

Wie dit mag aangaan

**KOMMER AANGAANDE DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE
LANGRUGBOONSTE NR1 DAM (“HELPMEEKAAR DAM”) EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN
DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM OP DIE PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202 , DEEL 5, CERES**

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dit is ook belangrik dat alle V&V waterregistrasies afgehandel word.

Ons waardeer die geleentheid om ons standpunt te stel en vertrou dat alle belange en impakte in ag geneem sal word in die besluitnemingsproses.

Byvoorbaat dank

WReynolds

W Reynolds

Bokkenfontein

EnviroAfrica CC

ATT: Bianca Gilfillan

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Helderberg

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**THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS
HELPMEEKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, ON FARM RIETRIVIER 202, PORTION 5, CERES, WESTERN CAPE**

WCDEADP reference:16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25

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.

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.

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.

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.

Kind Regards



Gerrit van der Merwe



Thinus van der Merwe



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Datum: 20 Februarie 2026

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Geliewe Bianca,

FORMELE BESWAAR: VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN HELPMEKAAR DAM

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.

Daar word vermeld dat 'n Watergebruiklisensie Aansoek ingedien sal word om die impak van wateronttrekking te evalueer. Hierdie impak behoort egter reeds tydens die omvangsbepalingsfase deeglik ondersoek en beoordeel te word. Op hierdie stadium is daar onvoldoende geverifieerde inligting om 'n ingeligte oordeel oor die omgewingsimpak te vel.



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.

Byvoorbaat Dank

CHRISTI VAN DEN HEEVER
LANDGOED BESTUURDER
RIETFontein

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2026-02-20

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For Attention: B Gilfillan

Dear Bianca

**PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR 1 DAM (HELPMEKAAR DAM) -
COMMENT ON SCOPING REPORT**

We refer to the Pre-Application Scoping Report and Plan of Study dated November 2025 and submit as set out below our comment on and objections to the proposed Enlargement of the Langrug-Boonste Nr 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam).

1 SECTION 2 – NEED AND DESIRABILITY

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

2 SECTION 3 – ALTERNATIVES

Other than for the two alternative pipeline routes presented, the report does not present any information on alternatives considered to the enlargement of the Helmelaar Dam. No information is provided on a possible dam in an alternative catchment, alternative water sources such as boreholes, or the cultivation of alternative crops. Until this is provided no value judgement can be made about the proposed dam enlargement.

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.



Figure 1 - Regional contours

3 SECTION 4.4 – FRESHWATER

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 therefor cannot be made that there is water available for an increased taking and storing of water without impacting on downstream producers.

4 SECTION 5.2 – FRESHWATER IMPACT

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 the abstraction.

5 FORMAL OBJECTION

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 fo the dam and hence the enlargement cannot be supported. Therefor
please register our objection to the project.

Kind regards

Storey ENG (Pty) Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PJ du Toit', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

PJ du Toit
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reference SSD14/2/6/1/9/6/202-5_Water_Helpmekaar Dam_Ceres
date 20 February 2026

Bianca Gilfillan
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By email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za / info@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Ms Gilfillan

RE: The Proposed Enlargement of Langrug-Boonste NRI 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
DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pre-Application Scoping Report. Please note that our comments pertain primarily to impacts on biodiversity and not to the overall desirability of the project.

1. CapeNature commented on the First Public Participation Process (letter dated 28 October 2025). These comments still have reference.
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 remains. Furthermore, the majority of the site (Langrug/Helpmekaar Dam) is mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA I) 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 Surface water (Groot Winterhoek) and is in close proximity to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area (MCA), Protected Area.

3. The Comments and Response Report (C&RR) stated that “Specialist studies to be undertaken during the EIA Phase will include:
- Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic) Assessment to determine vegetation condition, habitat loss, and mitigation needs;
 - Freshwater Assessment to evaluate hydrological and wetland impacts;
 - Agricultural Assessment to assess land capability and soil productivity; and
 - A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) will be submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC).”

