



24G APPLICATION FORM & CHECKLIST

for

FARM KLEINBOS 24G

on

Remaining Extent of Farm Kleinbos 57 and
Portions 4 & 8 of Farm Landsekloof 55, Mossel
Bay

In terms of the

National Environmental Management Act (Act No.
107 of 1998, as amended) & 2014 Environmental
Impact Regulations

Prepared for Applicant: Group Editors
Company (Pty) Ltd

Date: 4 May 2022

Author of Report: Melissa Mackay

Author Email: mel@cape-eaprac.co.za

Report Reference: MOS665/02

Department Reference: 14/2/4/1/D6/28/0001/21

Case Officer: Mr Ziyaad Allie

Cape EAPrac

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners

Tel: +27 44 874 0365

Fax: +27 44 874 0432

PO Box 2070, George 6530

17 Progress Street, George

www.cape-eaprac.co.za



APPOINTED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER:

Cape EAPrac Environmental Assessment Practitioners

PO Box 2070

George

6530

Tel: 044-874 0365

Fax: 044-874 0432

Report written & compiled by: **Ms Melissa Mackay** (BTech & ND Nature Conservation), who has sixteen years' experience as an environmental practitioner. Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners of South Africa, EAPSA, Registration Number **2019/1446**.

Registrations: **Louise-Mari van Zyl** (MA Geography & Environmental Science [US]; Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners of South Africa, EAPSA, Registration Number **2019/1444**. Ms van Zyl has over twenty years' experience as an environmental practitioner.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT:

Application for 24G Environmental Authorisation

APPLICANT:

Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd

CAPE EAPRAC REFERENCE NO:

MOS665/02

SUBMISSION DATE

04 May 2022

24G APPLICATION FORM & CHECKLIST

in terms of the
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended &
Environmental Impact Regulations 2014

Farm Kleinbos 24G

Remaining Extent of Farm Kleinbos 57 and Portions 4 & 8 of Farm Landsekloof 55, Mossel Bay

Submitted for:

Stakeholder Review & Comment

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Report Issued by:

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners

Tel: 044 874 0365
Fax: 044 874 0432
Web: www.cape-eaprac.co.za

PO Box 2070
17 Progress Street
George 6530

ORDER OF REPORT

24G Application Form

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IMPORTANT: Kindly ensure that this checklist is completed and attached to the NEMA SECTION 24G Application.

Please indicate by ticking the following below to serve as confirmation that the required information has been included in the application.

No.	Application Requirements	Please tick for confirmation
1.	Requirements of Preliminary Advertisement (pre-application public participation requirements including register of all I&APs), in accordance with Annexure A, Section D of the Section 24G Fine Regulations. (Note: Failure to meet the Regulation 8 will result in rejection of the application)	✓
2.	Application form has been completed and attached, which includes among others:	✓
	2.1. A list of all listed activities and/or waste management activities that was triggered when the development activity was commenced with.	✓
	2.2. A list of all similarly listed activities in terms of the current EIA regulations (if applicable).	✓
	2.3. A description of the receiving environment before commences of the activity(ies).	✓
	2.4. A description of the receiving environment after commences of the activity(ies).	✓
	2.5. All appendices and annexures:	✓
	2.5.1. Locality map	✓
	2.5.2. Site plans or/and Layout plan	✓
	2.5.3. Building plans (if applicable)	✓
	2.5.4. Colour photographs	✓
	2.5.5. Biodiversity overlay map	✓
	2.5.6. Permit(s) / license(s) from any other organ of state including service letters from the municipality	✓
	2.5.7. Public participation information: including a copy of the register of interested and affected parties, the comments and responses report, proof of notices, advertisements, Land owner consent and any other public participation information	✓
	2.5.8. Environmental Management Programme	✓
	2.5.9. Certified copy of Identity Document of Applicant	✓
	2.5.10. Certified copy of the title deed (or title deeds in the case of linear activities)	✓

COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

	2.6. Signed declaration forms.	✓	
3.	Are any specialist assessments required: e.g. Botanical, Hydro-geological, soil, socio-economic?	YES	NO
	3.1. If yes, has the specialist assessment report been attached to the application?	✓	
4.	An assessment of the impacts of the activity or activities in terms of the following categories:		
	• Socio-economic	✓	
	• Biodiversity	✓	
	• Sense of place &/or Heritage/ Cultural	✓	
	• Any pollution or environmental degradation which has been, is being, is being or may be caused		
5.	A methodology of how the investigation into the impacts associated with the unlawful activity was undertaken.	✓	
6.	Completed and attached representations of Annexure A, Section A (Directives) in terms of the S24G Fine Regulations: Information/ Representation submitted in terms of any Directives the Minister/ decision maker may issue in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) s24G(1)(b)(i)-(viii).	✓	
7.	Completed and attached representations in terms of Annexure A, Section B (Deferral) of the S24G Fine Regulations.	✓	
8.	Completed and attached representations in terms of Annexure A, Section C, Part 1 (Fine Quantum based on the assessment as specified above (4).	✓	
	Confirmation that Annexure A, Section C, Part 1 has been completed by an environmental assessment practitioner (EAP)	✓	
9.	Compliance history of the applicant:		
	9.1. Completed Annexure A, Section C, Part 2 and 3; namely:	✓	
	9.1.1. Whether or not administrative enforcement notices, including pre -notices where appropriate, have previously been issued to the applicant in respect of a contravention of section 24F(1) of the NEMA and/or section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA).	✓	
	9.1.2. Whether or not the applicant has previously been convicted in respect of a contravention of section 24F(1) of the Act and /or section 20(b) of the NEM: WA;	✓	
	9.1.3. Whether or not the applicant has previously submitted a section 24G application in respect of an activity or activities which commenced prior to the activity or activities that are the subject of the current application; and	✓	
	9.1.4. Whether the applicant is a firm or a natural person. (see Section 24G Fine Regulations for definition of "firm")	✓	
	9.2. Provided information or whether or not any of the directors of the applicant firm are, or were, at the relevant time, directors of a firm to whom the above (9.1.1. - 9.1.3.) applies;	✓	
	9.3. Advise on whether an applicant who is a natural person is, or was, at the relevant time a director of a firm to whom the above (9.1.1.- 9.1.3.) may apply.	✓	
10.	Consultation with relevant State departments in terms of section 24O(2) & 24O(3) of the NEMA.	✓	
	10.1 Proof of Consultation with relevant State departments, including, <i>inter alia</i> , notices, adverts etc.	✓	
	10.2 Copies of comments and responses included in the application.	✓	
	10.2 Comments and Response report attached to the application.	✓	
11.	Public Participation Process undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations, 2014") (GN No. R.326 of 7 April 2017) (if conducted/undertaken)	✓	



BETTER TOGETHER.

Section 24G Application Form for the consequences of unlawful commencement of listed activity/ies in terms of the:

- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), ("NEMA");
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) ("NEM: WA")

April 2018

Form Number S24GAF/04/2018

Kindly note that:

1. This application must be submitted where a person has commenced with a listed or specified activity without an environmental authorisation in contravention of section 24F(1) of NEMA (i.e. where the person commenced with an activity listed or specified in terms of section 24(2) (a) or (b) of NEMA - the activities contained in the EIA Listing Notices) or has commenced, undertaken or conducted a waste management activity without a waste management licence in terms of section 20 (b) of the NEM:WA.

2. This **Application Form** must be completed for all section 24G applications, by an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP").

3. This Application Form is current as of 01 April 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant/EAP to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the Application Form have been published or produced by the competent authority. Note that this Application Form replaces all the previous versions. This updated Application Form must be used for all new applications submitted from 01 April 2018.

4. The contents of this Application Form includes the following:

PART 1 -

Section A: Background Information

Section B: Activity Information

Section C: Description of Receiving Environment

Section D: Need and Desirability

Section E: Alternatives

Section F: Impact Assessment, Management, Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

Section G: Assessment Methodologies and Criteria, Gaps in Knowledge, underlying Assumptions and Uncertainties

Section H: Recommendations of the EAP

Section I: Representations - Response to an Incident or Emergency Situation

Section J: Public Participation Process

PART 2 -

ANNEXURE A of Fine Regulations

Section A: Directives

Section B: Deferral of the Application

Section C: Quantum of the section 24G fine

Section D: Preliminary advertisement

PART 3 -

Appendices and Declarations

PART 4 -

ANNEXURE B: Waste Management Activity Supporting Information (if relevant)



5. An independent EAP must be appointed to complete the required sections (in terms of NEMA and its Regulations) of the Application Form on behalf of the applicant; the declaration of independence must be completed by the independent EAP and submitted with this Application Form. If a specialist report is required, the specialist will also be required to complete the declaration of independence.
6. Two hard copies (including the original) and one electronic copy (CD/DVD/Flash drive) of this application form must be submitted.
7. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The space provided extend as each space is filled with typing. **A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form.** A digital copy of the Application Form is available on the Department's website <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp/>
8. The use of "not applicable" in the Application Form must be done with circumspection.
- 9. No faxed or e-mailed application forms will be accepted.**
10. Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this application will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Please note that, unless exemption has been granted in terms of the National Exemption Regulations published under GN R994 in GG 38303 of 8 December 2014, any Interested and Affected Party should be provided with the information contained in and attached to this Application Form as well as any subsequent information submitted.
11. This Application Form must be submitted to the Department at the postal address given below or by delivery thereof to the Registry Office of the Department.

PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED:

- a) **Prior to submission of an Application Form**, the applicant is required to undertake a pre-application public participation process in terms of Regulation 8 of the Regulations relating to the procedure to be followed and criteria to be considered when determining an appropriate fine in terms of section 24G published in the Government Gazette on 20 July 2017, Gazette No 40994, No. R. 698 ("Section 24G Fine Regulations").
- b) Together with the submission of a section 24G Application Form, the form **must include Proof of compliance of with Regulation 8** of the Section 24G Fine Regulations, including, but not limited to, proof of the pre-application advertisement in a local newspaper and register of I&APs.
- c) The Department will acknowledge receipt of the application (within 14 days) and provide the Applicant / EAP with the relevant application reference number to be used in all future correspondence and the application public participation processes.
- d) Upon receipt of the application, the MEC/Competent Authority may direct the applicant in terms of section 24G(1)(i-viii) of the NEMA.
- e) In terms of the provisions of section 24G of NEMA, the applicant must pay an administrative fine up to a maximum of R5 million before the MEC/Competent Authority decides on the application.
- f) The applicant **must within 14 days** of receipt of the determination of the quantum of the fine, ensure that all registered interested and affected parties are notified of the determination of the quantum of the fine, including the reasons and provided with access to the determination.
- g) The administrative fine **must be paid within the time period stipulated** in the determination. Failure to pay the fine within the specified period, will result in the lapse of the application and any partial amounts paid in will not be refunded.
- h) **Proof of payment of the fine must be submitted to the Department.** Upon payment of the administrative fine, the MEC/Competent Authority may-
 - refuse to issue an environmental authorisation; or
 - issue an environmental authorisation to such person to continue, conduct or undertake the activity subject to such conditions as may be deemed necessary, which environmental authorisation shall only take effect from the date on which it has been issued; or
 - direct the applicant to provide further information or take further steps prior to making a decision provided for above;
 - together with the above decision the MEC/Competent Authority may direct a person to rehabilitate the environment within such time and subject to such conditions as may deem necessary or take any other steps necessary under the circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Failure to comply with a directive may result in the institution of appropriate legal action as is deemed necessary and as provided for in the legislation.
 2. The submission of an application or the granting of an environmental authorisation shall in no way derogate from—
 - (a) the environmental management inspector's or the South African Police Services' authority to investigate any transgression in terms of NEMA or any specific environmental management Act;
 - (b) the National Prosecuting Authority's legal authority to institute any criminal prosecution.
 3. If, at any stage after the submission of an application it comes to the attention of the Minister, Minister for mineral resources or MEC that the applicant is under criminal investigation for the contravention of or failure to comply with section 24F(1) or section 20(b) of the *National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)*, the Minister, Minister for mineral resources or MEC may defer a decision to issue an environmental authorisation until such time that the investigation is concluded and—
 - (a) the National Prosecuting Authority has decided not to institute prosecution in respect of such contravention or failure;
 - (b) the applicant concerned is acquitted or found not guilty after prosecution in respect of such contravention or failure has been instituted; or
 - (c) the applicant concerned has been convicted by a court of law of an offence in respect of such contravention or failure and the applicant has in respect of the conviction exhausted all the recognised legal proceedings pertaining to appeal or review.
 4. A person is guilty of an offence if that person:
 - Prior to submission of a section 24G application:
 - o fails, in terms of Regulation 8(1), to place a preliminary advertisement in a local newspaper in circulation in the area in which the activity was, or activities were, commenced and on the applicant's website, if any or
 - o fails, in terms of Regulation 8(2), to comply with the advertisement requirements set out in Annexure A, section D or
 - o fails, in terms of Regulation 8(3), to open and maintain a register of interested and affected parties)); or
 - o fails, in terms of Regulation 8(4), to attach to the application form the register of interested and affected parties, which must be included in the report, or form part of the information submitted in terms of section 24G(1) of NEMA.
 - Provides incorrect, false or misleading information in any form, including in any document submitted to a competent authority in terms of the Section 24G Fine Regulations or omits information that may have an influence on the outcome of a recommendation of the fine committee or determination of the competent authority.
 5. A person convicted of an offence in terms of these Regulations is liable to a fine not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, and in both instances to both such fine and such imprisonment.
-

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

Department of Environmental Affairs
and Development Planning,
Directorate: Environmental
Governance
Attention: Sub-directorate:
Rectification
Private Bag X9086
Cape Town, 8000

Registry Office
1st Floor Utilitas Building
1 Dorp Street, Cape Town

Queries should be directed to the
Sub-directorate: Rectification at:
Tel: (021) 483-5827 Fax: (021) 483-
4033

DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER(S) (for official use)

File Reference number (S24G)	
Administrative Fine Reference	

DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER(S) (to be completed by the EAP)

View the Department's website on <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp> for the latest version of the documents

PART 1**PROJECT TITLE**

File Reference number (Enforcement), if applicable	14/1/1/E3/9/10/3/L1015/19
File reference number (EIA), if applicable:	
File reference number (Waste), if applicable:	
File reference number (Other (specify)):	

Farm Kleinbos 24G

RELEVANT REGION IN WHICH THE ACTIVITY COMMENCED

Cross out the appropriate box "☒" in which region the unlawful activity/ies has commenced.

REGION 1 City of Cape Town and West Coast District	REGION 2 Cape Winelands District and Overberg District	REGION 3 Central Karoo District and Eden District
		✓

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**1. APPLICANT PROFILE INDEX**

Cross out the appropriate box "☒".

1.1	The applicant is a Natural Person (individual)					
1.2	The applicant is a Firm (i.e. any body incorporated by, or established in terms of, any law as well as any partnership, trust, parastatal or organ of state)					✓
1.2.1	If a firm, please tick the relevant box below:					
	Body Corporate	Partnership	Trust	Parastatal	Organ of State	
✓	Directors of a Company	Members of a Board	Other, please specify			

Applicant's details (duplicate this section where there is more than one applicant)																																							
Applicant Name:	Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd																																						
RSA Identity Number/ Passport Number of Applicant, if natural person:																																							
Name of Firm (if applicable):																																							
Firm Registration Number:	1963/002133/07																																						
Contact Person at the Firm:	Ms Nicole Rimbault																																						
List of all (as applicable at the relevant time):	Please insert the names and RSA ID numbers of the relevant persons below – (In the list below, delete the firms that are not applicable to this application)																																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors of a company; or • Members of the board; or • Executive committee or other managing body of a corporate body or parastatal; or • Members of close corporation; or • Partners of a partnership; or • Trustees of a trust 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">DIRECTOR AND OTHER SUMMARY</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4">ACTIVE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>ID Number</th> <th>Type</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DE KOCK, SERVAAS WILLEM LOURENS</td> <td>7404115133081</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOOLMAN, LESLEY ODELL</td> <td>5006040107080</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOOLMAN, PETER JOHN</td> <td>4905275108088</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MOOLMAN, TERENCE DESMOND</td> <td>4312215098083</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRINSLOO, MARTINUS JOHANNES</td> <td>5408215077082</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RIMBAULT, NICOLE ODEL</td> <td>7512100156089</td> <td>DIRECTOR</td> <td>ACTIVE</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			DIRECTOR AND OTHER SUMMARY				ACTIVE				Name	ID Number	Type	Status	DE KOCK, SERVAAS WILLEM LOURENS	7404115133081	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE	MOOLMAN, LESLEY ODELL	5006040107080	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE	MOOLMAN, PETER JOHN	4905275108088	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE	MOOLMAN, TERENCE DESMOND	4312215098083	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE	PRINSLOO, MARTINUS JOHANNES	5408215077082	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE	RIMBAULT, NICOLE ODEL	7512100156089	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE
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RIMBAULT, NICOLE ODEL	7512100156089	DIRECTOR	ACTIVE																																				
Postal address:	PO Box 806																																						
	George	Postal code:	6530																																				
Telephone:	044 874 2424	Cell:	082 576 1534																																				
E-mail:	Nicolem@groupeeditors.co.za	Fax:	()																																				
Project Consultant																																							
Contact person:																																							
Postal address:																																							
		Postal code:																																					
Telephone:		Cell:																																					
E-mail:		Fax:																																					
Name of the Environmental	Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac)																																						

Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") responsible for the application:			
Company name (if any):	Ms Melissa Mackay / Ms Louise-Mari van Zyl (Director)		
Postal address:	P.O. Box 2070		
	George	Postal code:	6530
Telephone:	(044) 874 0365	Cell:	071 603 4132
E-mail:	mel@cape-eaprac.co.za	Fax:	(044) 874 0432
EAP Qualifications	BTech & ND Nature Conservation / MA Geography and Environmental Science (Director)		
EAP Registrations/Associations	Director is a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with the Environmental Assessment Practitioners of South Africa, EAPSA, Registration Number 2019/1444 .		
Name of the Landowner:	Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd		
Name of the contact person for the land owner (if other):	Ms Nicole Rimbault		
Postal address:	PO Box 806		
	George	Postal code:	6530
Telephone:	044 874 2424	Cell:	082 576 1534
E-mail:	Nicolem@groupeeditors.co.za	Fax:	()
Person in control of land:	As Above		
Contact person:			
Postal address:			
		Postal code:	
Telephone:	()	Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	()

Please note:

In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of landowners with their contact details to the back of this form.

