Comments received

Initial PPP: 25 February 2026 – 02 April 2026				
Date	**Comment**	**I&AP**	**Response**	**Respondent**
31/03/2026	**COMMENTS: NOTIFICATION FOR THE INTENTION TO SUBMIT A NEMA APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JADE HILLS DAM ON PORTION 26 OF FARM STINKFONTEIN NO 383, CERES.** The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) has received the application notification as indicated above on 04 March 2026. The observations on the notification's letter of intent are outlined below. Consequently, to the observations, the outlined recommendations and conclusion need to be adhered to. **OBSERVATIONS** 1) This is an initial notification to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) for the intention to submit a NEMA application for the proposed construction of the New Jade Hills Dam on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No 383, Ceres; 2) The new dam will store winter water for summer irrigation on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No 383, Ceres. 3) The dam will be of ±110 000 m3 capacity and a maximum wall height of ±12.5 m on a ±2.3 ha surface area; and	Siyabulela Lupa Breede-Olifants	The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) acknowledged receipt of the application notification on 04 March 2026. The observations provided are noted, and responses are provided below. Noted. The notification formed part of the pre-application Public Participation Process undertaken in accordance with the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The purpose of the notification was to inform Interested and Affected Parties, including BOCMA, of the proposed development and to invite comment at an early stage of the process. Noted and confirmed. The proposed Jade Hills Dam is intended to store surplus winter water derived from an existing lawful water use allocation associated with the Rietvalley Irrigation Scheme. The stored water will be used to support existing agricultural activities on the property during the dry summer months. The proposed development will proceed in accordance with the Phase 2 Preliminary Design prepared by Sarel Bester Engineers, comprising a storage capacity of approximately 110 000 m³, a maximum dam wall height of approximately 12.5 m, a crest length of approximately 259 m, a water	EnviroAfrica

Comments received

			surface/flooded area of approximately 2.3 ha, and a total dam footprint of approximately 6.6 ha. The 6.6 ha dam footprint includes the dam wall and spillway area, whereas the 2.3 ha area represents the area that will be covered by water.	
	4) There will also be a 700 m pipeline with a diameter of 150 mm to deliver water from the Jade Hills Delivery Point through gravity feed.		Noted and confirmed. The proposed development includes an approximately 700 m long, 150 mm diameter pipeline to convey water from the existing Jade Hills Delivery Point to the proposed dam. The pipeline is intended to operate primarily under gravity flow conditions. The final pipeline and associated pumping requirements will be confirmed as part of the detailed engineering design, taking into account the available pumping period and the Titus River WUA's requirement for sufficient capacity to transfer the authorised surface water within 60 days or less.	
	RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION			
	1) A background information on the authorised water uses currently in practice in the Farm that will feed the proposed dam must be provided in the NEMA application. This background information must include any information on whether there's an existing winter water Licence or intention to apply for one, which will justify the need to construct a ±110 000 m3 capacity dam;		Noted and agreed. Background information on the authorised water uses associated with the proposed development is included in the Pre-Application Scoping Report and will be further detailed in the EIA phase documentation. Water Use Licence No. 02/H10B/AB/13972 authorises the abstraction of up to 110 000 m³/a from the Titus River via the Rietvalley Scheme in terms of section 21(a) of the National Water Act, and the storage of 110 000 m³ in the proposed Jade Hills Dam in terms of section 21(b). Historically, the available winter water could not be fully utilised on the property due to the absence of sufficient on-site storage infrastructure. The proposed dam is therefore required to store this available winter water for use during the dry summer	

			months, thereby enabling the efficient and beneficial use of the authorised water allocation.	
	2) The proximity of the intended pipeline route to the nearby watercourses and its effect on the watercourses must be clear as well in the NEMA application; and		The proposed pipeline alignment (±700 m, 150 mm diameter) from the Jade Hills Delivery Point to the proposed dam will be clearly illustrated in the application documentation, including locality and layout maps. The pipeline will, as far as reasonably practicable, be aligned to utilise existing disturbed and transformed areas in order to minimise environmental disturbance. The final pipeline alignment and associated pumping/conveyance requirements will be confirmed during the detailed engineering design. Where the pipeline is located in proximity to, or intersects with, any drainage features or watercourses, potential impacts will be identified and assessed. The potential effects on watercourses, including construction-related disturbance, erosion, sedimentation, and alteration of surface water flow, will be considered in the EIA phase and addressed through appropriate mitigation measures and any applicable water use authorisation requirements.	
	3) Comprehensive comments will be provided on the Pre-App BAR, which will have all the information with regards to details of the intended activities. Therefore, BOCMA will wait for the first phase of the NEMA application to be submitted for comments before any water use of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) that would be triggered by the proposed activities can be identified and confirmed for a Water Use Licence Application (WULA). **General conditions:**		Noted. The Applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner welcome further detailed input from BOCMA during the Pre-Application Scoping review phase. All comments received will be duly considered and addressed in the Comments and Responses Report, and where necessary, incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Assessment documentation.	