This was a response to our previous comments. Furthermore, the C&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.

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.

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

Yours sincerely



Leandra Knoetze

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Reg. No. 2015/061391/07

19/02/2026

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COMMENTS AND OBJECTION: Helpmekaar Dam | Pre-application Scoping Report – November 2025

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 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.**

and as emphasized by the report

2. “From an environmental perspective, the development has been carefully planned to minimize 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 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.**

Main concerns and response are.:

Any future proposed project within the catchment area will have the same “alignment with regional and national objectives for sustainable agriculture, rural development, 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.**

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.

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.
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.**
5. The objection submitted on the 20th of October 2025 by Christi van den Heever (to which Donkerbos Estate is part of) below refers:

“BESWAAR 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.

SONDER BENADELING VAN REGTE:

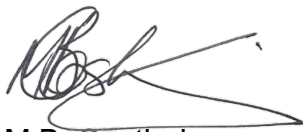
Hiermee teken die oewereienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam amptelik beswaar aan teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-boonste Nr1 Dam ("Helpmekaar dam") en die konstruksie van die "Nuwe Buffer" dam (meegaande infrastruktuur) Plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres.

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.

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.

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."

The objections above are clear and valid. Therefore Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. cannot support these proposed projects.



M.B. Oosthuizen

Managing Director: Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25

DATE: 16 February 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

7600

6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

1. The SR dated November 2025, as received by the Directorate: Development Management Region 1 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 16 January 2026, refers.
2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the draft SR and to provide comment on the report.
3. Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, the following is noted:
 - 3.1 The enlargement of the existing Langrug-Boonste No. 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam), the construction of a new buffer dam, and the installation of a ± 2 km connecting pipeline.
 - 3.2 The Helpmekaar Dam enlargement will increase the dam's storage capacity to approximately 800 000m³, with a net gain of about 410 000m³. 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).
 - 3.3 The proposed buffer dam, located downslope of Helpmekaar Dam, will provide an additional ± 27 000m³ ($\pm 2,1$ ha) 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.
 - 3.4 A $\pm 1,7$ –2km underground pipeline ($\varnothing 300$ –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.

4. This Directorate has the following comments that must be addressed and included in the SR:

4.1 Activity description

- 4.1.1. Page 10 of the SR refers to the buffer dam being 27 000m² and page 23 refers to 27 000m³. The correct storage capacity of the dam must be included in all sections of the report that refer to the storage capacity.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

4.2. Applicable listed activities

- 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 listed activities applicable to the proposed development. Confirmation must be provided as to which activity is applicable to the proposed development.
- 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.
- 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.

4.3. Alternatives

- 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.
- 4.3.2. This section on alternatives must be updated to include the length of the preferred pipeline route.

4.4. Plan of Study ("POS")

- 4.4.1. Appendix 2(1)(h)(i) requires that the POS includes 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.
- 4.4.2. The POS of study must be updated to include the above.

4.5. Water use license

- 4.5.1. Since additional water will be abstracted (410 000m³) for the proposed enlarged dam, it is imperative that assurance regarding the availability of water is provided.
- 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.**

- 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.
5. Regulatory requirements:
 - 5.2. Proof of the notifications and the copies of the notification letters sent to registered I&APs for the comment on the draft SR must be included in the final SR.
 - 5.3. 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.
 - 5.4. The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&APs and other role players which record the views of the participants.
 - 5.5. 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.
 - 5.6. 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.
6. You are reminded that the SR must contain all the information outlined in Appendix 2 of Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations 2014 (as amended).
7. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
8. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by this Directorate.
9. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully



Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.02.16
13:07:44 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. D. Nasson (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
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From: Jaco du Toit <jaco@langrivier.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 November 2025 15:01
To: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Public Participation: Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); Helpmekaar dam, Ceres
Attachments: Helpmekaar dam.pdf; NEMA Notification - Helpmekaar Dam, Ceres.pdf

Good day,

IE: **Public Participation:** Interested and Affected Parties (I&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**

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.