A certified copy of the applicant's (if natural person), alternatively a director's (as defined), Identity Document must be attached to the application.

A certified copy of the title deed of the property/s on which the unlawful listed activity/ies has commenced must be attached to the application.

Municipality in whose area of jurisdiction the activity falls:	Mossel Bay Municipality		
Contact person, if known:	Mr Eddie Kruger (Town Planner)		
Postal address:	Pvt Bag X29		
	Mossel Bay	Postal code:	6500
Telephone	(044) 606-5070	Cell:	
E-mail:	ekruger@mosselbay.gov.za	Fax:	(044) 695 2460

Please note:

In instances where there is more than one Municipality involved, please attach a list of Municipalities with their respective contact details to the form.

Property location(s):	The property is located between Bonnievale and Friemersheim in the Southern Cape. Access is via the provincial road DR1630 near km 6 onto OP6824.
Farm/Erf name(s) & number(s) including portion(s)	Remaining Extent of Farm Kleinbos 57 Portion 4 of Farm Landsekloof 55 Portion 8 of Farm Landsekloof 55
Property size(s) (m ²)	Remaining Extent of Farm Kleinbos 57 - ±57.54ha Portion 4 of Farm Landsekloof 55 - ±22.25ha Portion 8 of Farm Landsekloof 55 - ±4.86ha
Development footprint size(s) (m ²)	±14ha already cleared with an expected ±31ha in total planned
SG21 Digit code(s)	C05100000000005700000 (RE/57) C05100000000005500004 (4/55) C05100000000005500008 (8/55)

Property boundary:

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	33° 56' 46.44" South	22° 04' 29.12" East
2	33° 56' 38.98" South	22° 04' 46.28" East
3	33° 56' 27.10" South	22° 04' 39.59" East
4	33° 56' 35.31" South	22° 05' 23.62" East
5	33° 56' 57.32" South	22° 05' 01.81" East
6	33° 56' 51.48" South	22° 04' 58.95" East

7	33° 56' 55.97" South	22° 04' 44.63" East
8	33° 56' 49.87" South	22° 04' 40.41" East
9	33° 56' 53.79" South	22° 04' 29.93" East

The co-ordinates for the site boundary are:

Please note that these co-ordinates are not surveyed.

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	33° 56' 46.34" South	22° 04' 32.47" East
2	33° 56' 43.07" South	22° 04' 37.40" East
3	33° 56' 39.13" South	22° 04' 46.17" East
4	33° 56' 51.95" South	22° 04' 53.00" East
5	33° 56' 54.86" South	22° 04' 46.50" East
6	33° 56' 49.71" South	22° 04' 40.32" East
7	33° 56' 50.77" South	22° 04' 36.74" East

Please note:

Where numerous properties/sites are involved (e.g. linear activities), attach a list of property descriptions and street addresses to the consultation form.

Street address:	Access is via the provincial road DR1630 near km 6 onto OP6824.		
Magisterial District or Town:	Mossel Bay district		
Closest City/Town:	Ruitersbosch, Southern Cape	Distance	±4(km)
Zoning of Property:	Agriculture Zone I		

Please note:

In instances where there is more than one zoning applicable, please attach a list or map of the properties indicating their respective zoning to the Application Form.

Was the property rezoned after commencement of activities?		YES	NO
If yes, what was the previous zoning?			
Is a rezoning application required?		YES	NO
Is a consent use application required?		YES	NO
Locality map:	<p>A locality map must be attached to the Application Form as an appendix. The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) a north arrow; a legend; the prevailing wind direction; and GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection)
Landowner(s) Consent:	<p>If the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity has been undertaken, he/she must obtain written consent from all landowners or persons in control of the land (of the site and all alternative sites). This must be attached to this document as Appendix G. Such consent must indicate whether or not the owner or person in control of the land would support approval of the application and that the land need not be rehabilitated.</p> <p>Note: The consent of the landowner or person in control of the land is not required for: a) linear activities; b) an activity directly related to prospecting or exploration of a mineral and petroleum resource or extraction and primary processing of a mineral resource; or c) strategic integrated projects ("SIPs") as contemplated in the <i>Infrastructure Development Act, 2014 (Act No. 23 of 2014)</i>.</p>

2. APPLICATION HISTORY

(Cross out the appropriate box "X" and provide a description where required).

Has any national, provincial or local authority considered any development applications on the property previously?	YES	NO
If so, please give a brief description of the type and/or nature of the application/s as well as a reference number, if applicable: (In instances where there was more than one application, please attach a list of these applications)		
Which authority considered the application:		
Has <u>any</u> one of the previous application/s on the property been approved or refused? If so provide a list of the successful and unsuccessful application/s and the reasons for decision(s):	YES	NO
Provide detail on the period of validity of decision and expiry dates of the above applications/ permits etc.		

SECTION B: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

1. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

I hereby apply in terms of section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) for the regularisation of the unlawful commencement or continuation of the listed or waste management activities as specified in Section B:1 below.

Applicant (Full names): Ms Nicole RimbaultSignature: Nicole RimbaultPlace: GeorgeDate: 6 May 2022EAP (Full names): Ms Melissa Mackay

Signature: _____

Place: GeorgeDate: 6 May 2022

All listed activities associated with the development must be indicated below.

1.1 Applicable EIA listed activities

ECA EIA Contraventions: between 08 September 1997 and end of 09 May 2002			
Activities commenced with on or after 08 September 1997 and before end 09 May 2002: EIA regulations promulgated in terms of the ECA, Act 73 of 1989			
Government Notice No. ("GN") R1182 Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant listed activity/ies in writing as per GN No. 1182 of 1997	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
ECA EIA Contraventions: between 10 May 2002 and end of 02 July 2006			
Activities unlawfully commenced with on or after 10 May 2002 and before end 02 July 2006: EIA regulations promulgated in terms of the ECA, Act 73 of 1989,			
NEMA EIA Contraventions: between 03 July 2006 and end of 01 August 2010			
Activities unlawfully commenced with on or after 03 July 2006 and before end 01 August 2010: EIA regulations promulgated in terms of the NEMA			
GN R386 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 1 of 2006)	Describe the relevant listed activity/ies in writing as per GN No. R. 386 of 2006 ("NEMA 2006 Basic Assessment listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
Government Notice No. R387 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 2 of 2006)	Describe the relevant listed activity/ies in writing as per GN No. R. 387 of 2006 ("NEMA 2006 Scoping/EIA listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
NEMA EIA Contraventions: between 02 August 2010 and end of 07 December 2014			
Activities unlawfully commenced with on or after 02 August 2010 and before end 07 December 2014: EIA regulations promulgated in terms of the NEMA, Act 107 of 1998,			
GN No. R. 544 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 1 of 2010)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R. 544 of 2010 ("NEMA 2010 Basic Assessment listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
GN No. R. 545 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 2 of 2010)	Describe the relevant listed activity/ies in writing as per GN No. R. 545 of 2010. (NEMA 2010 Scoping/EIA listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity

GN No. R. 546 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 3 of 2010)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R. 546 of 2010	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
NEMA EIA Contraventions: on or after 08 December 2014			
Activities unlawfully commenced with on or after 08 December 2014: EIA regulations promulgated in terms of the NEMA, Act 107 of 1998,			
GN No. R. 327 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 1 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R. 327 of 2014 ("NEMA 2014 Basic Assessment listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
27	<p>The clearance of an area of 1 ha or more, but less than 20ha of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for –</p> <p>(i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>An area of ±14.3ha was cleared unlawfully for the development of crop production in the form of avocados.</p>	<p>The properties were purchased in February 2017 by the current owner and clearing of land commenced shortly afterwards.</p>
<p>It must be noted that the applicant intends to develop a total of ±31ha for crop production and it is the opinion of this office that the initial clearing was done in furtherance of the final area therefore this activity is technically not correct and the Activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 must be applied instead.</p>			
GN No. R. 325 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 2 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R. 325 of 2014 ("NEMA 2014 Scoping/EIA listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
15	<p>The clearance of an area of 20ha or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for –</p> <p>(i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>An area of ±14.3ha was cleared unlawfully for the development of crop production in the form of avocados. This was in furtherance of a total area of ±31ha.</p>	<p>The properties were purchased in February 2017 by the current owner and clearing of land commenced shortly afterwards.</p>

GN No. R. 324 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 3 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R.324 of 2014	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
<p>12(i) (ii)</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p> <p>iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;</p> <p>iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</p> <p>v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development</p>	<p>The property falls into areas that were identified in the WCBSP 2017 as being part of a terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area.</p>	<p>The properties were purchased in February 2017 by the current owner and clearing of land commenced shortly afterwards.</p>

	Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.		

Please ensure that you have provided the similarly listed activities if the listed activities were commenced before the period the EIA Regulations came into effect, i.e. before 08 December 2014.

1.2—Applicable Waste Management Activities

List the relevant waste management activity/ies applied for:

Waste Management Activity Contraventions: On or after 03 July 2007 up to end of 28 November 2013			
Activities unlawfully commenced with in terms of GNR 718 of 03 July 2009 under the National Environmental Management Waste Act, Act 59 of 2008			
GN No. 718— Category A Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category A</u> waste management activity/ies in writing.	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable waste activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
GN No. 718— Category B Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category B</u> waste management activity/ies in writing.	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable waste activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity

Waste Management Activity Contraventions: On or after 29 November 2013			
Activities unlawfully commenced with in terms of GNR 921 of 29 November 2013 under the National Environmental Management Waste Act, Act 59 of 2008,			
GN No. 921— Category A Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category A</u> waste management activity/ies in writing.	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable waste activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity
GN No. 921— Category B Activity No(s):	Describe the relevant <u>Category B</u> waste management activity/ies in writing.	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable waste activity.	State the date of commencement of each activity

Please note:

The National Department of Environmental Affairs is the competent authority for activities regarded as hazardous waste. Such activities must be indicated as hazardous waste in the abovementioned lists.

Only those activities listed above shall be considered for authorisation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. If a specific listed activity is not included in an Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment or a new application for Environmental Authorisation will have to be submitted.

1.3—Activities listed similarly in terms of the EIA Regulations

Kindly indicate the listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations that is listed similar to the unlawfully commenced activities. The descriptions provided below must clearly state why the activity/development is still similarly listed in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

The similarly listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations promulgated in terms of the NEMA, Act 107 of 1998,

GN No. R. 327 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 1 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R.327 of 2014 ("NEMA 2014 Basic Assessment listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.
GN No. R. 325 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 2 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R.325 of 2014 ("NEMA 2014 Scoping/EIA listed activity/ies")	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.
GN No. R. 324 Activity No(s): (Listing Notice 3 of 2014)	Describe the relevant listed activity(ies) in writing as per GN No. R.324 of 2014	Describe the portion of the development as per the project description that relates to the applicable listed activity.

Please note:

Where approvals for the activity have been obtained in terms of any other legislation (e.g. National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998), certified copies of such approvals must be attached to this form.

2. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

(Cross out the appropriate box "☒" and provide a description where required).

Is/are the activity(ies) complete or is/are the activity(ies) still to be completed?	COMPLETED	INCOMPLETE
(a) Is/was the project a new development or an upgrade of an existing development? Also indicate the date (e.g. 2 August 2010) when the activity commenced <u>as well as</u> the original date of commencement if the application is an upgrade.	NEW	UPGRADE
<p>The properties were purchased in February 2017 by the current owner and clearing of land commenced shortly afterwards. Previous agriculture on the site appears to have been limited to livestock grazing and some pine plantations. The clearance of the property is to provide for avocado plantations. At the time of receiving a Compliance Notice from the DEA&DP, an estimated 8,9ha had been cleared. The Contour & Irrigation survey as drawn up by Aquanet for the applicant indicates that the southern areas identified for the avocado orchards is an area of ±14.3ha and not 8.9ha, as initially cited by DEA&DP: Law Enforcement. It must be noted an additional ±8.23ha in the northern portion of the farm which was previously burnt has also been identified for crop production and is being applied for as being in furtherance of the unlawful activity. Thus a total area of ±31ha will be cleared and developed for agricultural crop production.</p> <p>A small dam of approximately 0.31ha located within the cleared areas was constructed for water pumped from an existing abstraction point. The dam is not an instream dam. The dam replaces a previous dam that was infilled for inclusion in the crop area.</p>		

(b) Clearly describe the activity and associated infrastructure commenced with, indicating what has been completed and what still has to be completed.
<p>The Contour & Irrigation survey as drawn up by Aquanet for the applicant indicates that the southern areas identified for the avocado orchards is an area of ±14.3ha and not 8.9ha, as initially identified by DEA&DP: Law Enforcement. It must be noted an additional ±8.23ha in the northern portion of the farm which was previously burnt has also been identified for crop production and is being applied for as being in furtherance of the unlawful activity. This area has not been ploughed in preparation for planting. Thus a total area of ±31ha will be cleared and developed for agricultural crop production.</p>

A small dam of approximately 0.31ha located within the cleared areas was constructed for water pumped from an existing abstraction point. The dam is not an instream dam. The dam replaces a previous dam that was infilled for inclusion in the crop area.