Comments received

	• All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to.		Noted and agreed. All applicable provisions of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) will be complied with. The development will be implemented in accordance with the conditions of the approved Water Use Licence (WUL) and any additional requirements imposed by the Department of Water and Sanitation or BOCMA.	
	• No water must be taken from a water resource for any purpose without authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).		Noted and agreed. Water abstraction associated with the proposed development is based on an existing lawful water use allocation linked to the Rietvalley Irrigation Scheme. Any water use requiring authorisation will be undertaken strictly in accordance with the applicable Water Use Licence.	
	• No waste or water containing waste may be disposed without authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).		Noted and agreed. No disposal of waste or water containing waste into any water resource will occur without the necessary authorisations. All waste management practices during construction and operation will comply with the National Water Act and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008), as well as the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).	
	• No pollution of surface water and/or groundwater resources may occur.		Noted and agreed. Measures to prevent pollution will be implemented during both construction and operation. These will include appropriate storage and handling of fuels and hazardous substances, spill prevention and response measures, and compliance with EMPr provisions.	
	• Stormwater management must be addressed both in terms of flooding, erosion and pollution potential.		Noted and agreed. Stormwater management will be addressed as part of the engineering design and Environmental Management Programme. Measures will include erosion control, management of runoff, and protection of downstream environments.	
	• No stormwater runoff from any premises containing waste, or water containing waste emanating from industrial activities		Noted and agreed. Polluted stormwater will be contained and managed on-site, and no discharge of contaminated	

Comments received

	and premises, may be discharged into a water resource. Polluted stormwater must be contained. Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorizations where needed from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorisation for. This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries. Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so.		runoff into water resources will be permitted. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to manage stormwater quality. Noted and agreed. No construction or related activities will commence prior to obtaining all required environmental and water use authorisations. The Applicant acknowledges that compliance with all relevant legislation remains the responsibility of the property owner. Noted. The Applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner will continue to engage with BOCMA throughout the process and will provide any additional information required to support informed decision-making. Noted.	
2026/03/24	Good morning I assume no documents are available yet, please register me as an I&AP. I could give comment now if required, can you just explain the fase one and two of the dam. Otherwise, I will wait for the application.	Mr Elmo Maree Department of Agriculture	Good morning, Elmo. Thank you for the email. Yes, no documents are available yet. I would advise waiting for the application, and then I can give you all the information. Thank you.	EnviroAfrica
2026/07/13	**NOTICE OF INTENT ("NoI") TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JADE HILLS DAM ON PORTION 26 OF FARM STINKFONTEIN NO. 383, CERES.**	WCDEADP	Noted.	EnviroAfrica

Comments received

	1. The electronic copy of the NoI received by this Department's Directorate: Development Management, Region 1 ("this Directorate") on 1 July 2026, refers. 2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt and as comment on the NoI. 3. Following the review of the information submitted to this Directorate, is noted that: • The proposed development entails the construction of the New Jade Hills Dam on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No. 383, Ceres. • The proposed dam will have a storage capacity of 110 000m³, a maximum wall height of approximately 11.1 meters, a wall length of approximately 237 meters, an inundation area of approximately 1.7 hectares and a footprint of approximately 2 hectares. • The proposal also includes a 700 meters long pipeline with a diameter of approximately 150 millimeters, a pump house of approximately 40 square meters and associated infrastructure. • According to the available mapping resources indigenous vegetation is present on the site, namely Ceres Shale Renosterveld vegetation, which is classified as a critically endangered ecosystem. • According to the available mapping resources a watercourse is present on the site. • The site is zoned for Agricultural purposes and is located outside the urban area of Ceres. <u>Indigenous vegetation status</u> 4. Please note that the vegetation status of Ceres Shale Renosterveld vegetation is not classified as vulnerable but as critically endangered according to the National Environmental		Noted. Noted. For clarification, the project engineer has subsequently confirmed that Phase 1 is no longer under consideration and that the Phase 2 Preliminary Design prepared by Sarel Bester Engineers constitutes the current proposed dam design and was used for the Water Use Licence Application. The current proposed dam will therefore have a storage capacity of approximately 110 000 m³, a maximum wall height of approximately 12.5 m, a crest length of approximately 259 m, a water surface/flooded area of approximately 2.3 ha, and a total dam footprint of approximately 6.6 ha. The 6.6 ha footprint includes the dam wall and spillway area, whereas the 2.3 ha flooded area represents the area that will be covered by water. The previously stated dimensions of 11.1 m wall height, 237 m wall length, 1.7 ha inundation area and approximately 2 ha footprint relate to the earlier Phase 1 design and will be corrected throughout the subsequent Scoping and EIA documentation. Comment acknowledged. All references to the conservation status of Ceres Shale Renosterveld have been corrected throughout the Scoping Report to reflect its current status as Critically Endangered in terms of the National Environmental	