Your contact person is Jaco du Toit. All relevant information could be sent to his email address:

jaco@langrivier.co.za

Please confirm receipt of this email

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reference SSD14/2/6/1/9/6/202-5_Water_Helpmekaar Dam_Ceres
date 28 October 2025

Bianca Gilfillan
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By email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za / info@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Ms Gilfillan

RE: The Proposed Enlargement of Langrug-Boonste NRI 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
DEA&DP Ref: TBC

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.

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.
2. The majority of the site (Langrug/Helpmekaar Dam) is mapped as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA I) 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 Surface water (Groot Winterhoek) and is in close proximity to the Winterhoek Mountain Catchment Area (MCA), Protected Area.
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).

4. CapeNature will provide further comment once more detailed information is available in the Pre-Application Scoping Phase and the associated/applicable specialist studies.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Knoetze', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Leandra Knoetze

bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

From: Lina Smit <linas@dutoit.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2025 15:57
To: Gys du Toit
Cc: Izak Smit; Floris Steenkamp; uitsig@kbyboerdery.co.za; bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: VOORGESTELDE BESWARE
Attachments: Scanned_from_a_Lexmark_Multifunction_Product23-10-2025-124407.pdf

Goeiemiddag,

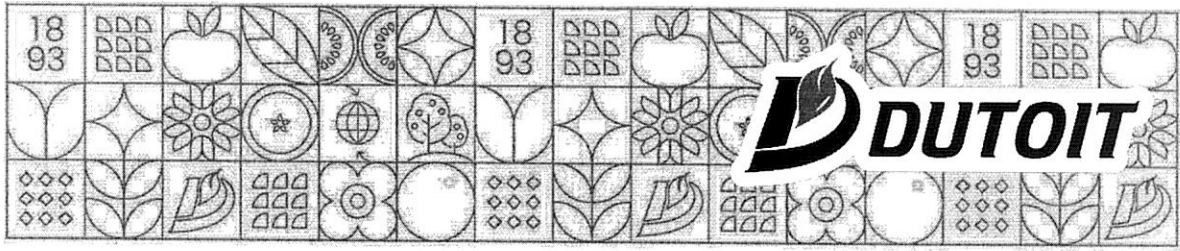
Hiermee die voorgestelde besware – sien aangeheg.

Kind Regards,

LINA SMIT
IT/Admin
Tandfontein
Office: +27 23 317 1893
Mobile: +27 824424244
Website: www.dutoitagri.co.za

[Disclaimer](#)





Wie dit mag aangaan

Tandfontein
+27 (0) 23 317 1846
23 Oktober 2025

Sonder benadeling van regte

KOMMER AANGAANDE DIE VOORGESTELDE VERGROTING VAN DIE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR1 DAM ("HELPMEKAAR DAM") EN DIE KONSTRUKSIE VAN DIE NUWE BUFFER DAM OP PLAAS RIETRIVIER 202, DEEL 5, CERES

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.

Dutoit Agri (Tandfontein) versoek dat daar deeglik oorweeg word watter impak enige verdere onttrekking van oppervlakwater uit die Leeuwrvier op die bestaande gebruikers, en spesifiek op Tandfontein, mag hê.

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.

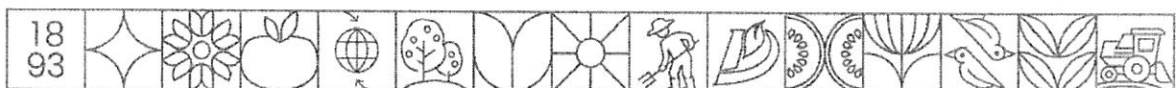
Bevestig asseblief of daar 'n omvattende opname gedoen is om te bepaal of die laaste ontvangers van water uit die Leeuwrvier, moontlik benadeel kan word deur die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.