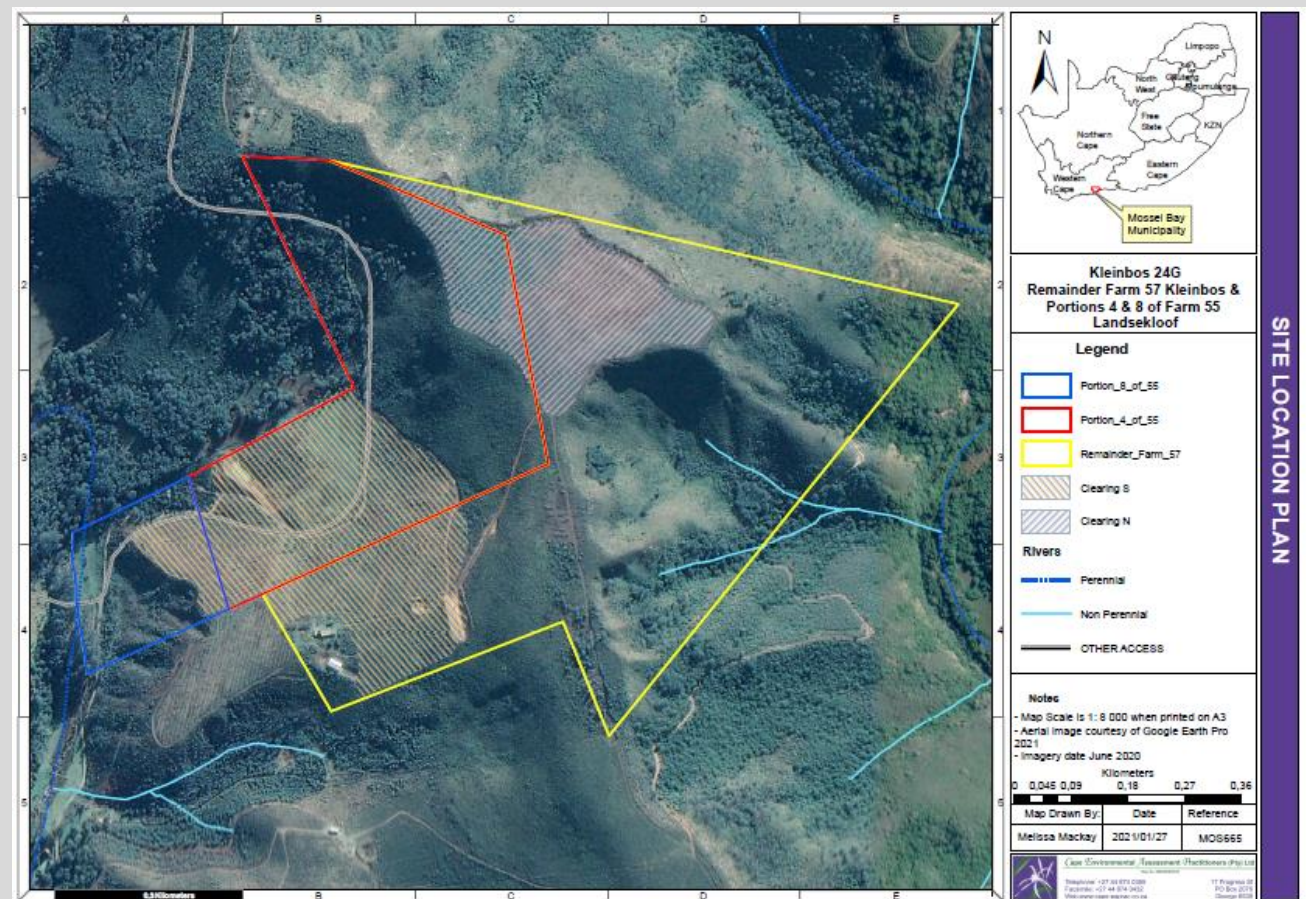


Figure 1: Cultivation Areas



Figure 2: Southern clearance 2017



Figure 3: Southern clearance 2021

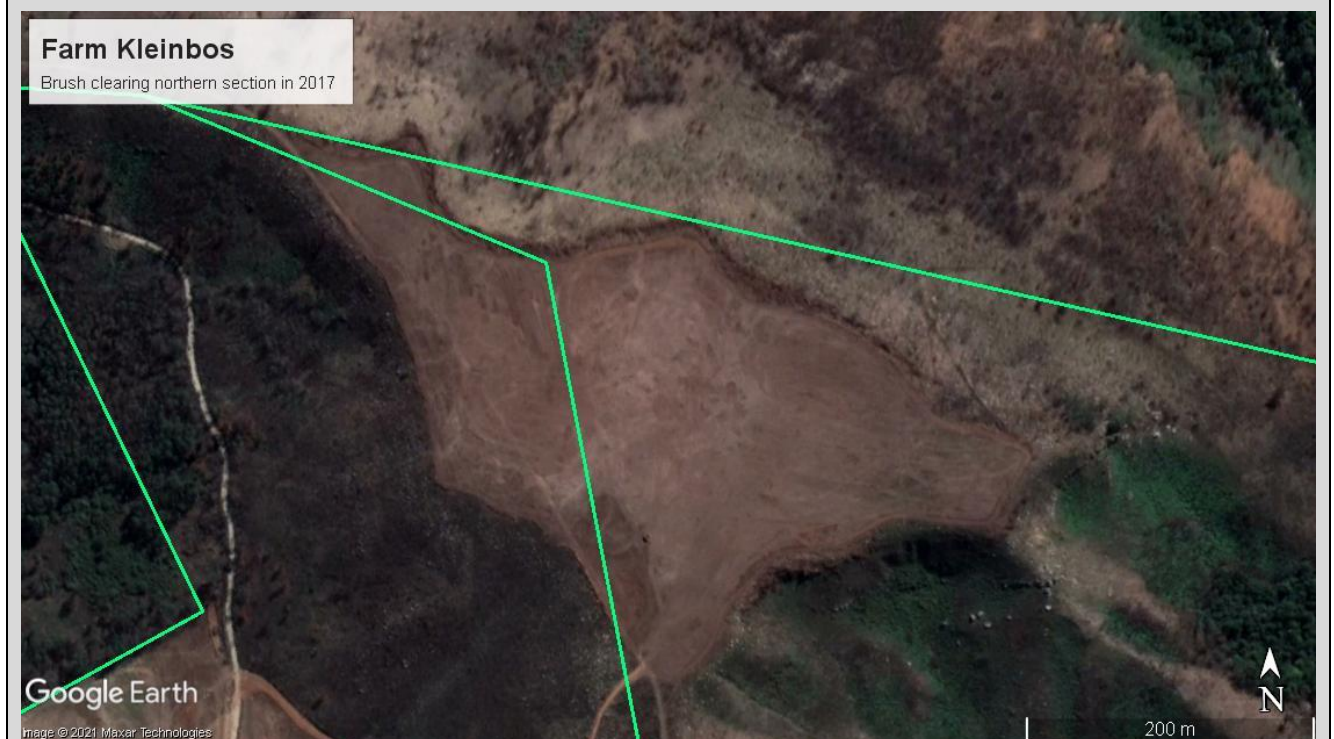


Figure 4: Northern brush clearance 2017

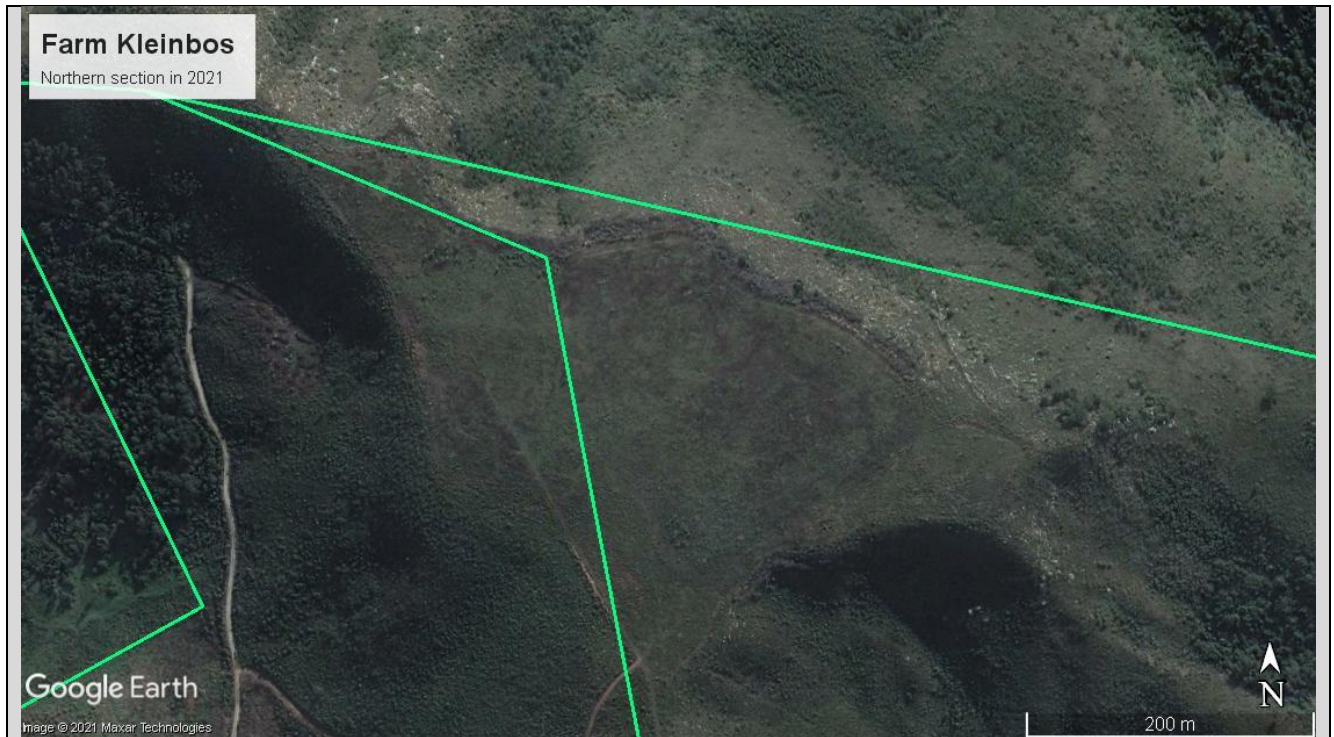
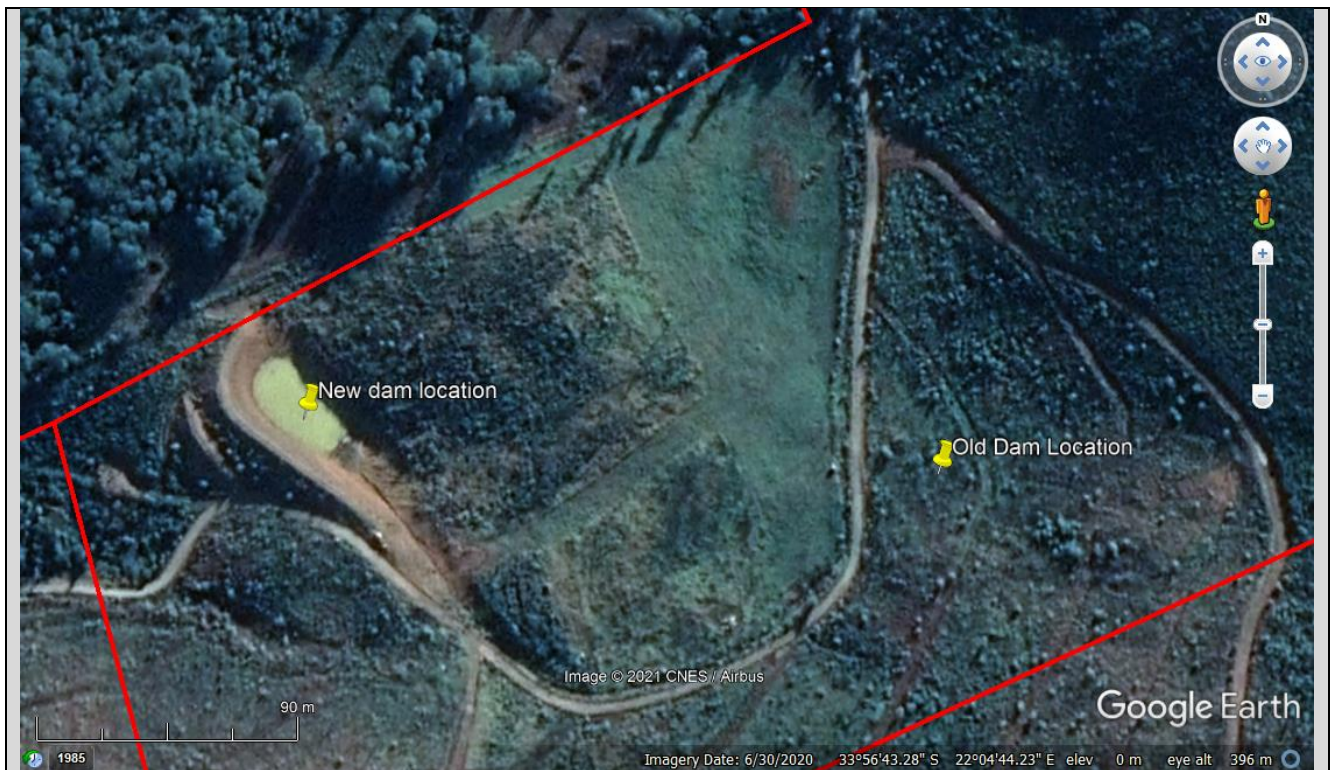


Figure 5: Northern brush clearance 2021

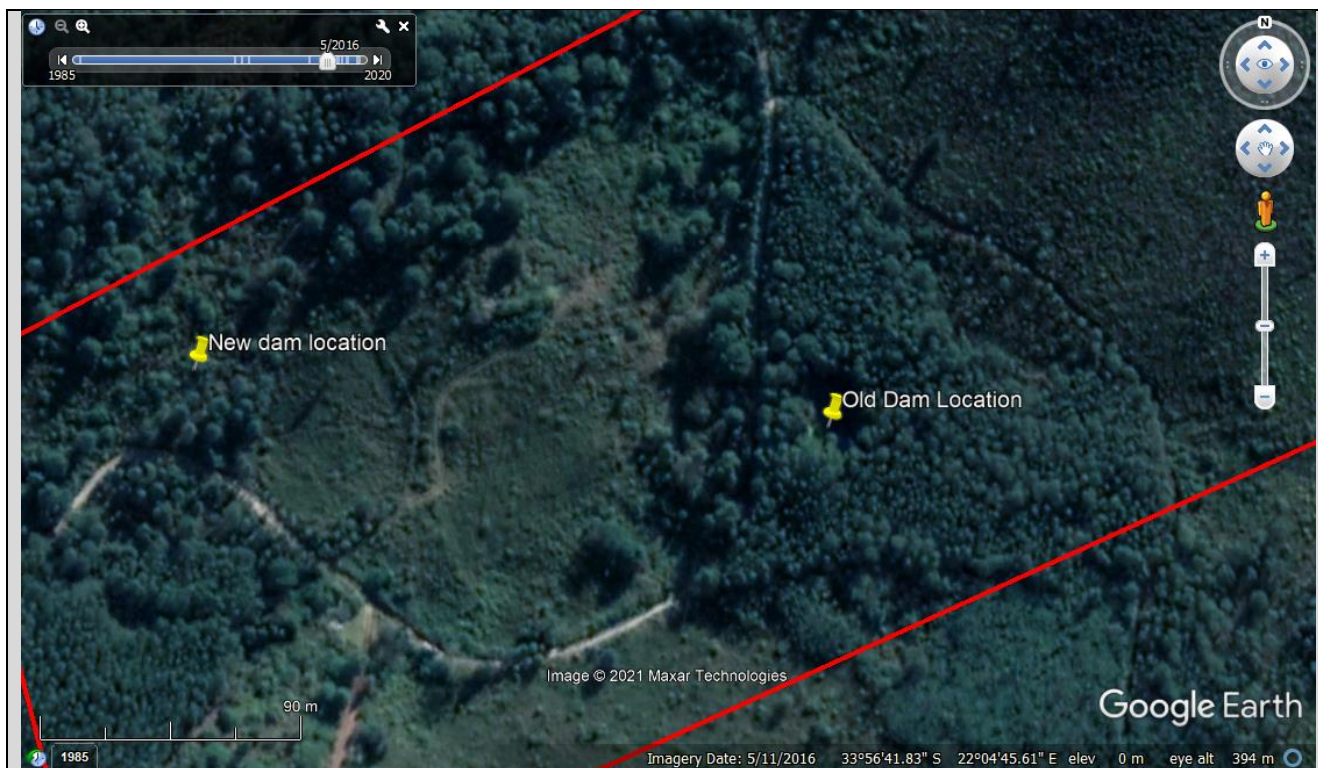
As is noted from the aerial images above, the clearance has re-established cover well.

(c) Please provide details of all components of the activity and attach diagrams (e.g. architectural drawings or perspectives, engineering drawings, process flow charts etc.).		
Buildings	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
Infrastructure (e.g. roads, power and water supply/ storage)	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
<p>A small off stream dam (± 0.31ha) was constructed for water which is pumped up from the existing abstraction point and used for irrigation. The dam will be surveyed to confirm whether or not the storage amount is more than the lawful registered volume. This dam replaces a previous dam that was located approximately 210m to the east. The location of the previous dam was provided to the freshwater specialist by Mr A Moolman.</p>		



The 2005 and 2016 images below clearly shows the depression of the old dam and that there is nothing at the site of the new dam.





Processing activities (e.g. manufacturing, storage, distribution)	YES	NO
Provide brief description:		
Storage facilities for raw materials and products (e.g. volume and substances to be stored)		
Provide brief description	YES	NO
Storage and treatment facilities for solid waste and effluent generated by the project	YES	NO
Provide brief description		

(d) Other activities (e.g. water abstraction activities, crop planting activities)	YES	NO
Provide brief description		
An area of approximately 14.3ha has been cleared for the planting of avocados. An additional ± 8.23 ha is planned which will bring the total area cleared for crops to ± 31 ha. A small off stream dam (± 0.31 ha) was constructed for water which is pumped up from the existing abstraction point and used for irrigation.		
No additional water abstraction is required.		

3. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

Indicate the physical spatial size of the activity as well as associated infrastructure (footprints):	± 31 ha
Indicate the area that has been transformed / cleared to allow for the activity as well as associated infrastructure	± 14.3 ha
Total area:	± 31 ha

4. SITE ACCESS

Was there an existing access road?	YES	NO
If NO, what was the distance over which the new access road was built? Please indicate the length and width of the new road.	(Length) m	
	(width) m	
Describe the type of access road constructed:		
The farm has existing access roads and internal network.		

Please Note:

Indicate the position of the access road on the site plan (See Section 5 below)

5. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs of the site and its surroundings (taken of the site and from the site), both before (if available) and after the activity commenced, with a description of each photograph, must be attached to this application. The vantage points from which the photographs were taken must be indicated on the site plan, or locality plan as applicable. If available, please also provide past and recent aerial photographs. It should be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site. Date and source of photographs must be included. Photographs must be attached as an **appendix** to this form.

Please note:

Should the relevant photographs not be included in the application, the application may be deemed insufficient and further information in this regard will be requested.

6. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

Please list all legislation, policies and/or guidelines that were or are relevant to this activity.

LEGISLATION	ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY	TYPE Permit/ license/ authorisation/comment	DATE (if already obtained):
National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998)	DEA&DP	Environmental Authorisation	Pending
National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act (Act 25 of 2014)	DEA&DP	Public participation as part of the Environmental Authorisation	Pending
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)	DEA&DP	None	None
National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)	Heritage Western Cape	Notice of Intent to Develop (NID)	Pending
National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)	Department of Water & Sanitation	General Authorisation	Pending

		(storage)	
National Forest Act (Act 84 of 1998)	Department of Forestry	None	None
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA)	Department of Agriculture	None	None

POLICY/ GUIDELINES	ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY
National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 as amended)	DEA&DP NEMA requires a Basic Assessment process be undertaken which includes that a Report be drafted and submitted in order for the Authorisation to be issued for the clearance of vegetation. This is a 24G process for an activity that commenced unlawfully.
National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act (Act 25 of 2014)	DEA&DP The public participation requirements must form part of the Basic Assessment process.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA,	WCDOA / DALRRD The protection of agricultural resources from alien invasive vegetation is an ongoing requirement of CARA.
Guideline for the review of specialist input into the EIA process (June 2005)	DEA&DP Several specialist studies has been undertaken for the proposal.
Guideline for involving biodiversity specialists in the EIA process (June 2005)	DEA&DP Several specialist studies has been undertaken for the proposal.
Guideline for environmental management plans (June 2005)	DEA&DP This guideline was consulted in the drafting of the EMPr.
Guideline on Alternatives (March 2013)	DEA&DP The consideration of alternatives is mandatory, however given that this application is for the rectification of an unlawful activity, the property is zoned for

	agriculture, there was an existing dam which has been relocated and was an existing lawful use for water storage and the removal of alien invasive is a legal obligation, the only alternative to be considered with be the No Go Alternative.
Guideline on Need & Desirability (March 2013)	DEA&DP This guideline was consulted along with the relevant IDP and SDP documentation to determine the need for the development.
Guideline on Public Participation (March 2013)	DEA&DP The consultation process was undertaken in terms of these guidelines and the legislated requirements for PPP.
Standards and Guidelines for the Improved Efficiency of Irrigation Water Use from Dam Wall Release to Root Zone Application; Volume 2 of 3: Guidelines.	DALRRD
2020/21 – 2024/25 Strategic Plan for Agriculture	WCDoA

7. APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF NEMA AND SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACTS (“SEMAS”)

If not specifically applied for in terms of this application, does the development require an application for a waste management license in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)?	YES	NO
If yes, has an application been submitted to the licensing authority?	YES	NO
Does the proposed project require an application for a water use license in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)?	YES	NO
According to the aquatic specialist report, a general authorisation is required for activities within 500m of a delineated wetland.		
If yes, has an application been submitted to the licensing authority?	YES	NO
If no, please provide evidence of existing water use rights (if applicable) with this application form.		
Does the proposed project require an application for an atmospheric emissions license in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)?	YES	NO
If yes, has an application been submitted to the licensing authority?	YES	NO

Does the proposed project require an application in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act ("NEM: ICMA")?	YES	NO
If yes, has an application been submitted to the relevant competent authority?	YES	NO
If yes, provide more details of the application submitted/to be submitted in terms of the NEM: ICMA		

8. APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF OTHER LEGISLATION

Is any permission, licence or other approval required in terms of any other legislation? (Please tick)	YES	NO
--	-----	----

If yes, please complete the table below:

Type of approval required (List the applicable legislation & approval required):	Name of the authority responsible for administering the applicable legislation	Application submitted (Yes / No)	Status of application (e.g. pending/ granted/ refused)

SECTION C: DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Site/Area Description

For linear activities (pipelines, etc.) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete copies of this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section C and indicate the area which is covered by each copy No. on the site plan.