Comments received

	Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) dated 18 November 2022. This must be corrected in the Draft Scoping Report. <u>Screening Tool</u> 5. The "Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation" ("the Protocols") were published on 20 March 2020 (Government Notice No. 320 as published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020) and it is noted that some of the Protocols are applicable to your proposed development. According to the Protocols, before commencing with a specialist assessment, the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration identified by the screening tool must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification. The outcome of the site sensitivity verification must be recorded in the format of a report and must be appended to the Basic Assessment Report. 6. This Directorate notes that the Screening Report for the dam (dated 23 March 2026) has identified twelve specialist studies to be conducted. Confirmation of the relevant specialist studies and a motivation as to why some of these specialist studies will not be conducted have been included in a Site Sensitivity Verification Report ("SSVR"). 7. This Directorate notes that a Freshwater Impact Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment will be conducted. **8.** Please note that comments from Heritage Western Cape must be obtained to confirm whether any further studies will be required. **Although Heritage Western Cape confirmed more than 5 years ago on the previous lapsed application that there was no reason to believe that the proposed**		Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) – Threatened Ecosystems List (2022). Comment acknowledged. A Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) has been compiled in accordance with the Environmental Themes Protocols (GN 320 of 2020) and is included as an appendix to the Scoping Report. A Scoping and EIR process will be undertaken. Comment acknowledged. The SSVR confirms the specialist studies to be undertaken and provides motivations where specialist assessments are not considered necessary, in accordance with the Environmental Themes Protocols. Comment acknowledged. A Freshwater Impact Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken, and the findings will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment phase. Comment acknowledged. Heritage Western Cape, will be contacted for updated comments during the Scoping phase.	

Comments received

	development would impact heritage resources, a revised comment must be obtained. **9. Furthermore, should any authority that has jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the proposed development request that further specialist studies be conducted, and where the request is supported by this Directorate, this must take precedence.** <u>Water Use License</u> 10. It is noted that the proposed dam triggers water uses in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) and therefore requires a Water Use License. Please note that the Water Use License from the water authority must be included in the Final EIA Report. It is noted that existing lawful water use is available. Confirmation of the existing lawful water use must be included in the Scoping Report. <u>Process</u> 11. Having considered the information contained in the NoI, the Department concurs that the proposed development constitutes listed activities as defined in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. 12. In light of the activities identified, you are herewith advised that a Scoping / Environmental Impact Reporting process must be followed in order to apply for Environmental Authorisation. Only those activities applied for shall be considered for environmental authorisation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are applied for and assessed as part of the Scoping / Environmental Impact Reporting process. 13. You are advised that when undertaking the Scoping / Environmental Impact Reporting process, you must take into		Any additional heritage requirements identified by Heritage Western Cape will be addressed accordingly. Comment acknowledged. Should any commenting authority request additional specialist investigations, and where supported by the Competent Authority, such specialist studies will be undertaken and incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Comment acknowledged. The Water Use Licence has been obtained. Confirmation of the existing lawful water use has been included in the Scoping Report, and the Water Use Licence is appended to the Scoping Report. Comment noted. The listed activities have been identified and are reflected in the Application Form and Scoping Report. Comment noted. The application is being undertaken as a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting Process in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).	

Comments received

	account all applicable guidelines, including the guidelines developed by the Department. These can be downloaded from the Department's website, (http://eadp-westerncape.kznsshf.gov.za/your-resource-library/policies-guidelines).In particular, the guidelines that may be applicable to the proposed development include, inter alia, the following: • Circular EADP 0028/2014: One Environmental Management System. • Guideline for the Review of Specialist Input in the EIA process (June 2005). • Guideline for Environmental Management Plans (June 2005). • Guideline on Alternatives (March 2013). • Guideline on Need and Desirability (March 2013). • Other (as applicable). 14. Please ensure the Scoping Report contains all information requirements outlined in Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. <u>Public Participation</u> **15. A public participation process ("PPP") that meets the requirements of Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 must be undertaken. You are advised that public participation may be undertaken prior to the submission of the application, although this is not mandatory. It is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's discretion at what stage the requirements of Regulation 41 are met, whether during the proposed application (pre-application) process or formal application process. Please ensure that the newspaper advertisement is placed after the submission of a notice of intent or the application form.** 16. You are reminded that a period of at least 30 days must be provided to all potential or registered interested and affected parties to submit comment on the Scoping Report.		Comment acknowledged**.** The Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting Process has been, and will continue to be, undertaken with due consideration of the applicable Departmental guidelines and relevant environmental legislation. Comment acknowledged. The Draft Scoping Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Comment acknowledged. The Public Participation Process will comply with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The newspaper advertisement will be placed after submission of the Notice of Intent or Application Form, as required by the Department.	

Comments received

	17. Should a public participation process, which includes the circulation of the pre-application Scoping Report for comment, be undertaken prior to submission of an Application Form to the Department, in terms of Regulation 40, the pre-application Scoping Report may also be submitted to the Department for commenting purposes. 18. In terms of Section 24O (2) and (3) of NEMA and Regulations 7(2) and 43(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, any State Department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to the application must be requested to comment within 30 days. Please note that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") is responsible for such consultation. Therefore, it is requested that the EAP include proof of such notification to the relevant State Departments in terms of Section 24O (2) and (3) of NEMA in the Scoping Report, where appropriate. 19. The Department awaits the submission of the Application Form or pre-application Scoping Report prescribed by the EIA Regulations, 2014. 20. Please note that an electronic copy of the Application Form or pre-application Scoping Report must be submitted. Please note that it is an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(a) of the NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity unless the Competent Authority has granted an Environmental Authorisation for undertaking it. Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 24F of the NEMA shall result in the matter being referred to the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Directorate of this Department. 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.		Comment acknowledged. A minimum 30-day public review period will be provided for the Draft Scoping Report in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Comment noted. The Department's guidance has been noted and the pre-application process will be undertaken accordingly. Comment acknowledged. Relevant State Departments and Organs of State will be consulted in terms of Section 24O of NEMA and the EIA Regulations. Proof of notification and comments received will be included in the Scoping Report. Comment noted**.** The Application Form and accompanying documentation have been prepared for submission in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Comment noted. The requirements relating to submission, environmental authorisation and compliance with the provisions of NEMA are noted.	