Dit is ook belangrik dat alle V&V waterregistrasies afgehandel word.

Ons waardeer die geleentheid om ons standpunt te stel en vertrou dat alle belange en impakte in ag geneem sal word in die besluitnemingsproses.

By voorbaat dankie.


Izak Smit
Landgoedbestuurder
Tandfontein



22 Oktober 2025

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, EWESTERN CAPE

Hiermee wil Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery BK en die Spitskop Trust registreer as "Interested and Affected Party" (I&AP) i.v.m. bogenoemde projek.

Geaffekteerde Partye: Ceres Fonteintjie Boerdery BK en Die Spitskop Trust

Fisiese adres: Fonteintjie Plaas

Koue Bokkeveld

6836

Kontakpersoon: Gerrit van der Merwe

Emailadres: admin@fonteintjie.co.za (preferred method of notification)

Selfoonnommer: 079 728 2442

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 eiendomme 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"***.

Blaai om

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 Fonteintjie Boerdery BK en Die Spitskop Trust die projek kan ondersteun.

Die Uwe



Gerrit van der Merwe



Thinus van der Merwe

bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

From: Admin <admin@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 08:37
To: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Besware teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekeer dam
Attachments: Helpmekeer dam.pdf

FYI

Margaret Christians
BCOM HRM



Enviroafrica cc

p: +27 21851 1616

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz Street, Somerset west, 7130

P. Postnet Suit 341, Private Bag X29, Somerset West 7129

W: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: info@enviroafrica.co.za

BE100%GREEN, READ FROM THE SCREEN

From: Christi vd Heever <christi@graaff-fruit.com>
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 17:37
To: uitsig@kbyboerdery.co.za; Inus <inus@donkerbos.co.za>; ben@kbyboerdery.co.za; jaco@langrivier.co.za; 'Gerrit van der Merwe' <gerrit@fontejntjie.co.za>; gysjr@dutoit.com
Cc: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za; Denzil vd Merwe <denzil@morester.co.za>; thinus@fontejntjie.co.za; 'CP du Toit' <cpdtoit@gmail.com>; Robert Graaff <robert@graaff-fruit.com>; admin@enviroafrica.co.za; bianca@enviroafrica.co.za; 'Marlandi vd Heever' <cereskbvlandbouvereniging@gmail.com>
Subject: Besware teen die voorgestelde vergroting van die Helpmekeer dam

Goeie dag almal

Aangeheg die besware vanaf die oewereienaars van die Wydekloof/Rietfontein Grootdam.

Groete



Christi Van Den Heever

christi@graaff-fruit.com

Rietfontein

Phone: +27 23 317 0820

Mobile: +27 82 687 2251

Website: www.graaff-fruit.com

PO Box 57, Prince Alfred Hamlet, 6840, South Africa



Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing

From: ben@kbyboerdery.co.za
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2025 13:03
To: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Cc: 'Johan Louw'; cpdtoit@gmail.com
Subject: Navrae voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-Boonste Nr 1 Dam en konstruksie van nuwe bufferdam

Goeie dag

Vir wie dit mag aangaan

Insake: Voorgestelde vergroting van die Langrug-Boonste Nr 1 Dam en konstruksie van nuwe Bufferdam plaas Rietrivier 202, Deel 5, Ceres

Hiermee deel ons navrae rakende die dam vergroting te plaas Helpmekaar

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
2. Ons bekommernis is gegrond op die feit dat hierdie ontwikkeling direk stroom op van die Rietfonteindam waaruit die 3 Leeus se ontrekking plaasvind, se opvangsgebied beplan word. Dus bestaan die moontlikheid dat die Rietfonteindam langer kan neem om bepaalde merk te bereik voor 3 Leeus mag pomp en derhalwe ons pomp beurt verkort.
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?

Ons is nie teen uitbreiding van toekomstige boorde of langtermyn gewasse nie. Dit moet net nie ons huidige pompregte benadeel en beïnvloed nie.