Section C Copy No. (e.g. 1, 2, or 3):

1. THE GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS UNDERLYING THE SITE

(Tick the appropriate box)

GRANITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	QUARTZITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLOMITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANDSTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLERITE	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER (specify)	See below		

According to CapeFarmMapper, the soil types and geology of the site are as follows:

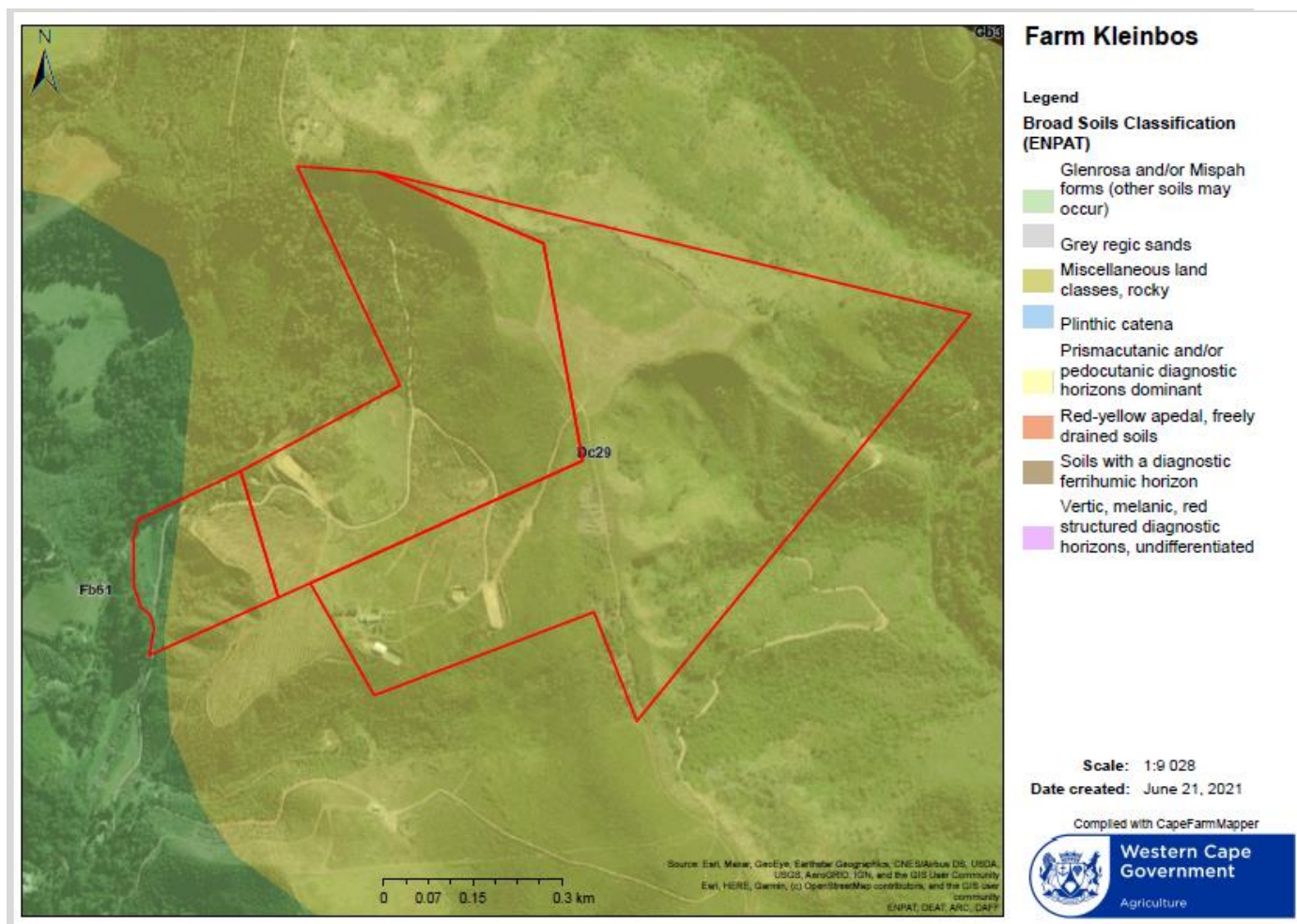


Figure 6: Soil Types (CapeFarmMapper, 2021)

Soils & Geology (ENPAT)

Land Type:	Dc29
Soil:	Prismacutanic and/or pedocutanic diagnostic horizons dominant. In addition, one or more of: vertic, melanic, red structured diagnostic horizons
Geology:	Mainly andalusite schist, hornfels and mica schist of the Kaaimans Group, as well as gneissic granite and granodiorite.

Soil Erodibility

Erodibility:	High
Erodibility Factor:	0.52

Soil Clay & Depth

Symbol:	CA
Class:	Soils with a strong texture contrast
Description:	Soils with a marked clay accumulation, strongly structured and a non-reddish colour. In addition one or more of vertic, melanic and plinthic soils may be present
Depth:	≥ 450 mm and < 750 mm
Clay:	$< 15\%$

Soil Types

Symbol:	CA
Class:	Soils with a strong texture contrast
Description:	Soils with a marked clay accumulation, strongly structured and a non-reddish colour. In addition one or more of vertic, melanic and plinthic soils may be present
Depth:	≥ 450 mm and < 750 mm
Clay:	$< 15\%$

2. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site(s) (cross out the appropriate box).

Flat	Flatter than 1:10	1:10 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	-------------------	------------	------------------

According to CapeFarmMapper, the location of the cleared site and dam have a slope of between ± 0.54 and 17.13 degrees or $\pm 0.51 - 35.88\%$ gradient. The calculation below shows the general gradient ratio as being 1:106.1 – 1: 3.82. (<http://www.1728.org/gradient.htm>, accessed 21 July 2021).

Using Rise / Run	1 in 106.1 Ratio	0.94251 % Grade
Using Rise / Hypotenuse	1 in 106.1 Ratio	0.94246 % Grade
*****	*****	*****

Using Rise / Run	1 in 1.3825 Ratio	72.335 % Grade
Using Rise / Hypotenuse	1 in 1.7062 Ratio	58.609 % Grade
*****	*****	*****

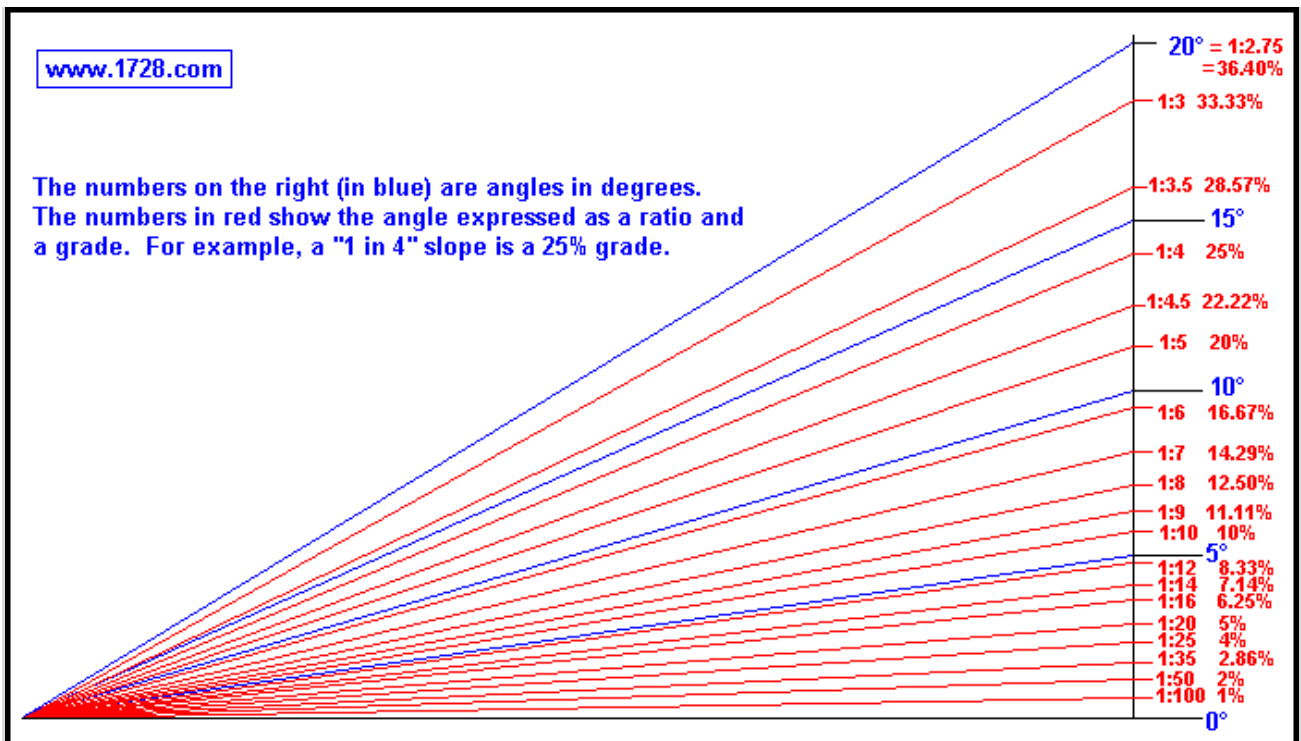
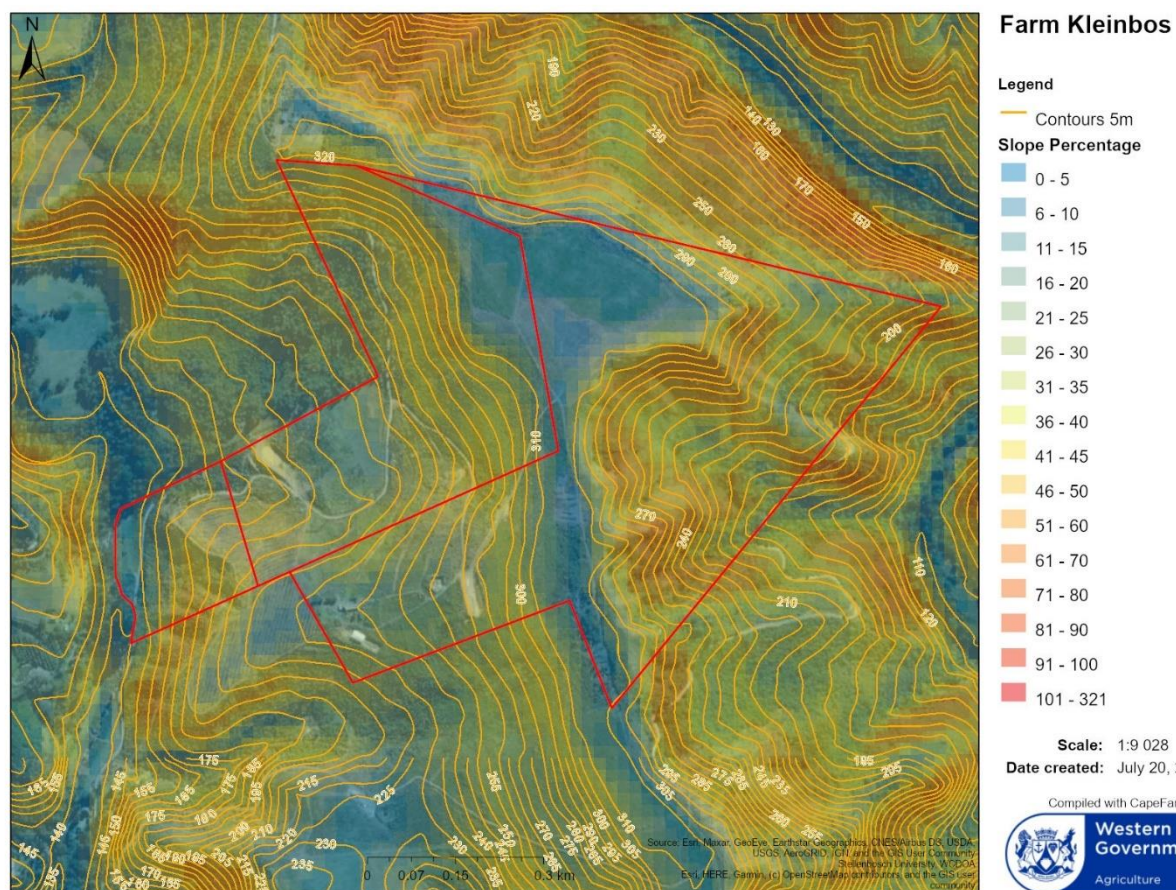
Figure 7: Gradient explanation <http://www.1728.org/gradient.htm>

Figure 8: 5m Contours & Slope Classification (CapeFarmMapper, 2021)

3. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site (cross out ("X") the appropriate boxes).

Ridgeline	Plateau	Side slope of hill/mountain	Closed valley	Open valley	Plain	Undulating plain/low hills	Dune	Sea-front	Other
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If other, please describe

The property is located on the lower slopes of the Outeniqua foothills.



Figure 9: North facing landscape (Google Earth Pro, 2021)



Figure 10: East facing landscape (Google Earth Pro, 2021)

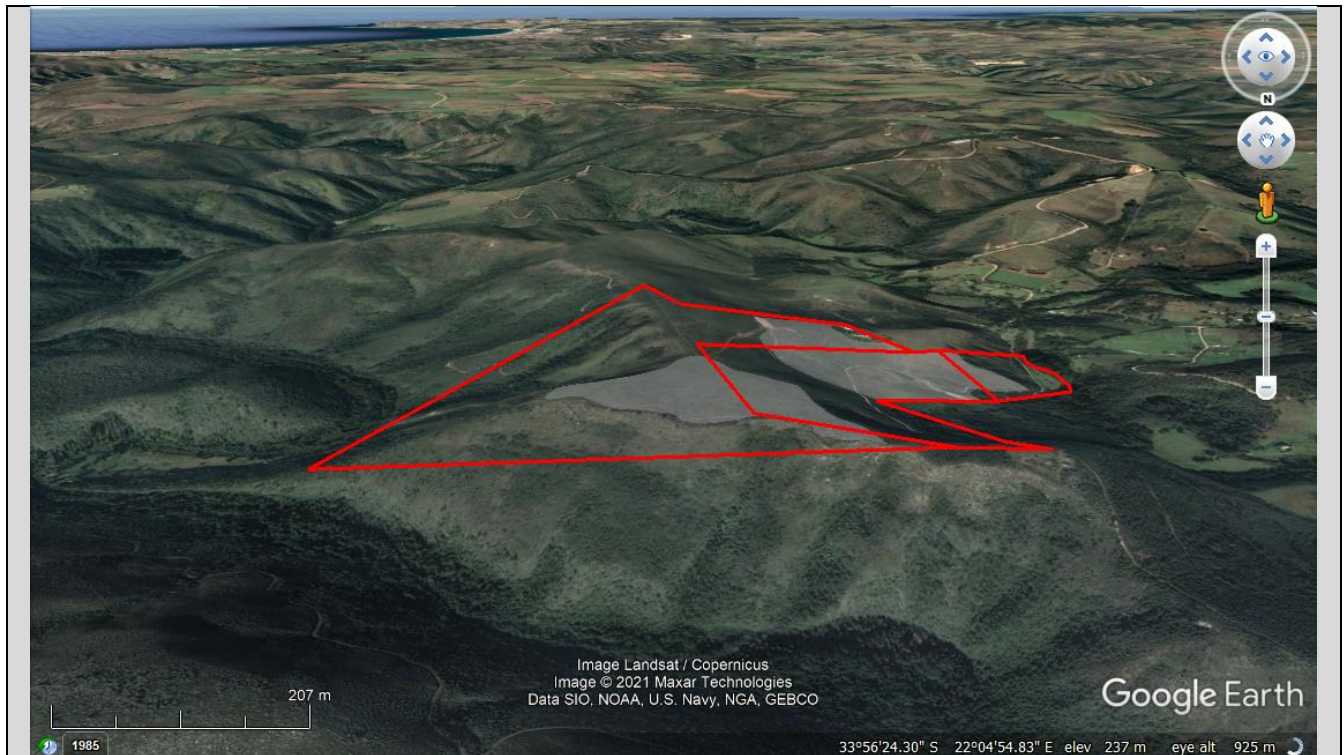


Figure 11: South facing landscape (Google Earth Pro, 2021)

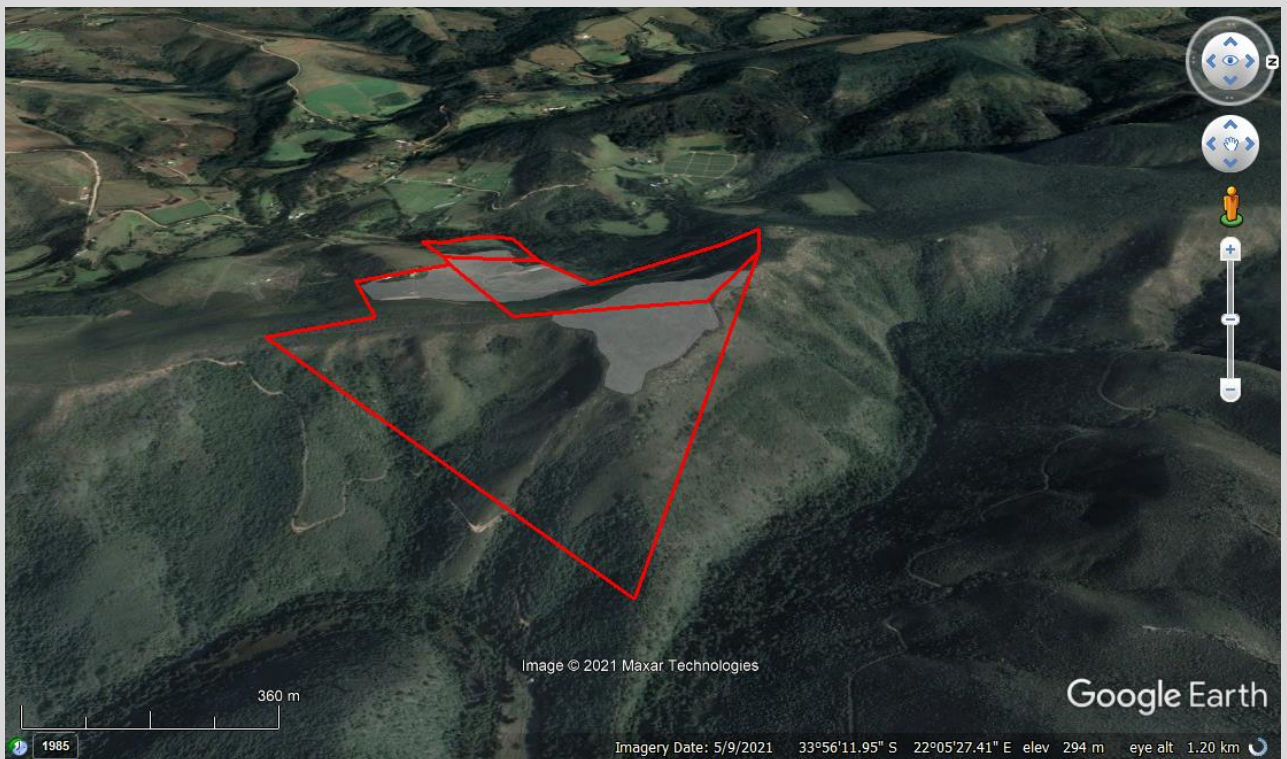


Figure 12: West facing landscape (Google Earth Pro, 2021)

4. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

4.1 Groundwater, Soil and Geological stability of the site (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

Is the site(s) located on or near any of the following (cross out ("X") the appropriate boxes)?

Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	NO	UNSURE
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Soils with high clay content	YES	NO	UNSURE
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	NO	UNSURE
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	NO	UNSURE

4.2 Groundwater, Soil and Geological stability of the site (POST-COMMENCEMENT)

Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES	NO	UNSURE
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES	NO	UNSURE
Soils with high clay content	YES	NO	UNSURE
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES	NO	UNSURE
An area sensitive to erosion	YES	NO	UNSURE

CapeFarmMapper has provided the following Groundwater information:

Aquifer Type and Yield

Classification: Fractured 0.1 - 0.5 l/s

Aquifer Classification

Classification: Minor

Depth to Groundwater

Depth (mbgl): 23.33

If any of the answers to the above are "YES" or "unsure", specialist input may be requested by the Department. (Information in respect of the above will often be available at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it does not exist, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by Geological Survey may also be used).

5. SURFACE WATER

5.1 SURFACE WATER (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites (cross out ("X") the appropriate boxes)?

Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Non-Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Permanent Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Seasonal Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Artificial Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE

5.2 SURFACE WATER (POST-COMMENCEMENT)

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites (cross out ("X") the appropriate boxes)?

Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Non-Perennial River	YES	NO	UNSURE
Permanent Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Seasonal Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Artificial Wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	YES	NO	UNSURE

The properties have a perennial river along the western boundary which feeds into the Bosmans River to the south of the property. In addition there is a non-perennial river to the east of the properties which feed into the Moordkuil River to the east.

None of the clearing activities have impacted on any watercourses or wetlands. An Aquatic Compliance Statement has been compiled and is included as an Appendix of this report.



Figure 13: National Freshwater Ecosystems (CapeFarmMapper, 2021)

6. VEGETATION AND/OR GROUNDCOVER

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on site and the ecosystem status consult <http://bgis.sanbi.org.za> or BGIShelp@sanbi.org.za. Information is also available on compact disc ("cd") from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8738. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as an **appendix** to this form.

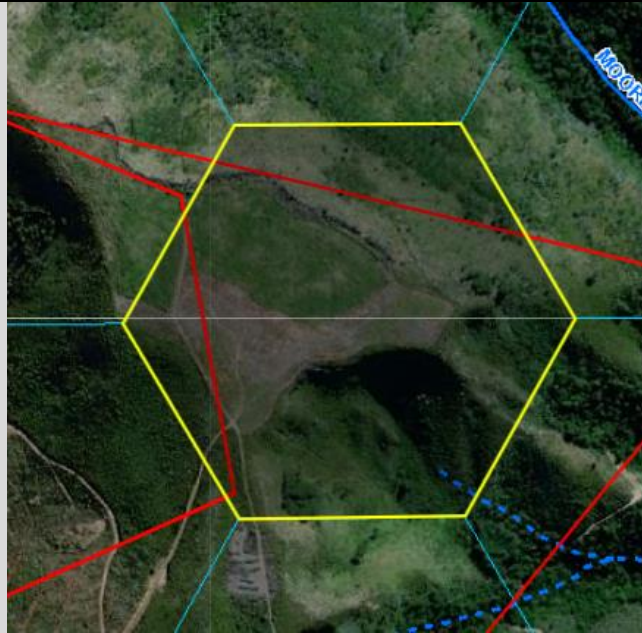
6.1 Vegetation AND/OR GROUNDCOVER (Pre-commencement)

Cross out ("X") the block **and** describe (where applicable) the vegetation types / groundcover present on the site before commencement of the activity.

Indigenous Vegetation – good condition		Indigenous Vegetation with scattered aliens	✓	Indigenous Vegetation with heavy alien infestation	
Describe the vegetation type above:		Describe the vegetation type above: The property is mapped as Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9), Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) and South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19). The property had alien invasive vegetation that had established as well as remnant pine plantations in the northern section. The cleared areas are located in the		Describe the vegetation type above:	
Provide ecosystem status for above:		Provide ecosystem status for above: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9) - VU (2011), VU (2018) Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) - VU (2011), EN (2018) South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19) - LC (2011), LC (2018)		Provide Ecosystem status for above:	
Indigenous Vegetation in an ecological corridor or along a soil boundary / interface		Veld dominated by alien species		Distinctive soil conditions (e.g. Sand over shale, quartz patches, limestone, alluvial deposits, termitaria etc.) – describe	
Bare soil		Building or other structure		Sport field	
Other (describe below)		Cultivated land		Paved surface	

(a) Highlight the applicable pre-commencement biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category.

Systematic Biodiversity Planning Category				If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)	Ecological Support Area (ESA)	Other Natural Area (ONA)	No Natural Area Remaining (NNR)	The majority of the properties fall within a CBA. The BSP 2017 provides the following reasons for the polygons within which the clearing activities took place:
Clearing S:				



BSP 2017 Reasons

Summary 1: Ecological processes (16.59), Threatened SA Vegetation Type (16.59), Threatened Vertebrate (34.16)

Feature 1: Bontebok Extended Distribution Range

Feature 2: Cape Mountain Zebra

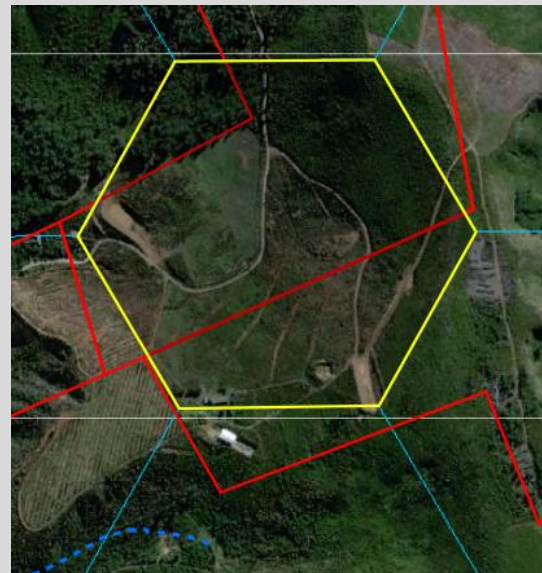
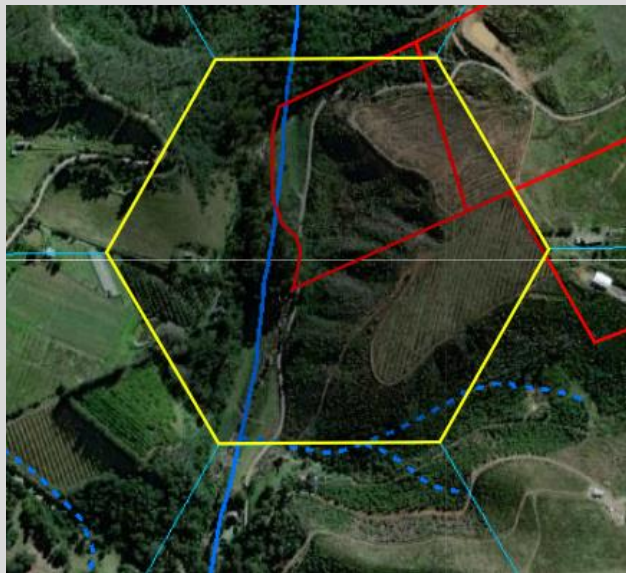
Feature 3: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (EN)

Feature 4: Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (EN)

Feature 5: Upland-lowland interface

Please note that the Ecosystem Status reflecting above is not in line with current gazetted status nor with the status provided by Skowno et al in 2018.

Clearing N: (a & b)



BSP 2017 Reasons

Summary 1: Ecological processes (16.11), Threatened SA Vegetation Type (17.51), Threatened Vertebrate (36.45), Water resource protection (1.1), Wetland Type (1.51)

Feature 1: Bontebok Extended Distribution Range

Feature 2: Cape Mountain Zebra

Feature 3: Eastern Fynbos Renosterveld Sandstone Fynbos Channelled Valley Bottom Wetland

Feature 4: Eastern Fynbos Renosterveld Shale Fynbos Flat Wetland

Feature 5: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (EN)

Feature 6: Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (EN)

Feature 7: Upland-lowland interface

Feature 8: Watercourse protection- Southern Coastal Belt

BSP 2017 Reasons

Summary 1: Ecological processes (10.95), Threatened SA Vegetation Type (13.75), Threatened Vertebrate (18.28), Water resource protection (4.78), Wetland Type (1.6)

Feature 1: Bontebok Extended Distribution Range

Feature 2: Cape Mountain Zebra

Feature 3: Eastern Fynbos Renosterveld Sandstone Fynbos Channelled Valley Bottom Wetland

Feature 4: Eastern Fynbos Renosterveld Shale Fynbos Channelled Valley Bottom Wetland

Feature 5: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (EN)

Feature 6: Upland-lowland interface

Feature 7: Watercourse protection- Southern Coastal Belt

Please note that the Ecosystem Status reflecting above is not in line with current gazetted status nor with the status provided by Skowno et al in 2018.

(b) Highlight and describe the habitat condition on site.

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing/harvesting regimes etc).
Natural	±55%	Approximately 55% of the property contained natural, indigenous vegetation. Some of which has been impacted quite regularly by fires crossing the mountain ranges. The vegetation occurs across all three of the vegetation types identified on the site.
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)	±25%	Approximately 25% of the property, particularly along watercourses, old grazing lands and road verges has alien invasive vegetation growing.
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	%	
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)	20%	Approximately 20% of the property was used for agricultural activities, most notably as grazing for livestock.

(c) Complete the table to indicate:

- (i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, that was previously present on the site; and
(ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem was previously present on site.

Terrestrial Ecosystems		Aquatic Ecosystems							
Ecosystem threat status as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)	Critical	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and un-channelled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)	Estuary	Coastline					
	Endangered								
	Vulnerable								
	Least Threatened								
		YES	NO	UNSURE	YES	NO	YES	NO	

(d) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

The properties span three different mapped vegetation types, namely Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9), Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) and South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19).

These have been classified in 2018 by Skowno et al as having the following Ecosystem Status:

- Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9) - VU (2011), VU (2018)
- Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) - VU (2011), EN (2018)
- South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19) - LC (2011), LC (2018)

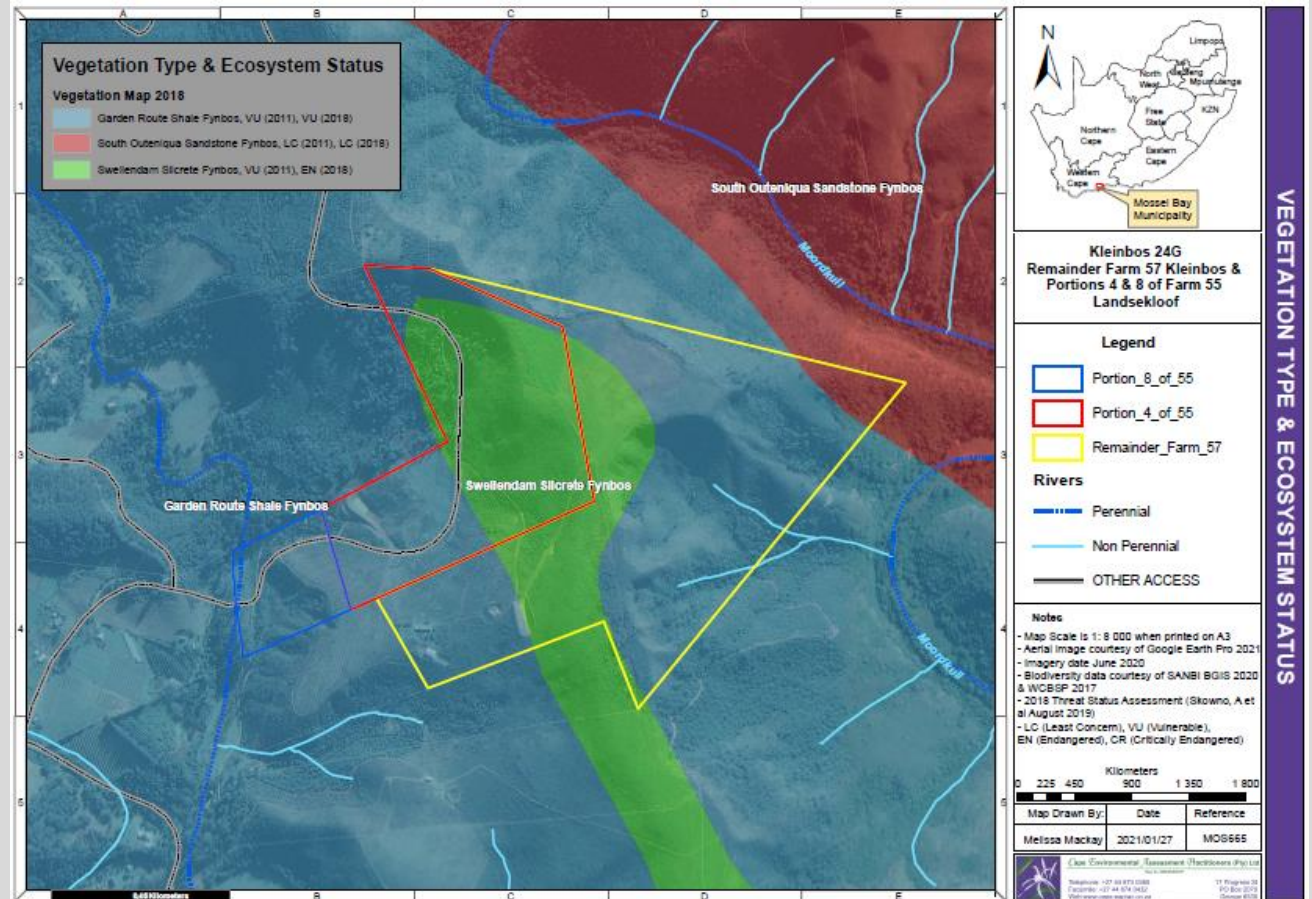


Figure 14: Vegetation Type & Ecosystem Status

It must be noted that the farm was used for agriculture, primarily grazing and some pine plantations so was not completely pristine prior to the clearing activities related to this application. Historic images show some camping and terracing, particularly in the currently cleared areas.

Please note that the blue ovals in the images below pertain to the wetland found in the eastern portion of the property which does not form part of the current cleared areas.