Comments received

	21. Please note that the pre-application consultation is an advisory process and does not pre empt the outcome of any future application which may be submitted to the Department. 22. No information provided, views expressed and/or comments made by officials during the pre-application consultation should in any way be seen as an indication or confirmation: • that additional information or documents will not be requested • of the outcome of the application 23. This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw initial comments or request further information from you based on any new or revised information receive. Having considered the information contained in the NoI, this Directorate concurs that the proposed development constitutes a listed activities as defined in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).		Comment noted. The advisory nature of the pre-application process is acknowledged. Comment noted. The contents of the Department's pre-application comments are acknowledged. Comment noted. The Department's reservation of rights is acknowledged, and any additional information requested during the application process will be provided where required.	

Comments received

PRE-APP SCOPING REPORT PPP: 31 July 2026 – 04 September 2026				
Date	**Comment**	**I&AP**	**Response**	**Respondent**
04/09/2026	**COMMENTS: AVAILABILITY OF THE PRE-APPLICATION SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JADE HILLS DAM ON PORTION 26 OF FARM STINKFONTEIN NO 383, CERES.** The Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) has received the application notification as indicated above on 31 July 2026. The observations on the Pre-Application Scoping Report and its appendices are set out below. The recommendations and conclusion are based on these observations and should be read accordingly. **OBSERVATIONS**	BOCMA		EnviroAfrica
	1) This is a Pre-Application Scoping Report intended for the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) to provide comments for the proposed construction of the New Jade Hills Dam on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No 383, Ceres;		Noted and confirmed. The Pre-Application Scoping Report was circulated to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant commenting authorities to provide an opportunity to review the proposed development and submit comments. All comments received will be considered and addressed in the Comments and Responses Report and incorporated into the subsequent Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, where applicable.	
	2) The new dam will store winter water for summer irrigation on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No 383, Ceres;		Confirmed. The proposed dam will provide storage for surplus winter water abstracted from the Titus River via the existing Rietvalley Scheme, for subsequent summer irrigation of agricultural crops on the property. The current environmental application does not include any proposed expansion of agricultural cultivation. The development will proceed in accordance with the Phase 2 engineering design, comprising a storage capacity of 110 000 m³, a maximum dam wall height of approximately 12.5 m, a crest length of approximately 259 m and a water surface area of approximately 2.3 ha.	

Comments received

	3) There's a Water Use Licence (WUL) for Section 21 (a) water use of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) to abstract 110 000 m3/a of winter water. The WUL is also for Section 21 (b) water use of the NWA to store this winter water on a 110 000 m3 capacity dam which is the subject of this Pre-App Scoping Report;		Confirmed. The Department of Water and Sanitation issued Water Use Licence No. 02/H10B/AB/13972 on 8 March 2024, authorising the abstraction of a maximum of 110 000 m³ per annum from the Titus River via the Rietvalley Scheme and the storage of 110 000 m³ in the proposed Jade Hills Dam. The licence was subsequently amended on 26 March 2024 to correct the dam storage location to Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No. 383. The proposed development will comply with the conditions of the issued WUL, as amended. Copies of both documents are included in the application documentation.	
	4) It is noted that the area earmarked for the proposed construction of the Jade Hills Dam has an episodic drainage line which will be the subject of a Freshwater assessment to identify the associated impacts;		Noted and confirmed. The presence of an episodic drainage line within the proposed development area is acknowledged. An updated Freshwater Resource Verification and Risk Assessment (FEN Consulting, April 2026) has been prepared for the project. The freshwater specialist findings will be considered during the EIA phase, including the potential impacts associated with the proposed dam and associated infrastructure. The assessment will also be considered in determining whether any additional water-use authorisation is required in terms of sections 21(c) and/or 21(i) of the National Water Act. The freshwater assessment will be made available to BOCMA for review and comment as part of the subsequent EIA documentation.	
	5) It is also noted that there will be a 700 m pipeline with a diameter of 150 mm to deliver water from the Jade Hills Delivery Point through gravity feed to the new Jade Hills Dam; and		Noted and confirmed. The proposed development includes an approximately 700 m long pipeline connecting the existing Jade Hills Delivery Point to the proposed dam.	