Hoop ons kan almal n regverdige ooreenkoms bereik.

Ben du Toit namens KBY Boerderye



KBY VREDELUST

Posbus/P.O. Box 38, Koue Bokl
T 023 317 9911 . F 086 249 2259

20 Oktober 2025

BESWAAR 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.

SONDER BENADELING VAN REGTE:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Die uwe

Rietfontein:

Donkerbos:

Wydekloof:

bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

From: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 08:28
To: 'Thys Steenkamp'
Cc: 'Inus Oosthuizen'
Subject: RE: Public Participation: Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); Helpmekaar dam, Ceres

Good morning, Thys.

Thank you for the email.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your email and confirm that your information will be included in the list of registered interested and affected parties.

Should you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Bianca Gilfillan (Ms)
Reg. EAP (EAPASA): 2023/7929



Enviroafrica cc

p: +27 21851 1616
f: +27 86 512 0154
c: +27 79 189 5060
a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz Street, Somerset West, 7130
Postnet Suite 341, Private Bag X29, Somerset West 7129.
W: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
BE100%GREEN, READ FROM THE SCREEN

From: Thys Steenkamp <thys@donkerbos.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 17:52
To: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Cc: Inus Oosthuizen <inus@donkerbos.co.za>; Thys Steenkamp <thys@donkerbos.co.za>
Subject: Public Participation: Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); Helpmekaar dam, Ceres

IE: Public Participation: Interested and Affected Parties (I&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 **23 October 2025**

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.

Your contact persons are M.B. Oosthuizen and MM Steenkamp. All relevant information could be sent to their email addresses:

inus@donkerbos.co.za

thys@donkerbos.co.za

Please confirm receipt of this email

Vriendelike Groete / Kind Regards



Thys Steenkamp

Finansiële Bestuurder

thys@donkerbos.co.za

Sel: 082 920 3258

Donkerbos Landgoed (Edms.) Bpk.

Posbus 82, Koue-Bokkeveld, 6836

Tel: 023 317 0838

We, Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty) Ltd, Donkerbos Eiendomme, (Pty) Ltd, Eyethu Intaba (Pty) Ltd and The Donkerbos Groep (Pty) Ltd hereby want to register as interested party's to this attached letter of the Helpmekaar dam, Ceres.



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26 & 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25

DATE: 12 May 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

7600

6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

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.
2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned documents by this Directorate.
3. Please note that since an application has been lodged with the Department, the pre-application file (DEA&DP Reference: 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25) has been closed for administrative purposes.
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.
5. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
6. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.05.12
14:19:40 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Email: jsteyn@witzenberg.gov.za

DONKERBOS LANDGOED (EDMS) BPK.
P.O. Box 82
KOUÉ BOKKEVELD
Phone: 023-3170838
Fax: 023-3170804
E-mail: thys@donkerbos.co.za



Reg. No. 2015/061391/07

12/06/2026

EnviroAfrica CC
ATT: Bianca Gilfillan
P.O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135
Tel: 021 8511616
E-mail: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

COMMENTS AND OBJECTION: Helpmekaar Dam - Draft Scoping Report – May 2026

**Refer to our previous letter dated 19 February 2026
and**

**Refer to your document APPENDIX 4E: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT which was
requested and not included in your email sent 8 May 2026**

Our concerns and objections are the following not listed in any particular order:

1. The response from the Respondent EnviroAfrica on all the comments listed in the **COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT** 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 RESPONSE REPORT was made available to all affected parties for due input.
2. All Comments and Objections in our previous letter are therefor still valid and should be addressed with substantiated documentation in the scoping report.
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 **COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT** 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.

The objections above are clear and valid. Therefore Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd. cannot support these proposed projects.