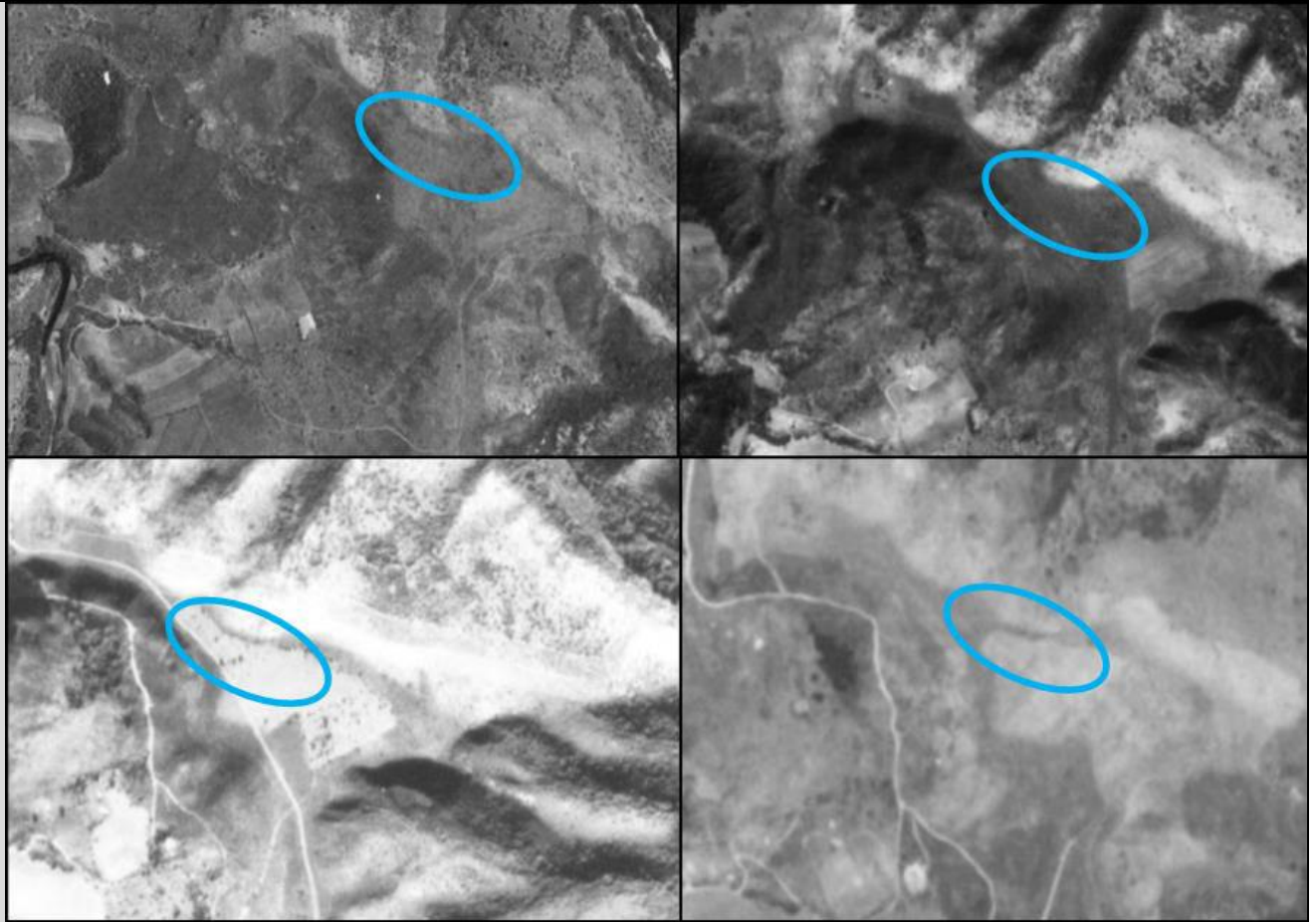


Figure 15: Historic imagery (Confluent, 2021)

6.2 Vegetation AND/OR GROUNDCOVER (Post-commencement)

Cross out ("X") the block **and** describe (where required) the vegetation types / groundcover present on the site after commencement of the activity.

Indigenous Vegetation - good condition		Indigenous Vegetation with scattered aliens		Indigenous Vegetation with heavy alien infestation	
Describe the vegetation type above:		Describe the vegetation type above:		Describe the vegetation type above:	
		The property is mapped as Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9), Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) and South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19). The property had alien invasive vegetation that had established as well as remnant pine plantations in the northern section. The cleared areas are located in the			
Provide ecosystem status for above:		Provide ecosystem status for above:		Provide Ecosystem status for above:	

	Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9) - VU (2011), VU (2018) Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) - VU (2011), EN (2018) South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (FFs19) - LC (2011), LC (2018)	
Indigenous Vegetation in an ecological corridor or along a soil boundary / interface	Veld dominated by alien species	Distinctive soil conditions (e.g. Sand over shale, quartz patches, limestone, alluvial deposits, termitaria etc.)—describe
Bare soil	Building or other structure	Sport field
Other (describe below)	Cultivated land	Paved surface

(a) Highlight and describe the post-construction habitat condition on site.

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing/harvesting regimes etc).
Natural	±40%	Approximately 40% of the property will retain natural, indigenous vegetation. This will occur across all three of the vegetation types identified on the site.
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)	±15%	Approximately 15% of the property, particularly along watercourses and road verges has alien invasive vegetation growing.
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	%	
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)	±45%	Approximately 45% of the properties affected have been or will be cleared and utilised for orchard production.

(b) How have the vegetation and/or aquatic ecosystem(s) present on site (including any important biodiversity features identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)) been affected by the commencement of the listed activity(ies)?

The majority of the clearance took place on land that had previously been utilised for grazing and, according to the historical imagery, as camped / terraced areas. There have also been several fires impacting on the vegetation over the years due to the proximity to the mountain range to the north of the properties.

The vegetation recovered over time, and the current areas of clearance and those to be cleared, are deemed to have been mostly indigenous. No aquatic environments have been impacted on.

6.3 Vegetation / Groundcover Management

(a) Describe any mitigation/management measures that were adopted and the adequacy of these:

The landowner has commenced with the clearing of alien vegetation species. This practise must be part of the ongoing management of the farm.

7. LAND USE OF THE SITE (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the land use character of the area and potential impact(s) of the activity/ies.

Untransformed area	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial	Heavy industrial
Power station	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Tourism & Hospitality facility
Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical centre	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant	Train station or shunting yard	Railway line	Major road (4 lanes or more)	Airport
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station
Landfill or waste treatment site	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):				

(a) Please provide a description.

The property was utilised for agricultural purposes, mostly grazing and in historically pastures and crops including camped fields and terracing. It has lain fallow for many years and much of the grazed areas recovered

8. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

Cross out ("X") the block that reflects the past land uses and/or prominent features that occur/red within +/- 500m radius of the site and neighbouring properties if these are located beyond 500m of the site. **Please note:** The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the land use character of the area and impact(s) of the activity/ies.

Untransformed area	Low density residential	Medium density residential	High density residential	Informal residential
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial	Heavy industrial
Power station	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Tourism & Hospitality facility
Open cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical centre	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant	Train station or shunting yard	Railway line	Major road (4 lanes or more)	Airport
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station
Landfill or waste treatment site	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):				

9. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA (POST-COMMENCEMENT)

Cross out ("X") the block that reflects the current land uses and/or prominent features that occur(s) within +/- 500m radius of the site and neighbouring properties if these are located beyond 500m of the site. **Please note:** The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the land use character of the area and impact(s) of the activity/ies.

Untransformed area	Low-density residential	Medium-density residential	High-density residential	Informal residential
Retail	Commercial & warehousing	Light industrial	Medium industrial	Heavy industrial
Power station	Office/consulting room	Military or police base/station/compound	Casino/entertainment complex	Tourism & Hospitality facility
Open-cast mine	Underground mine	Spoil heap or slimes dam	Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Dam or reservoir
Hospital/medical centre	School	Tertiary education facility	Church	Old age home
Sewage treatment plant	Train station or shunting yard	Railway line	Major road (4 lanes or more)	Airport
Harbour	Sport facilities	Golf course	Polo fields	Filling station
Landfill or waste treatment site	Plantation	Agriculture	River, stream or wetland	Nature conservation area
Mountain, koppie or ridge	Museum	Historical building	Graveyard	Archaeological site
Other land uses (describe):				

There is no change to the land use character of the surrounding area.

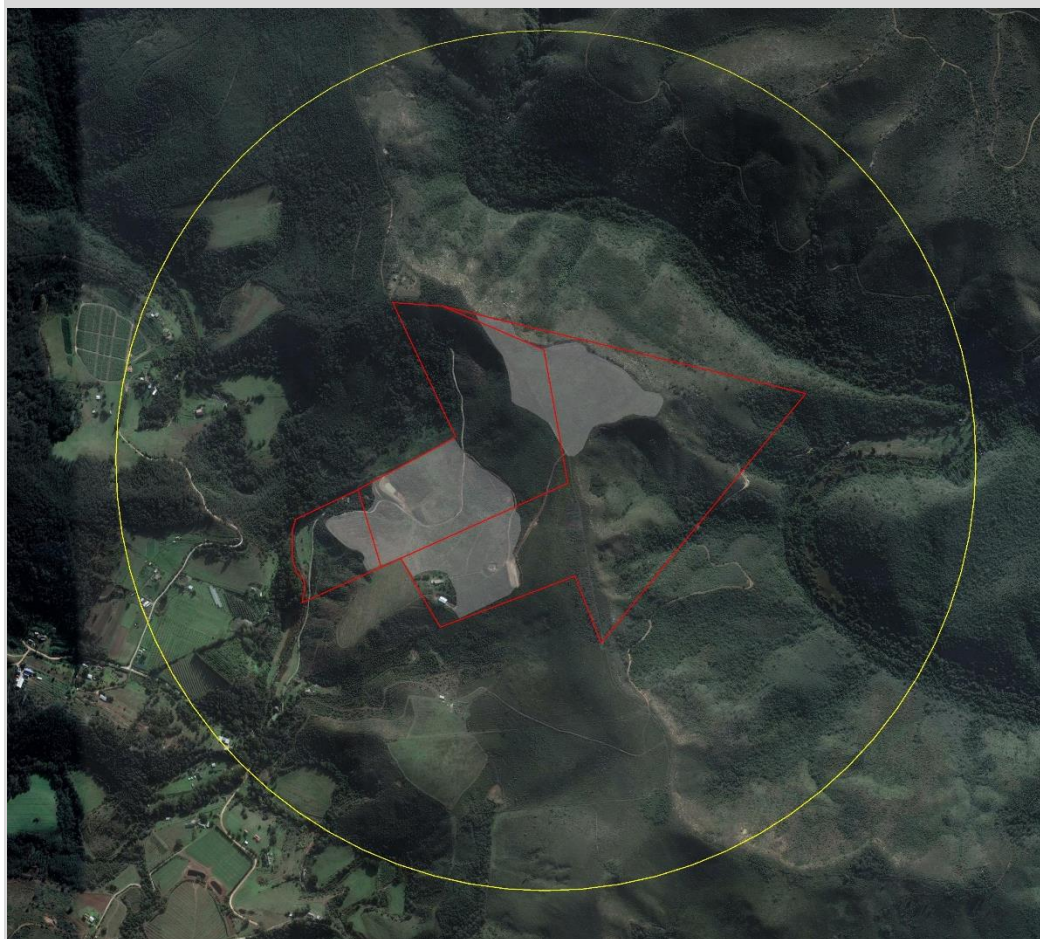


Figure 16: Surrounding Land Use Character (Google Earth Pro, 2021)

10. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

10.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT (PRE-COMMENCEMENT)

Describe the pre-commencement social and economic characteristics of the community in order to provide baseline information.

A Socio Economic Impact Assessment was undertaken for this proposal and included as Annexure H3 of this report. The following has been sourced from the report.

The Mossel Bay municipal area is the second largest local economy within the Eden District Municipality (EDM), with regional gross domestic product amounting to R6.47 billion in 2015. This amounted to almost 20% of the Eden District Municipalities GDP R29.65 billion in 2015. The EDM is the third largest district economy in the Western Cape, after the City of Cape Town and the Cape Winelands District.

The MBLM's GDP growth averaged 3.2 % per annum over the period 2005-2015, which is marginally lower than the District average of 3.5 %. In terms of employment, the MBLM employed 15.9 % of the Eden District's labour force in 2015. The majority (28.2%) fall within the semi-skilled sector, which has contracted by 0.6 per cent per annum on average since 2005. Most of the job losses experienced during the recession emanated from this sector. The low-skilled sector employed 17.9 % of the municipality's workforce, and contracted by 1.0 % per annum on average since 2005. The informal sector, which employs 33.4 % of the municipality's workforce, experienced robust growth of 8.7% per annum over the past decade and absorbed most of the job losses from the low and semi-skilled sectors. The skilled sector grew at a moderate rate of 2.1% per annum since 2005.

Primary sector: Agriculture forestry and fishing

This sector contributed 4.7% to the Municipality's GDP in 2015 and employed 9.1% of the municipality's workforce. The majority of the workers employed in the primary sector fall within the low-skilled (39.7%) and semi-skilled (39.4%) category. The skilled sector employed only 6.6% of the workforce in the primary sector. The informal sector makes up 14.4% of the industry's workforce and was the only sector to experience long term growth per annum over the period 2005 – 2015. Informal employment within the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry furthermore also experienced robust growth of 3.8% per annum since 2010.

Population

The population of the MBLM in 2016 was 94 135. Of this total, 30.2% were under the age of 18, 59.1% were between 18 and 64, and the remaining 10.8% were 65 and older. The population of Ward 14 in 2011 was 9 753. Ward 14 is therefore a large, sparsely populated rural area with a limited number of settlements. Of this total, 32.9% were under the age of 18, 62.7% were between 18 and 64, and the remaining 4.5% were 65 and older.

The socio-economic profile prepared for the Mossel Bay Municipality (MBM) by the Western Cape Provincial Government in 2017 notes that the MBLM has the second largest population in the Eden District. Based on forecasts of the Western Cape Department of Social Development the population in 2017 was expected to be 97 981. The report indicates that the population is expected to gradually increase across the 5-year planning cycle and reach 105 556 by 2023. This equates to an approximate 7.7 % growth rate.

In terms of age groups, the majority of Mossel Bay's population is concentrated between the ages of 20 to 39, which is likely to reflect an influx of young working professionals into the region due to increased employment opportunities as a result of positive economic growth in the region. In terms of the total number of households, there were 26 025 households within the greater Mossel Bay region in 2011. The 2016 Community Survey estimates indicate that this number has increased to 31 766. There is therefore growing demand for and pressures on basic services such as, water, sanitation, refuse removal and electricity.

The report indicates that the dependency ratio in the MBLM increased from 49.7 in 2011 to 53.4 in 2017 and is expected to stabilise around 53.3 towards 2023¹. The dependency ratio for Ward 7 was 62.5% in 2011. The national dependency ratio in 2011 was 52.7%, while the Western Cape Province had the lowest provincial dependency level in South Africa, namely 45% in 2011. The municipal level is therefore lower than the national level, but higher than the provincial level.

A higher dependency ratio implies greater strain on the working age portion of the population to support economic dependents (children and aged). This increase also has social, economic and labour market implications. In this regard an increase in the dependency ratio is often associated with a relative decrease in the working age population, which in turn, can result in lower tax revenues pension shortfalls, and an increase in inequality and economic hardship. At a municipal level, the decrease in the working population may also result in a smaller base from which local authorities can collect revenue for basic services rendered and will necessitate the prioritisation of municipal spending.

However, despite the increase in the dependency ratio, the 2016 Community Survey also notes that the number of poor people within the MB municipal area decreased from 3.2 % of the population in 2011 to 2.1 % in 2016. This decrease is positive in that it also reduces the strain on municipal financial resources. The intensity of poverty, i.e. the proportion of poor people below the poverty line within the MB municipal area also decreased from 43.5 % in 2011 to 43.0 % in 2016. However, despite this decrease the percentage is still high and poses socio-economic challenges and risks to the MBLM.

In terms of race groups, Coloureds made up 42.6% of the population on the MBLM (2016), followed by Black Africans (33.7%) and Whites, 23.2%. In Ward 14 (2011), Coloureds made up 88.2% of the population, followed by Black Africans (5.3%) and Whites (3%). The main first language spoken in both the MBLM and Ward 14 was Afrikaans (62.2% and 94.6% respectively), followed by isXhosa in the MBLM (29.5%) and English (1.5%) in Ward 14.

Households and house types

There are a total number of 31 765 (2016) and 1 735 (2011) households in the MBLM and Ward 7 respectively. Of these 84% (MBLM) and 81.3% (Ward 14) were formal houses. 10.7% and 11.8% of the structures in the MBLM and Ward 14 were shacks respectively. Approximately 36% of the households in the MBLM and 38.7% of the households in Ward 14 were headed by women. The figures for both the MBLM and Ward 14 are higher than the district level, namely 33.9%. The figure for Ward 14 is also higher than the Provincial level of 38.04%. Regardless of the actual figures, women headed households tend to be more vulnerable and reflect a lack of employment opportunities in the area, which result in the men leaving to seek work.

Household income

Based on the data from the 2011 Census, 18.1% of the population of the MBLM had no formal income, 2.9% earned less than R 4 800, 4.2% earned between R 5 000 and R 10 000 per annum, 12.6% between R 10 000 and R 20 000 per annum and 15.9% between R 20 000 and 40 000 per annum (2016). For Ward 14, 8.4% of the population had no formal income, 2.1% earned less than

¹ The dependency ratio is the ratio of non-economically active dependents (usually people younger than 15 or older than 64) to the working age population group (15-64). The higher the dependency ratio the larger the percentage of the population dependent on the economically active age group. A high dependency ratio can cause serious problems for a country if a large proportion of a government's expenditure is on health, social security & education, which are most used by the youngest and the oldest in a population. The fewer people of working age, the fewer the people who can support [schools](#), retirement [pensions](#), [disability pensions](#) and other assistances to the youngest and oldest members of a population, often considered the most [vulnerable](#) members of [society](#).

R 4 800, 4.5% earned between R 5 000 and R 10 000 per annum, 16.2% between R 10 000 and 20 000 per annum and 27.9% between R 20 000 and 40 000 per annum (Census 2011).

The poverty gap indicator produced by the World Bank Development Research Group measures poverty using information from household per capita income/consumption. This indicator illustrates the average shortfall of the total population from the poverty line. This measurement is used to reflect the intensity of poverty, which is based on living on less than R3 200 per month for an average sized household (~ 40 000 per annum). Based on this measure, in the region of 53.7% of the households in the MBLM and 59.1% in Ward 14 live close to or below the poverty line. The low-income levels in the MBLM and Ward 14 reflect the limited formal employment opportunities in the area. This is also reflected in the high unemployment rates. The low-income levels are a major concern given that an increasing number of individuals and households are likely to be dependent on social grants. The low-income levels also result in reduced spending in the local economy and less tax and rates revenue for the MBLM. This in turn impacts on the ability of the MBLM to maintain and provide services.

The high percentage of low-income households is also reflected in the increase in the number of indigent households between 2014 and 2015 as reported in the Non-Financial Census of Municipalities released by Statistics South Africa in 2016. This increase also implies an increased burden on municipal resources. The increase in the number of indigent households appears to contradict the reduction in overall poverty.

Employment

The official unemployment rate in the MBLM in 2016 was 13.4%, while 382% were regarded as not economically active and 3.4% were discouraged work seekers. The figures for Ward 14 in 2011 were 8.3% and 3.5% respectively. These figures are significantly lower than the official unemployment 2011 rates for the Western Cape Province (21.6%) and National (29.8%). However, these rates also need to be viewed within the context of the low-income levels. Many of the employment rates linked to the agricultural sector are also likely to be seasonal.