Comments received

			The pipeline route, diameter and associated infrastructure will be aligned with the final engineering design. Any potential environmental impacts associated with the installation of the pipeline, including possible interactions with freshwater features, will be considered in the EIR and addressed through appropriate mitigation measures in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).	
	6) Even though the proposed abstraction of winter water and construction of the Jade Hills Dan are authorised through the 2024 WUL, the associated impacts on the episodic drainage line will be identified through the Freshwater assessment report.		Agreed. The existing WUL authorises the taking and storage of water under sections 21(a) and 21(b), respectively. It does not expressly authorise water uses under sections 21(c) and 21(i). The freshwater specialist assessment will inform the identification and assessment of potential impacts on the episodic drainage line associated with the proposed dam and pipeline.	
	RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION			
	1) BOCMA will wait for the availability of the Freshwater assessment report to identify any water uses of the NWA that will be triggered by the impacts associated with the construction of the dam and the water pipeline feeding it; and		Noted. The updated Freshwater Resource Verification and Risk Assessment (FEN Consulting, April 2026) will be incorporated into the EIR and made available to BOCMA for consideration. The assessment will be reviewed against the final Phase 2 engineering specifications to ensure that the proposed 110 000 m³ dam and associated infrastructure are appropriately addressed. Any additional water-use authorisation requirements identified through the assessment will be addressed in consultation with BOCMA.	
	2) Comprehensive comments will be provided on the next phase of the EIA process.		Noted and appreciated. BOCMA will remain registered as a commenting authority and will be notified of the availability of the subsequent	

			Scoping and EIA documentation for review and comment. All further comments received will be considered and addressed in the Comments and Responses Report.	
	General conditions: • All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to.		Noted and agreed. The Applicant will comply with the National Water Act, the conditions of the issued WUL (as amended), and any additional authorisation requirements identified during the EIA process.	
	• No water must be taken from a water resource for any purpose without authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).		Noted. The abstraction of up to 110 000 m³/a from the Titus River via the Rietvalley Scheme is authorised under the existing WUL. Abstraction will remain subject to the licence conditions, including applicable seasonal restrictions and minimum-flow requirements.	
	• No waste or water containing waste may be disposed without authorisation from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) and National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).		Noted. No waste-disposal activities are proposed as part of the development. Construction-related waste will be appropriately managed and disposed of at authorised facilities in accordance with applicable legislation and the EMPr.	
	• No pollution of surface water and/or groundwater resources may occur. • Stormwater management must be addressed both in terms of flooding, erosion and pollution potential.		Agreed. Appropriate pollution-prevention measures will be incorporated into the EMPr, including controls relating to construction activities, fuel and chemical handling, waste management and accidental spillages.	
	• No stormwater runoff from any premises containing waste, or water containing waste emanating from industrial activities and premises may be discharged into a water resource. Polluted stormwater must be contained.		Noted and agreed. Stormwater and erosion-control measures will be incorporated into the engineering design and EMPr to minimise sediment mobilisation, erosion and potential impacts on surrounding freshwater resources.	

Comments received

	Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorizations where needed from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorisation for. This office reserves the right to amend and revise its comments as well as to request any further information. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further queries. Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so.		Noted and agreed. No construction activities associated with the proposed dam and related infrastructure will commence before the necessary statutory authorisations have been obtained. The existing WUL authorises water abstraction and storage under sections 21(a) and 21(b) of the National Water Act. Any additional water-use authorisation requirements arising from the freshwater assessment will be addressed with BOCMA prior to commencement of the relevant activities. The Applicant will also be required to comply with the Environmental Authorisation, approved EMPr, applicable Dam Safety Regulations and other relevant statutory requirements. Noted. The EAP acknowledges BOCMA's right to provide further comments and request additional information during the subsequent stages of the environmental assessment process. Any additional comments or information requests will be addressed accordingly.	
20/08/2026	RE: The proposed Construction of the new Jade Hills Dam on Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein 383, Ceres, Western Cape - Pre - Application Scoping Report. DEA&DP Reference: 16/3/3/6/7/2/B5/2/1432/26 CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the pre-application Scoping Report and wish to make the following comments: 1. Historically, the site supported Ceres Shale Renosterveld, which is a Critically Endangered and poorly protected habitat type. We note that most of the site has been previously cultivated but we nevertheless support an ecological specialist study as any remnants of this vegetation type, or sites that can be rehabilitated are of high conservation importance.	CapeNature	Noted and agreed. The historical vegetation type associated with the site is Ceres Shale Renosterveld, which is classified as Critically Endangered. Although the proposed dam site has been substantially transformed by historical agricultural activities, the potential presence and conservation importance of any remaining indigenous vegetation will be considered. A terrestrial biodiversity/botanical specialist assessment has been undertaken and will be incorporated into the EIR. The specialist findings will be used to identify any remaining vegetation	EnviroAfrica