M.B. Oosthuizen

Managing Director: Donkerbos Landgoed (Pty.) Ltd



Rietfontein Farm, Prince Alfred Hamlet, 6840, South Africa

P.O. Box 57, Prince Alfred Hamlet, 6840, South Africa

t: +27 23 313 3746 f: +27 23 313 4245

e: lize@graaff-fruit.com w: www.graaff-fruit.com

Datum: 12 Junie 2026

AAN: EnviroAfrica CC

Posbus 5367

Helderberg

7135

Epos: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Geliewe Bianca,

Hiermee wil ek graag kommentaar lewer op my vrae en die antwoorde wat daarop verskaf is.

Aanhangsel 4E – Kommentaar deur Christi van den Heever

1. Bepalings van hoe- en laevloei asook surpluswater

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.

2. 50/50-Verdeling van Boesmanskloof-water

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.



3. Surpluswater en die V&V-proses

Solank die verifikasie- en Valideringsproses (V&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&V-proses behoort eers afgehandel en bevestig te word voordat sodanige stellings gemaak word.

Addisionele Opmerkings

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.

Om hierdie rede is dit my standpunt dat Rietfontein nie toestemming kan gee dat daar op enige wyse met die Helpmekaardam-Projek voortgegaan word voordat alle uitstaande vrae bevredigend beantwoord is en die relevante prosesse afgehandel is nie.

Vriendelike groete

CHRISTI VAN DEN HEEVER
RIETONTEIN LANDGOED BESTUURDER

2026-06-12

EnviroAfrica CC
P O Box 5367
Helderberg
7135
e-mail: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

For Attention: B Gilfillan

Dear Bianca

**PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR 1 DAM (HELPMEKAAR DAM)
AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUFFER DAM - COMMENT ON DRAFT SCOPING REPORT**

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 Langrug-Boonste Nr 1 Dam (Helpmekaar Dam) and Buffer Dam and associated infrastructure.

1 SECTION 1.1 – BACKGROUND

In paragraph 2, the following statement is made: *"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."* 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.

2 SECTION 1.2 – DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

In paragraph 5, the following statement is made: *"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."* 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.

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.

3 SECTION 2 – NEED AND DESIRABILITY

In paragraph 1, the following statement is made: *"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."* 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.

In one of paragraph 2's bullets, the following statement is made: *"Storing winter runoff for regulated use during the dry summer months, subject to ecological flow requirements and Water Use Licence conditions."* 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).

4 SECTION 2.1.1 – LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

In paragraph 3, the following statement is made: *"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."* 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.



Figure 1 – Dam positions (courtesy: CapeFarmMapper)

5 SECTION 4.5 – HYDROLOGY

In paragraph 6, the following statement is made: *"The study will assess the potential impact of reduced upstream spill volumes on downstream water users, including the Wydekloof Dam and associated irrigation schemes."* Alternative infrastructure must be investigated to ensure that the

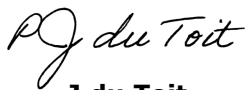
Helpmekaar Dam discharges/releases the water similarly to what it released before the enlargement of the dam. The enlarged dam should not start discharging/releasing water once it is full. If it does, then the dam will be filled first with the downstream dams filling last, ie negatively influencing the downstream users.

The hydrological study must also include losses from the enlarged dam, such as evaporation and infiltration at the dam.

6 FORMAL OBJECTION

As set out above, the draft scoping report lacks information on key aspects and impacts of the proposed enlargement of the Helpmenkaar 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 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.

Kind regards



J du Toit

From: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Sent: Wednesday, 10 June 2026 09:08
To: 'Thys Steenkamp'
Cc: 'Admin'
Subject: RE: NEMA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS - AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM,
Attachments: Appendix 4E - Comments and Response Report.pdf; Draft Scoping Report - Helpmekaar Dam.pdf

Good morning, Thys.

Thank you for the email.

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.

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:

- Executive Summary;
- Section 1.2 – Description of the Proposed Activity;
- Section 2 – Need and Desirability;
- Section 4.5 – Hydrology;
- Section 5.2 – Hydrology Impact; and
- Section 6 – Plan of Study for EIA.