Education

In terms of education levels, the percentage of the population over 20 years of age in the MBLM and Ward 14 with no schooling was 2.9% (2016) and 3.7% (2011) respectively, compared to 2.4% for the Western Cape (2016). The percentage of the population over the age of 20 with matric was 39.5% and 26.5% respectively. These figure for Ward 14 is lower than the provincial average of 35.2% for the Western Cape.

The Western Cape Education Department has noted that matric outcomes within the Mossel Bay area have remained consistently above 80 % between 2013 and 2015, with the highest pass rate of 92.6 % recorded in 2015. The area therefore has relatively well-educated youth.

10.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT (POST-COMMENCEMENT)

Describe the post commencement social and economic characteristics of the community in order to determine any change. Where differences between pre- and post-commencement exist, state which are as a result of the activity(ies) for which rectification is being applied for.

The socio-economic context post commencement remains much the same as that stated above, although the activity does provided for a potential 62 employment opportunities with their associated multiplier effects.

The following is an excerpt from the Socio Economic Impact Assessment:

The activities that triggered the 24G Application involved the establishment of a small, off-stream dam (0.31 ha) and clearing of ~ 14 ha for the establishment of avocado orchards. Based on the findings of the SIA, the potential negative impacts associated with these activities are marginal and are unlikely to have impacted on the adjacent land users in the vicinity of the site.

The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.

The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.

11. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS

(a) Please be advised that every application for Environmental Authorisation including an application for a Waste Management Licence, must include, where applicable the investigation, assessment and evaluation of the impact of any proposed listed or specified activity on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), excluding the national estate contemplated in section 3(2)(i)(vi) and (vii) of that Act.

Please be further advised that if section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), is applicable to your application, then you are requested to furnish this Department with written comment from Heritage Western Cape as part of your public participation process. Section 38 of the Act states as follows: "38. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as-

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site-
 - (i) exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority, must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development."

(b) The impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2), excluding the national estate contemplated in section 3(2)(i)(vi) and (vii), of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), must also be investigated, assessed and evaluated. Section 3(2) states as follows: "3(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the national estate may include—

- (a) places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
- (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- (g) graves and burial grounds, including—
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders;
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict;
 - (iv) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
- (vi) other human remains which are not covered in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No. 65 of 1983);
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
- (i) movable objects, including—
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996)."

Is section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, applicable to the development?	YES	NO
	UNCERTAIN	

If YES, explain:	<p>Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as works outlined herein triggered the following development activities listed in terms of Section 38 of the NHRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec 38(1)(a) - Construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length; • Sec 38(1)(c) Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sec 38(1)(c)(i) - Exceeding 5,000m² in extent, ◦ Sec 38(1)(c)(ii) - Involving three or more existing erven or subdivision thereof, <p>A Notice of Intent to Develop and Background Information have been submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC).</p>		
Did/does the development impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999?		YES	NO
		UNCERTAIN	
If YES, explain:			
Was any building or structure older than 60 years affected in any way?	YES	NO	UNCERTAIN
If YES, explain:			

Please Note:

If uncertain, the Department may request that specialist input be provided. If, yes, a copy of the Notice of Intent submitted to Heritage Western Cape must be submitted with this form.

12. COASTAL ASPECTS (SEAFRONT/SEA ENVIRONMENT)

(a) Is the site(s) located within any of the following areas? (highlight the appropriate boxes).
If the site or alternative site is closer than 100m to such an area, please provide the approximate distance in (m).

AREA	YES	NO	UN SUR E	If "YES": Distance to nearest area (m)
An area within 100m of the high water mark of the sea	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within 100m of the high water mark of an estuary/lagoon	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within the littoral active zone	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area in the coastal public property	YES	NO	UNSURE	
Major anthropogenic structures	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within a Coastal Protection Zone	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area seaward of the coastal management line	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within the high risk zone (20 years)	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within the medium risk zone (50 years)	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within the low risk zone (100 years)	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area below the 5m contour	YES	NO	UNSURE	
An area within 1km from the high water mark of the sea	YES	NO	UNSURE	
A rocky beach	YES	NO	UNSURE	
A sandy beach	YES	NO	UNSURE	

(b) If any of the answers to the above is "YES" or "UNSURE", specialist input may be requested by the Department. (The 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by Geological Survey may also be used).

13. REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?	YES	NO	Please explain
The property is zoned Agriculture Zone I and is an active commercial agricultural entity. The dam has been in existence for decades.			
Will the activity be in line with the following?			
Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The PSDF supports the continuation and development of viable agricultural properties.</p> <p>The SDF notes that the Western Cape economy is founded on the Province's unique asset base. These include farming resources that make the Western Cape the country's leading exporter of agricultural commodities and whose value chains (e.g. agri-processing) underpin the Province's industrial sector; and its natural capital (i.e. biological diversity) and varied scenic and cultural resources which are the attraction that makes the Western Cape the country's premier tourism destination.</p> <p>The proposed Kleinbos Farm development supports the development of the agricultural sector in the Western Cape. In terms of policies for the sustainable development of settlements the SDF highlights the importance of investing in regional service centre towns to support and integrate with the rural hinterlands. In terms of Growing the WCP economy in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental and community-based organisations, the SDF identifies George/Mossel Bay as regional industrial and tourism/leisure centres.</p>			
Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	YES	NO	Please explain
The properties are not located inside an urban area as they are zoned and used for agricultural purposes.			
Integrated Development Plan of the Local Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The 2021 – 2022 IDP for Mossel Bay Municipality has agriculture as a primary sector of their GDP. There is strong support for existing enterprises.</p> <div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: #0070c0; margin: 0;">INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE</p> <p>The Municipality has an important agricultural component in its local economy providing approximately 4000 jobs which should be promoted and enhanced. It comprises mainly mixed farming on the dryer coastal plain to the south-west with patches of intensive crop farming, mainly wheat and dairy on pastures found in the valleys in the northwest. Agricultural land close to the urban settlements requires protection due to the advantages it offers regarding minimal travelling distances and transport costs with regards to urban food security.</p> </div> <p>The Spatial Vision of the Municipality is to create a long-term, sustainable land-use pattern that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conserves the Mossel Bay municipality's significant rural resources for the biodiversity conservation of its rivers, wetlands, estuaries and coastline, natural vegetation, scenic landscapes, and extensive and intensive agriculture resources. <input type="checkbox"/> To support rural tourism and agricultural economic growth and employment creation. The Municipality places a greater focus on leveraging its history, heritage and sense of place of the natural scenic areas and old town to revive its underperforming tourism economy 			
Spatial Development Framework of the Local Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>Agriculture plays a significant role in the Mossel Bay municipality and Garden Route District municipality more broadly. It provides opportunities to increase un- or low skilled employment and grow products for local and international markets and for beneficiation in the manufacturing sector. It also contributes to the GDP, provides food security or a "bread basket" in close proximity to major settlements and is a base for tourism activities (Laskey, 2013:60). Protecting and promoting the agricultural economy is therefore a priority for the Mossel Bay Municipality and the Garden Route District Municipality.</p>			

Of relevance Kleinbos Farm is located in an area identified as Intensive Agriculture. The proposed development of avocados on the property is therefore aligned with and supported by the SDF.			
Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain
The property is zoned Agriculture Zone I and is an active commercial agricultural entity.			
An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department	YES	NO	Please explain
Not applicable.			
Any other Plans	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The Western Cape Rural Areas Guideline (WCRAAG) has been framed to take forward the PSDF's provincial spatial agenda, as well as give effect to the Provincial Strategic Objectives. The PSDF builds on the complementary national and provincial development agendas of the NDP and OneCape2040.</p> <p>The WCRAAG, like the SDF, notes that the Western Cape economy is founded on the Province's unique asset base. These include farming resources and is its natural capital and varied scenic and cultural resources which make the Western Cape the country's premier tourism destination. In order to ensure the sustainable development of the Western Cape's economy requires 1) sustainable development of its rural areas; 2) conservation of their biological diversity; 3) functionality of ecosystems; 4) protection of agricultural productive land; and 5) safeguarding of rural heritage and culture.</p> <p>The RAG notes that desired land use patterns are reflected in the delineation of landscape-wide Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs), namely Core, Buffer, Agriculture and Settlement.</p> <p>Kleinbos Farm is located in an area designated as Agriculture. The Agriculture SPC includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive agriculture including Irrigated crop cultivation (annual and perennial). • Dry land crop cultivation including tillage of non-irrigated crops (annual and perennial). • Forestry and timber plantations and space extensive agricultural enterprises (e.g. Piggeries, intensive feed-lots, poultry battery houses, packs sheds, cooling stores). • Extensive agriculture including extensive livestock or game farming. <p>The purpose of the Agriculture SPC is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate and protect existing and potential agricultural landscapes. • Facilitate sustainable agricultural development, land and agrarian reform, and food security. • Stabilise and manage ecosystems to restore ecological functionality. <p>Based on the review of the available information the activities that are proposed on Kleinbos Farm are aligned with the WC RAG.</p>			

SECTION D: NEED AND DESIRABILITY

Please Note: Before completing this section, first consult this Department's *Guideline on Need and Desirability* (March 2013) available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>).

1. Was the activity permitted in terms of the property's land use rights at the time of commencement?	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The property is zoned Agriculture Zone I and is an active commercial agricultural entity. In terms of the Spatial Planning Categories contained in the WC Rural Areas Development Guideline, Kleinbos Farm is located in an area designated as Agriculture. The Garden Route (Eden) District SDF is also adopts the Spatial Planning Categories (SPC) contained in the Draft WCG Rural Land Use Planning and Management Guidelines (2017) and their definitions. The Mossel Bay SDF indicates that Kleinbos Farm is located in an area identified as Intensive Agriculture. The proposed development of avocados on the property is therefore aligned with and supported by the key policy and planning documents for the area.</p>			

2. Was the activity in line with the following?			
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The PSDF supports the continuation and development of viable agricultural properties.</p> <p>The SDF notes that the Western Cape economy is founded on the Province's unique asset base. These include farming resources that make the Western Cape the country's leading exporter of agricultural commodities and whose value chains (e.g. agri-processing) underpin the Province's industrial sector; and its natural capital (i.e. biological diversity) and varied scenic and cultural resources which are the attraction that makes the Western Cape the country's premier tourism destination.</p> <p>The proposed Kleinbos Farm development supports the development of the agricultural sector in the Western Cape. In terms of policies for the sustainable development of settlements the SDF highlights the importance of investing in regional service centre towns to support and integrate with the rural hinterlands. In terms of Growing the WCP economy in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental and community-based organisations, the SDF identifies George/Mossel Bay as regional industrial and tourism/leisure centres.</p>			
(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	YES	NO	Please explain
Not applicable.			
© Integrated Development Plan and Spatial Development Framework of the Local Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this application have compromised the integrity of the existing approved and credible municipal IDP and SDF?).	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The 2021 – 2022 IDP for Mossel Bay Municipality has agriculture as a primary sector of their GDP. There is strong support for existing enterprises.</p> <div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: #0070c0; margin: 0;">INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE</p> <p>The Municipality has an important agricultural component in its local economy providing approximately 4000 jobs which should be promoted and enhanced. It comprises mainly mixed farming on the dryer coastal plain to the south-west with patches of intensive crop farming, mainly wheat and dairy on pastures found in the valleys in the northwest. Agricultural land close to the urban settlements requires protection due to the advantages it offers regarding minimal travelling distances and transport costs with regards to urban food security.</p> </div> <p>The Spatial Vision of the Municipality is to create a long-term, sustainable land-use pattern that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conserves the Mossel Bay municipality's significant rural resources for the biodiversity conservation of its rivers, wetlands, estuaries and coastline, natural vegetation, scenic landscapes, and extensive and intensive agriculture resources. <input type="checkbox"/> To support rural tourism and agricultural economic growth and employment creation. The Municipality places a greater focus on leveraging its history, heritage and sense of place of the natural scenic areas and old town to revive its underperforming tourism economy 			
(d) Approved Structure Plan of the Municipality	YES	NO	Please explain

Not applicable.

(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the approval of this application have compromised the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area and if so, can it be justified in terms of sustainability considerations?)	YES	NO	Please explain
Not applicable.			
(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	YES	NO	Please explain
<p>The Western Cape Rural Areas Guideline (WCRAAG) has been framed to take forward the PSDF's provincial spatial agenda, as well as give effect to the Provincial Strategic Objectives. The PSDF builds on the complementary national and provincial development agendas of the NDP and OneCape2040.</p> <p>The WCRAAG, like the SDF, notes that the Western Cape economy is founded on the Province's unique asset base.</p> <p>The RAG identifies the type of activities that are compatible with Agriculture SPC. Of relevance to the Kleinbos Farm these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and uses directly related to the primary agricultural enterprise. Farm buildings and activities associated with the primary agricultural activity and associated structures (e.g. one homestead, agricultural buildings such as barns, agri- worker housing, etc.). Activities or land uses of appropriate scale that do not detract from farming production, that diversify farm income, and add value to locally produced products, e.g.: farm tourism; <p>In terms of location, the guidelines indicate that the location of agricultural activities will be dictated by local on-farm agro-climatic conditions (e.g. soils, slope, etc.), but wetlands, floodplains and important vegetation remnants should be kept in a natural state. Farming activities should also be undertaken in accordance with existing guidelines regarding slope, setbacks around wetlands and streams, soil potential, availability of irrigation water etc. (as per CARA and NEMA Regulations).</p> <p>Based on the review of the available information the activities that are proposed on Kleinbos Farm are aligned with the WC RAG.</p>			

3. Was the land use (associated with the activity for which rectification is sought) considered within the timeframe intended by the existing approved Spatial Development Framework (SDF) agreed to by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. was the development in line with the projects and programmes identified as priorities within the relevant IDP)?	YES	NO	Please explain
The land use is all in support of an existing agricultural enterprise which is supported in both the SDF and the IDP.			

4. Should development, or if applicable, expansion of the town/area concerned in terms of this land use (associated with the activity being applied for) have occurred here when activities commenced?	YES	NO	Please explain
Not necessarily. The areas identified for clearing were previously used for agricultural purposes, particularly because they are the flattest areas for crop production on the properties.			

5. Did the community/area need the activity and the associated land use concerned (was it a societal priority)? (This refers to the strategic as well as local level (e.g. development is a national priority, but within a specific local context it could be inappropriate.)	YES	NO	Please explain
The Mossel Bay Municipality has identified Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing as Primary Sector in its GDP. The surrounding communities are almost entirely dependant on this sector for their livelihoods, and			

since the farm is located in an area designated for intensive agriculture and has the potential to provide long term, permanent employment and skills development, the need for the community is quite significant.

6. Were the necessary services with adequate capacity available (at the time of commencement), or was additional capacity created to cater for the development? (Confirmation by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the Application Form / additional information as an appendix , where applicable.)	YES	NO	Please explain
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The properties do not make use of municipal services.

7. Is/was this development provided for in the infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if not what was/will the implication be on the infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority and placement of services and opportunity costs)? (Comment by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the Application Form / additional information as an appendix , where applicable.)	YES	NO	Please explain
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The development does not form part of the municipal planning and is a private enterprise.

8. Was this project part of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance?	YES	NO	Please explain
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Although not part of a national programme, the sustainability and development of existing agricultural enterprises is of national concern to ensure employment and food security.

9. Did location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This relates to the contextualisation of the land use on this site within its broader context.)	YES	NO	Please explain
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The farm is zoned for agriculture, has been utilised for many decades for agricultural activities and is located in a planning area for intensive agriculture.

10. How did/does the activity or the land use associated with the activity applied for, impact on sensitive natural and cultural areas (built and rural/natural environment)?	YES	NO	Please explain
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The specialist impact ratings for the activity range from high positive to low negative on the natural and cultural environment.

11. How did/does the development impact on people's health and wellbeing (e.g. in terms of noise, odours, visual character and sense of place, etc.)?	YES	NO	Please explain
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The activity does not impact on people's health and wellbeing due to its location and distance from settlements.

12. Did/does the proposed activity or the land use associated with the activity applied for, result in unacceptable opportunity costs?	YES	NO	Please explain
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According to the Socio-Economic report, not implementing the activity would result in negative opportunity costs.

13. What were the cumulative impacts (positive and negative) of the land use associated with the activity applied for?	YES	NO	Please explain
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Positive:

- Opportunity to up-grade and improve skills levels in the area
- Increased water security, reduced fire risk and improved biodiversity protection Improved riparian buffers due to specialist mitigation

Negative:

- Potential damage to road may result in higher maintenance costs for vehicles of other road users
- Not implementing the activity will be a lost opportunity for the local economy and local members of the community who would benefit from the development

14. Is/was the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site?

YES

NO

Please explain

The property is zoned for agriculture, has been utilised for agriculture and is located in an area spatially identified for intensive agriculture. There is sufficient water availability to support the activity,

15. What are/were the benefits to society in general and to the local communities?

Please explain

Employment, job security, food security and agricultural development.

16. Any other need and desirability considerations related to the activity?

Please explain

None

17. Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA were taken into account:

(1) *The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the application of appropriate environmental management tools in order to ensure the integrated environmental management of activities,*

(2) *The general objective of integrated environmental management is to:*

(a) *promote the integration of the principles of environmental management set out in section 2 into the making of all decisions which may have a significant effect on the environment:*

(b) *identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage, the risks and consequences and alternatives and options for mitigation of activities, with a view to minimizing negative impacts, maximizing benefits and promoting compliance with the principles of environmental management set out in section 2;*

This report follows the edicts to identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impacts associated with this development. The specialist studies have provided mitigations for minimising negative impacts where they have been identified.

(c) *ensure that the effects of activities on the environment receive adequate consideration before actions are taken in connection with them;*

This has been done by means of specialist investigations to determine baseline and predict the impacts associated with the proposal. The implementable management actions have been identified as having the least negative impacts, avoidance of sensitive areas and making use of existing disturbed areas.

(d) *ensure adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment;*

This process follows the requirements of the 2014 EIA Regulations and the NEMA Amendment Laws Act (Act 25 of 2014) for conducting a Public Participation Process.

