions that may be imposed.</p> <p>The comment regarding evaporation, seepage and other potential storage losses is also noted. These aspects form part of the hydrological assessment and will be considered during the evaluation of water availability, storage requirements and the overall water balance associated with the proposed development.</p> <p>The objection is noted and recorded. The concerns raised regarding water availability, downstream water users, ecological functioning, dam operation and the adequacy of available information are acknowledged.</p> |  |
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**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam on downstream water users and the ecology. Hence, the enlargement of the Helpmekaar Dam and the construction of the Buffer Dam cannot be supported. Therefore, please register our objection to the project.</p> |  | <p>The purpose of the Scoping Phase is to identify key issues, potential impacts and specialist studies required to assess the proposed development. The matters raised in the objection have informed the scope of the specialist investigations and will be assessed further during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase and the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process.</p> <p>The objection will remain on record and will be included in the Final Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Assessment process for consideration by the competent authorities. The findings of the specialist studies, hydrological assessment and regulatory processes will assist the competent authorities in making an informed decision regarding the proposed development.</p> |  |
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| Comments received- Final Scoping Report: 26 June 2026 - 30 July 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |         |                                                                                                                       |              |
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| Date                                                                 | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | I&AP    | Response                                                                                                              | Respondent   |
| 26 July 2026                                                         | <p><b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT ("SR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NO. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES</b></p> <p>1. The final SR dated June 2026, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 19 June 2026, refers.</p> | WCDEADP | <p>Noted. The Final Scoping Report dated June 2026 was submitted to the Directorate and received on 19 June 2026.</p> | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|              | <p>2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned documents by this Directorate.</p> <p>3. Please note that this Directorate will consider the final SR in accordance with the prescribed timeframes and advise you accordingly.</p> <p>4. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.</p> <p>5. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.</p>                                                                           |         | <p>Noted. The Directorate's acknowledgement of receipt of the Final Scoping Report is noted.</p> <p>Noted. The Directorate's consideration of the Final Scoping Report in accordance with the prescribed regulatory timeframes is acknowledged.</p> <p>Noted and complied with. The Departmental reference number 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26 has been and will continue to be quoted in correspondence and documentation relating to the proposed development.</p> <p>Noted. Should the Directorate require any further information or clarification during the assessment process, such information will be provided as requested.</p> |              |
| 30 June 2026 | <p><b>ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT ("SR") SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NO. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES</b></p> <p>1. The final SR dated June 2026, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 19 June 2026, refers.</p> | WCDEADP | <p>Noted. The Final Scoping Report dated June 2026 was submitted to and received by the Directorate on 19 June 2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | EnviroAfrica |

**APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT - THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

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|  | <p>2. This letter serves to inform you that the abovementioned document has been accepted by this Directorate <b>on condition</b> that:</p> <p>2.1. The decision on the Water Use License Application submitted to the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency is submitted during the EIA phase of the application procedure. Failure to include this information may prejudice the outcome of the current application.</p> <p>2.2. Georeferenced map/s including the point coordinates for the various footprints that forms part of the proposed development (i.e. both dams and pipeline infrastructure), is included in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p> <p>3. You are hereby advised that the EIA Report must contain all information set out in Appendix 3 of EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and must also include the information requested in this letter. Omission of any of the said information may result in the application for Environmental Authorisation being refused.</p> <p>4. Note that the specialist report(s) must be appended to the EIA Report. Please ensure that these specialist reports contain all information specified in Appendix 6 of</p> |  | <p>Noted. The acceptance of the Final Scoping Report and the conditions attached thereto are acknowledged. The requirements of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 have been taken into account during the EIA phase.</p> <p>Noted. The water use authorisation process for the proposed development is being undertaken separately through the relevant water-use authorisation process. The application is active under reference WU38102. At the time of compilation of the Draft EIA Report, a final decision on the water use authorisation had not yet been issued. The status of the application has therefore been recorded in the Draft EIA Report. Should the decision be issued during the EIA process, it will be submitted to the Directorate and incorporated into the EIA documentation, as applicable.</p> <p>Complied with. Georeferenced mapping depicting the proposed enlarged Helpmekaar Dam (Langrug-Boonste No. 1 Dam), Buffer Dam, connecting pipeline and associated infrastructure has been included in the Draft EIA Report and relevant appendices. The applicable coordinates and development footprints are also provided in the EIA documentation.</p> <p>Complied with. The Draft EIA Report has been compiled in accordance with the applicable requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and incorporates the additional information requested by the Directorate.</p> <p>Complied with. The specialist assessments undertaken for the proposed development have been appended to the Draft EIA Report. These include the relevant freshwater,</p> |  |