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.

Should you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Bianca Gilfillan (Ms)
Reg. EAP (EAPASA): 2023/7929



Enviroafrica cc

p: +27 21851 1616

f: +27 86 512 0154

c: +27 79 189 5060

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz Street, Somerset West, 7130

Postnet Suite 341, Private Bag X29, Somerset West 7129.

From: Thys Steenkamp <thys@donkerbos.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 June 2026 08:16

To: Admin <admin@enviroafrica.co.za>; bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Subject: RE: NEMA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS - AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM,

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.

“Comments received from authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) have been captured in the Comments and Response Report, and relevant amendments have been incorporated into this Draft Scoping Report”

Vriendelike Groete / Kind Regards



Thys Steenkamp

Finansiële Bestuurder

thys@donkerbos.co.za

Sel: 082 920 3258

Donkerbos Landgoed (Edms.) Bpk.

Posbus 82, Koue-Bokkeveld, 6836

Tel: 023 317 0838

From: Admin <admin@enviroafrica.co.za>

Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 1:47 PM

To: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Subject: NEMA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS - AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF LANGRUG-BOONSTE NR. 1 DAM, ALSO KNOWN AS HELPMEKAAR DAM,

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NEMA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS – AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

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

WCDEADP reference:16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1449/25

I trust this email finds you well. Please find attached notice as mentioned in the subject line.

The Draft SR and all appendices will also be available for viewing at the following website:
<https://enviroafrica.co.za/public-projects/>

Please note the commenting period is from **11 May 2026 until 12 June 2026**.

Comments are to be submitted to:

EnviroAfrica CC

ATT: Bianca Gilfillan

P.O. Box 5367

Helderberg 7135

Tel: 021 8511616

E-mail: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Best Regards

Margaret Christians

BCom Human Resource Management



Enviroafrica cc

p: +27 21851 1616

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz Street, Somerset west, 7130

Postnet Suite 341, Private Bag X29, Somerset West 7129

W: www.enviroafrica.co.za email: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

BE100%GREEN, READ FROM THE SCREEN



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 10 June 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

7600

6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

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.
2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Department, the following is noted:
 - 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 000m³ (with a net gain of ± 410 000m³), sourced from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River.
 - 2.2 The Helpmekaar Dam enlargement will increase the dam's storage capacity to approximately 800 000m³, with a net gain of about 410 000m³. 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).
 - 2.3 The proposed buffer dam, located downslope of Helpmekaar Dam, will provide an additional ± 27 000m³ ($\pm 2,1$ ha) 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.
 - 2.4 A $\pm 1,7$ –2km underground pipeline ($\varnothing 300$ –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.
3. This Directorate has the following comments that must be addressed and included in the SR:
 - 3.1 Applicability listed
 - 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 applicable listed activities is quoted from the Regulations.

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.

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.

3.1.4 Please ensure that this is corrected in the final SR.

3.2 Alternatives

3.2.1 It is noted that two 2 pipeline route alternatives have been identified for assessment.

3.2.2 Please ensure that the preferred alternative is clearly indicated and that the length and diameter of the pipeline is clearly specified.

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.

3.3 Public Participation Process

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&APs must be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.**

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&APs) of the public commenting period. Please note that this is not the standard operating procedure of this Department.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.

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 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. **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.**

4. Regulatory requirements:
 - 4.1 Proof of the notifications and the copies of the notification letters sent to registered I&APs for the comment on the draft SR must be included in the SR.
 - 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.
 - 4.3 The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&APs and other role players which record the views of the participants.
 - 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.
 - 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.
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).
6. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
7. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by this Directorate.
8. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully



Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.06.10
14:06:29 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Email: jsteyn@witzenberg.gov.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 10 June 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