Comments received

			of conservation importance, assess the potential impacts of the proposed development and recommend appropriate avoidance, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.	
	2. The site is in a drainage channel and even though it is non-perennial, and the dam will be filled with water from the Titus River, the dam will be considered to be an in-stream dam which is not preferred. Therefore, there should be further discussion and comparison of off-stream alternatives and/or enlarging existing dams.		Comment noted. The proposed dam is located within an episodic drainage feature and is therefore acknowledged as an in-stream dam for purposes of the environmental assessment, notwithstanding that the dam will primarily be filled with surplus winter water abstracted from the Titus River via the existing Rietvalley Scheme. The alternatives assessment will be expanded in the EIR to specifically consider and compare the feasibility and environmental implications of the proposed dam location against potential off-stream storage alternatives and the potential enlargement/use of existing storage facilities on the property. The preferred location has historically been identified on the basis of the site's basin-like topography, elevation relative to the irrigation areas and integration with the existing and proposed water-supply infrastructure. However, these practical considerations will be considered together with the environmental implications identified by the freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity specialists. The No-Go Alternative will also remain under consideration. The current proposal assessed will be the Phase 2 engineering design, comprising a storage capacity of 110 000 m³, maximum wall height of approximately 12.5 m, crest length of approximately 259 m, and water surface area of approximately 2.3 ha.	
	3. Cumulative impacts of additional storage in the catchment need to be considered and assessed by the freshwater specialist, especially as the Titus River is being increasingly impacted by dam applications. We acknowledge that the current landowner has existing water rights which are currently leased elsewhere but additional storage should not result in		Comment noted and agreed. The potential cumulative impacts associated with water abstraction and additional storage within the catchment will be considered in the EIR, including	

Comments received

	additional impacts such as deterioration of water quality in the Titus River, nor have negative impacts on downstream users. No abstraction should be done in the summer months (October to March). CapeNature will provide additional comments once detailed specialist reports have been made available. CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.		potential impacts on freshwater resources, water quality and downstream water users. The proposed abstraction and storage are authorised in terms of Water Use Licence No. 02/H10B/AB/13972, which authorises Jade Farming (Pty) Ltd to abstract a maximum of 110 000 m³ per annum from the Titus River via the Rietvalley Scheme and to store 110 000 m³ in the proposed Jade Hills Dam. The licence was subsequently amended to confirm the storage location as Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein No. 383. Abstraction is subject to the conditions of the WUL, including the applicable winter abstraction period and the requirement that abstraction may only occur when the flow in the Titus River at Point 9 meets the prescribed surplus-flow requirements and exceeds 216 m³/hour. No groundwater may be stored in the proposed dam. Accordingly, no summer abstraction from the Titus River is proposed. The freshwater specialist findings will be incorporated into the EIR and the cumulative impact assessment will take cognisance of CapeNature's concerns regarding additional storage and abstraction within the Titus River catchment. Appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into the EIR and EMPr where required. Noted. CapeNature will remain a registered commenting authority and will be provided with the subsequent environmental assessment documentation, including the relevant specialist reports, for review and further comment. Any additional comments or requests for information received from CapeNature will be addressed during the EIA process.	
07/08/2026	**THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JADE HILLS DAM ON PORTION 26 OF FARM STINKFONTEIN 383, CERES, WESTERN CAPE** Owner: Jade Hills Pty (LTD)	Dept of Agriculture		EnviroAfrica

Comments received

	Farm name: Jade Hills Property: Portion 26 of Farm Stinkfontein 383, Ceres, Western Cape The Western Cape Dept. of Agriculture, Directorate: Sustainable Resource Management, sub-program LandCare has the following comments and recommendations on the proposed development: Jade Hills is located approximately 5 km east of Ceres in the Witzenberg Local Municipality area, Western Cape.			
	The proposed development involves the construction of a new earthfill farm storage dam (hereafter referred to as the Jade Hills Dam), which will have an approximate storage capacity of 110 000 m³, a maximum wall height of approximately 11.1 m, a wall length of approximately 237 m, and an estimated inundation area of approximately 1.7 ha. The total development footprint is approximately 2.0 ha, on previously cultivated land.		Noted. For clarification, the project engineer has confirmed that Phase 1 is no longer under consideration and that the Phase 2 Preliminary Design specifications prepared by Sarel Bester Engineers constitute the current proposed dam design and were used for the Water Use Licence Application. The project description will therefore be updated in the subsequent Scoping and EIA documentation to consistently reflect a storage capacity of approximately 110 000 m³, maximum wall height of approximately 12.5 m, crest length of approximately 259 m, water surface/flooded area of approximately 2.3 ha, and total dam footprint of approximately 6.6 ha. The 6.6 ha dam footprint includes the dam wall and spillway area, whereas the 2.3 ha flooded area represents the area that will be covered by water. The previously stated dimensions of 11.1 m, 237 m and 1.7 ha relate to the earlier Phase 1 design and will be corrected in the subsequent documentation. The 110 000 m³ storage capacity is also consistent with the issued Water Use Licence.	
	The primary purpose of the proposed dam is to store surplus winter water derived from an existing lawful water use allocation associated with the Rietvalley Irrigation Scheme, for use during the dry summer months in support of existing agricultural activities on the property.		Noted. The proposed abstraction and storage are authorised in terms of Water Use Licence No. 02/H10B/AB/13972, which authorises Jade Farming (Pty) Ltd to abstract a maximum of 110 000 m³ per annum from the Titus River via the	