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|  | <p>the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and the protocols.</p> <p>5. In addition to the above, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") must submit the draft EIA Report and EMPr to this Directorate for a 30-day comment period. The draft EIA Report and EMPr, must also be made available to all relevant State Departments/Organs of State that administer laws relating to a matter affecting the environment, for a 30-day comment period. The EAP must notify this Directorate in writing of the date the draft EIA Report and EMPr was submitted to the relevant State Departments/Organs of State and clearly indicate whether or not such State Departments/Organs of State were notified of the 30-day comment period in terms of Section 24O of NEMA. It is imperative that State Departments/Organs of State are in possession of the draft Reports when the EAP issues them with the notice in terms of Section 24O of NEMA. Please note that the EAP is responsible for such consultation. Therefore, it is requested that the EAP include proof of such notification to the relevant State Departments/Organs of State in terms of Section 24O(2) and (3) of NEMA in the draft EIA Report, where appropriate.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Please be reminded that a newspaper advertisement must be placed to during the EIA phase that clearly outlines the commenting period on the draft EIA report and meets the requirements of this Directorates public participation guideline.</u></b></p> |  | <p>terrestrial biodiversity, heritage/palaeontological, agricultural and other applicable specialist inputs. The specialist findings and recommendations have also been incorporated into the impact assessment and environmental management measures, where applicable.</p> <p>Will be complied with during the Draft EIA public participation process. The Draft EIA Report and EMPr will be made available to the Directorate, registered I&amp;APs and relevant State Departments/Organs of State for the prescribed 30-day commenting period. Relevant Organs of State will be provided with access to the Draft EIA documentation when notified of the commenting period. The Directorate will be notified in writing of the commencement date of the commenting period and the relevant section 24O notifications. Proof of notification and consultation will be retained and included in the public participation documentation for the EIA process.</p> <p>Will be complied with. A newspaper advertisement will be placed as part of the Draft EIA public participation process, clearly indicating the availability of the Draft EIA Report and the applicable commenting period. The advertisement will be prepared in accordance with the applicable public participation requirements and the Directorate's public participation guideline.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>7. The EAP must record and respond to all comments received. The comments and responses must be captured in a Comments and Responses Report and must also include a description of the public participation process followed. This report must also be included in the public participation information to be attached to the EIA report submitted for a decision.</p> <p>8. Please ensure that comments from all the relevant Organs of State, including any comments from this Directorate, are submitted with the EIA Report.</p> <p>9. You must now proceed with the EIA process in accordance with the tasks outlined in the plan of study for the EIA.</p> <p>10. This Directorate awaits the submission of the EIA Report as prescribed by the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended). In accordance with Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended), the EIA Report and EMPr must be submitted to this Directorate for decision within a period of 106 days from the date of this letter. If however, significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the EIA Report, the applicant/EAP must notify this Directorate that an additional 50 days (i.e. 156 days from the date of the acceptance of the Scoping Report by this Directorate) would be required for the submission of the EIA Report. The additional 50 days must include a minimum 30-day commenting period to</p> |  | <p>Will be complied with. All comments received during the Draft EIA public participation process will be recorded and responded to in an updated Comments and Responses Report. The report will also provide details of the public participation process undertaken and will form part of the public participation documentation submitted with the Final EIA Report for decision-making.</p> <p>Will be complied with. All comments received from relevant Organs of State, including correspondence and comments received from the Directorate, will be included in the public participation documentation accompanying the Final EIA Report.</p> <p>Complied with / ongoing. The EIA phase is being undertaken in accordance with the accepted Plan of Study for EIA, including completion of the required specialist assessments, impact assessment, compilation of the Draft EIA Report and EMPr, and the prescribed public participation process.</p> <p>Noted and will be complied with. The applicable timeframe prescribed by Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), has been taken into account in the EIA programme. Should significant changes or significant new information necessitate application of the additional 50-day period, the Directorate will be notified accordingly and the applicable additional public participation requirements will be followed.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>allow registered I&amp;APs to comment on the revised report and/or additional information.</p> <p>11. If the EIA Report and EMPr, are not submitted within the prescribed timeframe, the application will lapse in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and your file will be closed. Should you wish to pursue the application again, a new application process would have to be initiated. A new Application Form would have to be submitted and the prescribed application fee would have to be paid again.</p> <p>12. Please note that electronic copies of the EIA Report and EMPr, must be submitted to this Directorate for decision.</p> <p>13. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.</p> <p>14. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by this Directorate. It is an offence in terms of Section 49A of the NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity unless the Department has granted an environmental authorisation for the undertaking of the activity. Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 24F and 49A of the NEMA will result in the matter being referred to the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Directorate of this Department for prosecution. A person convicted of an offence in terms of the above is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million</p> |  | <p>Noted. The prescribed regulatory timeframe and the consequences of Regulation 45 have been noted and will be taken into account in managing the EIA process.</p> <p>Noted and will be complied with. Electronic copies of the Final EIA Report, EMPr and relevant supporting documentation will be submitted to the Directorate for decision in the required format.</p> <p>Noted and complied with. Departmental reference number 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26 has been and will continue to be quoted in correspondence and documentation relating to the application.</p> <p>Noted. No listed or specified activity forming part of the proposed development may commence prior to the granting of Environmental Authorisation and compliance with the applicable conditions and other statutory approval requirements. The Applicant has been informed accordingly.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.</p> <p>15. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw comments or request further information from you based on any information that might be received.</p> |  | <p>Noted. Any further information or clarification requested by the Directorate during the assessment process will be addressed and submitted as required.</p> |  |
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