7600

6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

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.
2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Department, the following is noted:
 - 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 000m³ (with a net gain of ± 410 000m³), sourced from the upper tributaries of the Leeu River.
 - 2.2 The Helpmekaar Dam enlargement will increase the dam's storage capacity to approximately 800 000m³, with a net gain of about 410 000m³. 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).
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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&APs must be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority.**

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either a letter of support from Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency and/or approved Water Use License for the required additional water rights. **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.**

4. Regulatory requirements:
 - 4.1 Proof of the notifications and the copies of the notification letters sent to registered I&APs for the comment on the draft SR must be included in the SR.
 - 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.
 - 4.3 The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&APs and other role players which record the views of the participants.
 - 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.
 - 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.
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).
6. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
7. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by this Directorate.
8. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully



Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.06.10
14:06:29 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Email: jsteyn@witzenberg.gov.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 26 June 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

7600

6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibbsom

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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 HELPMKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES

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.
2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned documents by this Directorate.
3. Please note that this Directorate will consider the final SR in accordance with the prescribed timeframes and advise you accordingly.
4. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
5. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.06.26
11:39:07 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Email: jsteyn@witzenberg.gov.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 30 JULY 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103
CERES
6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

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.
2. This letter serves to inform you that the abovementioned document has been accepted by this Directorate **on condition** that:
 - 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.
 - 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.
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.
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 the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and the protocols.
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.

6. **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.**
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.
8. Please ensure that comments from all the relevant Organs of State, including any comments from this Directorate, are submitted with the EIA Report.
9. You must now proceed with the EIA process in accordance with the tasks outlined in the plan of study for the EIA.
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 allow registered I&APs to comment on the revised report and/or additional information.
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.
12. Please note that electronic copies of the EIA Report and EMPr, must be submitted to this Directorate for decision.
13. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.
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 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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.

Yours faithfully

 Digitally signed by
Mare-Liez de Jongh
Date: 2026.07.30
16:25:16 +02'00'

HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica CC)
(2) Mr. C. Geyser (EnviroAfrica CC)
(3) Ms. E. Rossouw (BOCMA)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za
Email: clinton@enviroafrica.co.za
Email: erossouw@bocma.co.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 26 June 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES

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Attention: Mr. J. Gibbsom

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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 HELPMKAAR DAM, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUFFER DAM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ON PORTION 5 OF FARM RIETRIVER NO. 202, CERES

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.
2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned documents by this Directorate.
3. Please note that this Directorate will consider the final SR in accordance with the prescribed timeframes and advise you accordingly.
4. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence concerning the proposed development.
5. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw its comments and request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

Digitally signed by
Melanese Schippers
Date: 2026.06.26
11:39:07 +02'00'

pp HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica cc)
(2) Mr. J. Steyn (Witzenberg Municipality)

Email: bianca@enviroafrica.co.za

Email: jsteyn@witzenberg.gov.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/2/B5/2/1043/26

DATE: 30 JULY 2026

The Board of Directors
Sterkwater Boerdery (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 103

CERES
6835

Attention: Mr. J. Gibson

Cell: 072 252 8183

Email: jonathan@sterkwater.co.za

Dear Sir

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

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.
2. This letter serves to inform you that the abovementioned document has been accepted by this Directorate **on condition** that:
 - 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.
 - 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.
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.
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 the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and the protocols.
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.

6. **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.**
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.
8. Please ensure that comments from all the relevant Organs of State, including any comments from this Directorate, are submitted with the EIA Report.
9. You must now proceed with the EIA process in accordance with the tasks outlined in the plan of study for the EIA.
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 allow registered I&APs to comment on the revised report and/or additional information.
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.
12. Please note that electronic copies of the EIA Report and EMPr, must be submitted to this Directorate for decision.
13. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.
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 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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.

Yours faithfully

 Digitally signed by
Mare-Liez de Jongh
Date: 2026.07.30
16:25:16 +02'00'

HEAD OF COMPONENT

DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Cc to: (1) Ms. B. Gilfillan (EnviroAfrica CC)
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