Comments received

	The proposed dam will be supplied with water via a new pipeline of approximately 700 m in length from the existing Jade Hills Delivery Point, together with associated operational infrastructure, including a small pumphouse. Site coordinates (approximate centralThe proposed dam to be enlarged is situated at, - 33° 22′ 31.67″ S; 19° 22′ 13.15″E. Herewith comment on a draft assessment report that was provided by the consultant. The proposed dam falls within the current water allocated to the farm from the Rietvalley Irrigation Scheme.		Rietvalley Scheme and to store a maximum of 110 000 m³ in the proposed Jade Hills Dam. The licence conditions will be complied with.	
	The Preliminary Design Report prepared by Sarel Bester Engineers indicates that the material required for the construction of the proposed dam wall is expected to be sourced primarily from within the proposed dam basin during excavation. Visual inspections undertaken during the engineering investigations indicate that sufficient suitable material is available on site. The more gravelly sandy material will be used as mass fill for the upstream and downstream embankments, while the more clayey material will be incorporated into the central core and cut-off trench.		Noted and confirmed. In accordance with the Preliminary Design Report, suitable material excavated from within the proposed dam basin is expected to be utilised for construction of the dam embankment. Gravelly sandy material will generally be used as mass fill within the upstream and downstream embankment zones, while more clayey material will be incorporated into the central core and cut-off zones. Formal soil testing will be undertaken as part of the final engineering design to confirm the suitability of the available material and determine whether additional treatment or stabilisation measures are required. No external borrow pit is currently proposed.	
	Formal geotechnical and soil investigations will be undertaken during the detailed design phase to confirm the suitability of these materials and identify any additional treatment or stabilisation requirements. No external borrow pits are currently proposed The owner is applying to develop the dam on the following area (Single Block indiciated on the attached map):		Noted. The engineering report contains a preliminary assessment of the soils and construction materials within the proposed dam footprint and indicates that formal soil testing will be undertaken during the final design phase. The Department's request for appropriate soil information will be taken into consideration during the EIA and detailed design process.	

Camp No.	Size(ha)	Soil depth (mm)	Soil form	Soil series	Ave. Slope of land (%)	Dryland/ Irrigation

	Area 1	±1.1-2	< 450 mm	Glenrosa and/or Mispah and		5-10 %	N/A		

The veldt is classified as “Ceres Shale Renosterveld” according to CFM but is completely transformed.

Noted. The site historically supported Ceres Shale Renosterveld, which is classified as Critically Endangered. The proposed dam footprint is predominantly associated with previously cultivated/transformed agricultural land. A terrestrial biodiversity/botanical specialist assessment has been undertaken and its findings will be incorporated into the EIR to confirm the ecological condition and sensitivity of the affected area and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

1. As per the Conservation’ of Agriculture Resource Act 43 of 1983 (CARA) legislation the landowner and/or user should:

1.1 Protect the cultivated land on his farm unit effectively against excessive soil loss as a result of erosion through the action of water and wind.

Noted and agreed. Appropriate erosion prevention and soil conservation measures will be incorporated into the EMPr and implemented during construction and operation. Disturbed areas will be stabilised and rehabilitated as soon as practically possible to minimise erosion and sediment mobilisation.

1.2 Protect the irrigated land on his farm unit effectively against waterlogging and salinization.

Noted and agreed. The dam will be designed and constructed in accordance with the final engineering specifications to minimise seepage and the potential for waterlogging or salinisation of surrounding agricultural land. Appropriate drainage and monitoring measures will be implemented where required.

1.3 Not utilise the vegetation in a vlei, marsh or water sponge or within the flood area of a water course or within 10 meters horizontally outside flood area in a manner that causes or may cause the deterioration of or damage to the natural agricultural resources.

Noted and agreed. The proposed dam is located within an episodic drainage feature. Potential impacts on this freshwater feature will be considered through the freshwater specialist

			assessment and EIR. Appropriate mitigation and rehabilitation measures arising from the specialist assessment will be incorporated into the EMPr and implemented during construction and operation.	
	1.4 Should not develop any slopes more than 20% slope unless authorized in writing by the executive officer.		Noted. No development on slopes exceeding 20% will be undertaken without the necessary approval where such approval is required. The final engineering design and construction activities will take cognisance of the applicable requirements relating to slope stability, erosion prevention and soil conservation.	
	1.5 Remove and control all declared weeds and invasive plants as listed in Regulation 15, Table 3.		Noted and agreed. Declared weeds and invasive alien plant species within areas affected by the proposed development will be appropriately controlled and managed in accordance with applicable legislative requirements. Alien invasive plant management requirements will be incorporated into the EMPr.	
	2. It is recommended that:			
	2.1 Category 1 and 2 Invasive alien plants, as listed in Table 3 of Regulation 15 of CARA, were identified on the property mostly against the Bree River. An invasive alien clearing plan should be submitted and followed.		Noted. An alien invasive plant management/clearing programme will be incorporated into the environmental management requirements for the development, with priority given to the proposed development footprint and associated disturbed areas. Follow-up control will be undertaken where necessary to prevent re-establishment.	
	2.2 It is ensured that the dams are waterproof as to not cause waterlogging in the fields/orchards/vineyards below the dam.		Noted and agreed. The final dam design will take appropriate measures to minimise seepage and prevent adverse impacts such as waterlogging of agricultural land below the dam. The engineering report identifies the need for appropriate foundation sealing and provides for a selected	

Comments received

			clayey core and cut-off trench, with further soil testing and detailed design to determine any additional measures required.	
	2.3 the spillways be constructed in a fashion that will not cause erosion. Erosion protection measures should be considered at the outlet pipe and spillway from the dam.		Noted and agreed. The Phase 2 Preliminary Design provides for an open side-channel spillway with a concrete sill at the right abutment, designed to safely convey floodwater past the dam embankment and return it to the downstream drainage feature. Appropriate erosion protection measures will be incorporated at the spillway, outlet works and other areas susceptible to concentrated flow as part of the detailed engineering design. Relevant erosion prevention and protection measures will also be incorporated into the EMPr.	
	2.4 the dam wall be kept clear of any large shrubs or trees that could have an impact on the structural integrity of the dam. the dam wall and areas surrounding the dam be revegetated with indigenous vegetation to reduce the potential for erosion, sedimentation and invasion with alien plants at the dam. The owner can contact the LandCare District manager at the Worcester office (021-808 7801) for further technical assistance.		Noted and agreed. The dam wall will be appropriately maintained and kept free of large shrubs and trees that could compromise its structural integrity. Vegetation management requirements will be incorporated into the operational and maintenance provisions of the EMPr. Noted and supported. Areas disturbed during construction that are not required for the permanent operation of the dam will be appropriately rehabilitated and stabilised following construction. Suitable indigenous vegetation will be used where appropriate, taking into consideration dam safety and engineering requirements. Large woody vegetation will not be established on the dam embankment where it could compromise structural integrity. Rehabilitation, erosion control and alien invasive plant management measures will be incorporated into the EMPr.	

Comments received

	Best regards, Elmo Maree Technicial: Cape Winelands District		Noted with thanks. The Applicant and project team will liaise with the Department/LandCare should additional technical guidance be required during the detailed design, construction or rehabilitation phases.	
	Thank You, Bianca, To whom do we address any comments should we have any? Regards Nico		Good morning, Nico Thank you for the email. You can address your comments to me. Thank you.	EnviroAfrica
05/08/2026	Good day The Titus River WUA supports the building of dams to store surplus winter water. It is important to note that a ground water study commissioned in 2019 identified quaternary drainage area H10B as highly stressed and we therefore support more dams to store surplus surface water in order to reduce the reliance on a highly stressed aquafer. Due to the stressed nature of the ground water supply it is a requirement of the Titus River WUA that dams built to store surplus surface water may not be filled from boreholes and must ensure that the infrastructure used to fill the dam is large enough to fill the dam in 60 days or less of pumping time. This may require an additional pump and pipeline to supplement what can be supplied by the Rietvlei pumping scheme. Regards Steven Versfeld Chairman Titus River WUA	Steven Versfeld	Dear Steven Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed Jade Hills Dam. We acknowledge your comments regarding the stressed groundwater conditions within Quaternary Catchment H10B and the importance of increasing storage of surplus winter surface water to reduce reliance on groundwater abstraction. The Applicant confirms that the proposed dam is intended solely for the storage of surplus winter water associated with the existing lawful water use allocation from the Rietvalley Irrigation Scheme and will not be filled from boreholes. Your requirement that the water transfer infrastructure be designed to enable the dam to be filled within 60 days or less has been noted and will be considered during the detailed engineering design and incorporated into the final pumping and conveyance infrastructure requirements, where applicable. Thank you once again for your valuable input.	EnviroAfrica

Comments received

			Should you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact me.	
	Good day Please take note of an important limitation of the Rietvallei scheme. It is designed to deliver the allocated volume only in years when the scheme can run from mid-April until the end of September. This has happened no more than once or twice in the past 30 years. In a drought year it can be limited to as few as 60 days of pumping, hence the “60 days of less” requirement of the WUA. This is a critical requirement as the only alternative in the absence of sufficient pumping capacity to fill with surface water in 60 days or less, is to use ground water – in the very year that the ground water will be at it’s most stressed. Our concern as a WUA is that should the additional pumping capacity not be installed the producer will be forced to break the conditions of the license to survive a drought year. Regards Steven Versfeld Titus River WUA		Noted. The limitation of the Rietvallei Scheme and the concern raised by the WUA regarding the available pumping period, particularly during drought years, are acknowledged. The proposed Jade Hills Dam will be filled with authorised surface water from the Titus River via the Rietvallei Scheme. The issued Water Use Licence expressly provides that groundwater may not be stored in the Jade Hills Dam. Accordingly, groundwater will not be used to supplement the filling of the dam where insufficient surface water is available. The WUA's requirement that sufficient pumping capacity be available to transfer the authorised surface-water volume within 60 days or less will be taken into consideration in the final engineering design. The adequacy of the existing pumping and conveyance infrastructure will therefore be confirmed by the project engineer, and any additional pumping capacity and/or infrastructure required to meet this requirement will need to be incorporated into the final design prior to operation. The Applicant will be required to operate the scheme in accordance with the conditions of the issued Water Use Licence, including the applicable abstraction period and surplus-flow requirements. No abstraction or storage outside the conditions of the WUL is proposed.	

Comments received