(e) *ensure the consideration of environmental attributes in management and*

An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) has been included to ensure that the ongoing clearing of AIS and management of the cultivated and natural areas of the development in the future is managed in line with environmental requirements and Best Practise Principles.

(f) *decision-making which may have a significant effect on the environment; and identify and employ the modes of environmental management best suited to ensuring that a particular activity is pursued in accordance with the principles of environmental management set out in section 2.*

This process is being undertaken in terms of Section 2 of NEMA.

(3) *The Director-General must coordinate the activities of organs of state referred to in section 24(1) and assist them in giving effect to the objectives of this section and such assistance may include training, the publication of manuals and guidelines and the co-ordination of procedures.*

All relevant guidelines and procedures have been used to produce this document and provide relevant information in order for sufficient co-governance to be implemented.

18. Please describe how the **principles of environmental management** as set out in section 2 of NEMA were taken into account:

Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably.

The development of the properties for more intensive farming operations, using latest technology and applications is in line with the various planning and agricultural development strategies for the area. This will ensure sustainability of the agribusiness which will in turn lead to job security within the organisation and economic development in the region.

Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The applicant cleared the initial ±14ha without prior environmental authorisation, however the ongoing clearing up to ±31ha will be done with input from the various specialists in order to ensure that a sustainable outcome is achieved. The project has high positive socio-economic outcomes as it addresses the social and economic sustainability to a significant extent.

Sustainable development requires the consideration of all relevant factors including the following:

- *That the disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied;*

The impact of alien invasive species (AIS) on biodiversity is significantly detrimental. By providing for commercial agriculture to drive the financial sustainability of the property, resources are made available to continue the clearing of a property that has been determined as reaching a 95% density in the watercourses. This is a significant improvement to the status quo with no active management.

- *that pollution and degradation of the environment are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied;*

Land and soil degradation are minimised due to the removal of AIS.

- *that the disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage is avoided, or where it cannot be altogether avoided, is minimised and remedied;*

The development of agriculture on this property will not disturb cultural heritage.

- *that waste is avoided, or where it cannot be altogether avoided, minimised and re-used or recycled where possible and otherwise disposed of in a responsible manner;*

Organic material from the orchards cannot be avoided; however it will be re-used on the property.

- *that the use and exploitation of non-renewable natural resources is responsible and equitable, and takes into account the consequences of the depletion of the resource;*

The development of orchards on the property does not exploit non-renewable resources.

- *that the development, use and exploitation of renewable resources and the ecosystems of which they are part do not exceed the level beyond which their integrity is jeopardised;*

The development of orchards on the property is being undertaken within the scope of the available water allocated to the property. The mechanism for irrigation (drip) will ensure water security for the agricultural enterprises.

- *that a risk-averse and cautious approach is applied, which takes into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions; and*

The specialist studies and the impact predictions for the development are based on current knowledge and expertise.

- *that negative impacts on the environment and on people's environmental rights be anticipated and prevented, and where they cannot be altogether prevented, are minimised and remedied.*

The development of the orchards has been subject to several specialist investigations and the implementation and management is based on specialist input and aimed at avoiding significant impacts wherever possible, whilst ensuring the development of facilities for sustainable farming.

Environmental management must be integrated. Acknowledging that all elements of the environment are linked and interrelated, and it must take into account the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment and all people in the environment by pursuing the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

The preferred alternative has been determined to be the best practicable environmental options based on specialist input and existing land uses.

Environmental justice must be pursued so that adverse environmental impacts shall not be distributed in such a manner as to unfairly discriminate against any person, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged persons.

The diversification of the agribusiness leads to more sustainable farming practises which will ensure the persistence of employment, local economic development and food security.

Equitable access to environmental resources, benefits and services to meet basic human needs and ensure human well-being must be pursued and special measures may be taken to ensure access thereto by categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

The development of the property will not lead to discrimination of any persons.

Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, programme, project, product, process, service or activity exists throughout its life cycle.

The consideration for the environment must be practised by the applicant for the duration of the life span of the development. This will be achieved by means of an EMPr covering construction, operation and decommissioning. This includes the ongoing management of the property, removal of alien vegetation within the cadastral boundaries and protection of water resources.

The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured.

This process meets the requirements for participation by interested and affected parties.

Decisions must take into account the interests, needs and values of all interested and affected parties, and this includes recognizing all forms of knowledge, including traditional and ordinary knowledge.

The DEA&DP will take into account the inputs from all interested and affected parties obtained during this process.

Community wellbeing and empowerment must be promoted through environmental education, the raising of environmental awareness, the sharing of knowledge and experience and other appropriate means.

The sharing of the information obtained during this investigation, as well as the input from interested and affected parties is aimed at ensuring that all relevant parties have access to all information and are able to improve their awareness of the impacts associated with this development.

The social, economic and environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated and decisions must be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.

This 24G Application has been developed to ensure that all relevant information can be considered, assessed and evaluated in order for DEA&DP to make their decision.

The right of workers to refuse work that is harmful to human health or the environment and to be informed of dangers must be respected and protected.

The Occupational Health & Safety Act is applicable to construction and operation of the facility.

Decisions must be taken in an open and transparent manner, and access to information must be provided in accordance with the law.

All correspondence with and information provided to the competent authority is available to anyone who requests it. The decision by DEA&DP will consider all relevant information and the reasons for any decision will be communicated to all interested and affected parties.

There must be intergovernmental co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment.

Inclusion of all relevant state departments and organs of state encourages intergovernmental strategies.

Actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state should be resolved through conflict resolution procedures.

Not currently applicable but will be addressed if it becomes necessary.

Global and international responsibilities relating to the environment must be discharged in the national interest.

The development of sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security whilst minimising significant negative impact to the environment is recognised globally. This project supports these notions.

The environment is held in public trust for the people, the beneficial use of environmental resources must serve the public interest and the environment must be protected as the people's common heritage.

The development of the orchards, along with the required mitigation measures suggested by the specialists will not cause undue damage to the environment, and will provide for an important aspect of diverse agricultural development in the area.

The costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation and consequent adverse health effects and of preventing, controlling or multiplier pollution, environmental damage or adverse health effects must be paid for by those responsible for harming the environment.

The holders of any authorisation will be required to comply with conditions to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected. Penalties associated with contraventions of these conditions will be applicable.

The vital role of women and youth in environment management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted.

This must be ensured as part of the employment contracts associated with both construction and operation of the development.

Sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems, such as coastal shores, estuaries, wetlands and similar systems require specific attention in management and planning procedures, especially where they are subject to significant human resource usage and development pressure.

The environment within which the development of the orchards takes place has been identified as potentially sensitive environment for ecosystem types, however the property has been utilised for agricultural purposes for many decades and the activity is in support of the agricultural development of the area. The management of the area going forward must follow the prescripts of the various specialists in order to minimise the risks to the environment.

SECTION E: ALTERNATIVES

Please Note: Before completing this section, first consult this Department's *Guideline on Alternatives* (March 2013) available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>).

"Alternatives", in relation to an activity, means different means of meeting the general purposes and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to –

- (a) the property on which, or location where, it is to undertake the activity/the activity was undertaken;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

The NEMA prescribes that the procedures for the investigation, assessment and communication of the (potential) consequences or impacts of activities on the environment must, *inter alia*, with respect to every application for environmental authorisation –

- ensure that the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in NEMA and the National Environmental Management Principles set out in NEMA are taken into account; and (where applicable)
- include an investigation of the potential consequences or impacts of the alternatives to the activity on the environment and assessment of the significance of those potential consequences or impacts, including the option of not implementing the activity.

The general objective of integrated environmental management is, *inter alia*, to "identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage, the risks and consequences and alternatives and options for mitigation of activities, with a view to minimising negative impacts, maximising benefits, and promoting compliance with the principles of environmental management" set out in NEMA.

1. In the sections below, please provide a description of any considered alternatives and alternatives that were found to be feasible and reasonable.

Please note:

- Detailed written proof of the investigation of alternatives must be provided. If no reasonable or feasible alternative exists, a motivation must be provided.
- Alternatives considered for a Section 24G application are used to determine if the development was the best practicable alternative (environmentally, socially and economically) for the site or property.
- In respect of a section 24 application, the option of not implementing the activity ("no-go"), includes the option of ceasing the activity, not implementing continuation of the activity, refusal of the commenced activity and complete rehabilitation of the affected site.

(a) Property and location/site alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

None. The properties are owned and managed by the applicants for the agricultural undertaking. The orchards have been developed on the areas on the property that are suitable in terms of slope, aspect and water reach.

(b) Activity alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

The applicant is committed to the development of orchards on the property. It is a new market for this area and has associated businesses supporting it such as the Great Brak Avocados, a propagation nursery located between George and Great Brak. The nursery will supply the avocado plants for Kleinbos Farm. In addition the proponents have invested in a packing facility in George to support the farming activity.

Since the impacts associated with the development of the orchards do not pose significant losses to the environment, there is no need to investigate other activity alternatives.

(c) Design or layout alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 1) has already commenced and the layout is based on the Contour & Irrigation survey by Aquatech. These areas that have been cleared and planned for clearing are most suitable in terms of slope and water reach. As such, no other alternatives will be considered, other than the No-Go alternative

(d) Technology alternatives (e.g. to reduce resource demand and resource use efficiency) to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

Efficient water use in the form of drip irrigation is being implemented for the orchards and there are not other technologies that will constitute an Alternative for assessment. Resource sustainability must be applied regardless i.e. correct water management for irrigation, soil mulching and protection from erosion.

No technology alternatives are thus being investigated.

(e) Operational alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

Efficient water use in the form of drip irrigation is being implemented for the orchards and there are not other technologies that will constitute an Alternative for assessment. Resource sustainability must be applied regardless i.e. correct water management for irrigation, soil mulching and protection from erosion.

No operational alternatives are thus being investigated.

(f) The option of ceasing the activity (the refusal of the activity(ies) and/or rehabilitation of the site):

The property is zoned for Agriculture I, has been actively utilised for agriculture for decades and is located in a spatial area that has been designated at high level for intensive agriculture. In addition the significance of the impacts that have been assessed by the specialists is deemed to be acceptable for the activity to continue.

As such the applicant does not want to pursue this option of ceasing the activity.

(g) Any other alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist:

None

(h) Please provide a summary of the alternatives investigated and the outcomes of such investigation:

Please note: If no feasible and reasonable alternatives exist, the description and proof of the investigation of alternatives, together with motivation of why no feasible or reasonable alternatives exist, must be provided.

The following Alternatives are being proposed:

Alternative 1 (Preferred):

The preferred Alternative 1 consists of the following:

- Total of ±31ha to be cleared and developed for agricultural crop production, of which 8.9ha has already been cleared and the remainder 8.23ha is planned;
- A small off-stream dam of approximately 0.31ha located within the cleared areas was constructed for water pumped from an existing abstraction point. The dam replaces a previous dam that was infilled for inclusion in the crop area.

This alternative has already commenced and based on the site surveys by Aquatech, the areas cleared and planned for clearing are most suitable in terms of slope and water reach. As such, no other alternatives will be considered, other than the No-Go alternative.

No Go Alternative:

- Status quo i.e. halt with the planting of orchards and allow the vegetation to recover for continued grazing of livestock as per previous use of the land.

This option will return the agricultural land use to grazing only which is a low intensive agricultural use, particularly as the grazing capabilities of the property are quite low according to CapeFarmMapper, 2021. It will not support the Intensive Agriculture of the Spatial Planning of the municipality and will not form part of the agricultural economy for the region. As such, this alternative can be seen to be not feasible or supported strategically.

This alternative is however being used as a baseline with which to compare impacts with the preferred alternative.

SECTION F: IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES

Please note, the impacts identified below refer to general impacts commonly associated with development activities. The list below is not exhaustive and may need to be supplemented. Where required, please append the information on any additional impacts to this application.

Please note: The information in this section must be duplicated for all the feasible and reasonable alternatives (where relevant).

1. DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT HAS IMPACTED ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

(a) Geographical and physical aspects:

Clearing of vegetation

(b) Biological aspects:

Has the development impacted on critical biodiversity areas (CBAs) or ecological support areas (ESAs)?	YES	NO
If yes, please describe:		

The clearing of vegetation has taken place and is planned to take place on areas identified in the WCBSP as CBA 1: Terrestrial and CBA 2: Terrestrial, with a CBA 1: Aquatic indicating a wetland on the northern boundary.

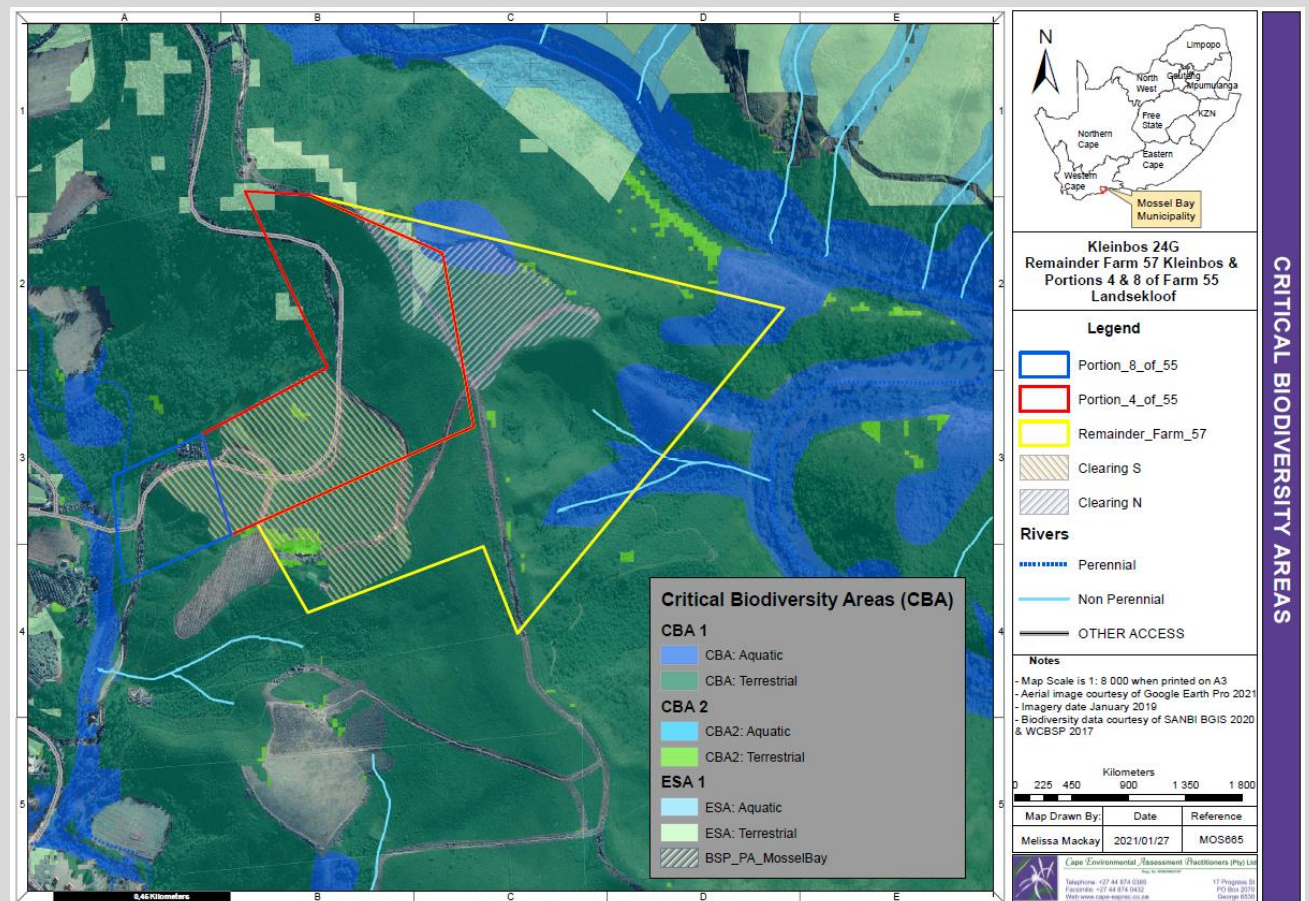


Figure 17: Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA, BSP 2017)

According to the WCBSP, the CBA reasons for the cleared areas are as follows:

BSP 2017 Reasons (Clearing N):

Summary 1: Ecological processes (16.9), Indigenous Forest Type (0.01), Threatened SA Vegetation Type (16.9), Threatened Vertebrate (35.32), Water resource protection (1.12), Wetland Type (0.8)

Feature 1: Bontebok Extended Distribution Range

Feature 2: Cape Mountain Zebra

Feature 3: Eastern Fynbos Renosterveld Shale Fynbos Flat Wetland

Feature 4: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (EN)

Feature 5: Indigenous Forest Type

Feature 6: Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (EN)

Feature 7: Upland-lowland interface

Feature 8: Watercourse protection- Southern Coastal Belt

BSP 2017 Reasons (Clearing S):

Summary 1: Ecological processes (16.59), Threatened SA Vegetation Type (16.59), Threatened Vertebrate (34.16)

Feature 1: Bontebok Extended Distribution Range

Feature 2: Cape Mountain Zebra

Feature 3: Garden Route Shale Fynbos (EN)

Feature 4: Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (EN)

Feature 5: Upland-lowland interface

According to the Aquatic Compliance Statement regarding the CBA 1: Aquatic, the following is applicable:

The wetland is indicated to occur on the edge of the flat escarpment and falls away down the northern steep slopes of the mountain, in the direction of the Moordkuil River to the north. It is important to note here that wetlands featured within the WCBSP were derived from the NFEPA wetlands layer which was the most recent and reliable source of information at the time the WCBSP for Mossel Bay was developed.

The most recent National Wetland Map (version 5) for South Africa (CSIR, 2018) does not indicate the presence of the wetland indicated by the NFEPA (and WCBSP) layer (Figure 2). Seep wetlands are indicated to occur on the eastern most extent of RE/57. These wetlands however occur on steep slopes and fall well outside the area that has been cleared. The most recent wetland and rivers geospatial databases therefore do not identify any freshwater features that fall within the footprint of the cleared areas.

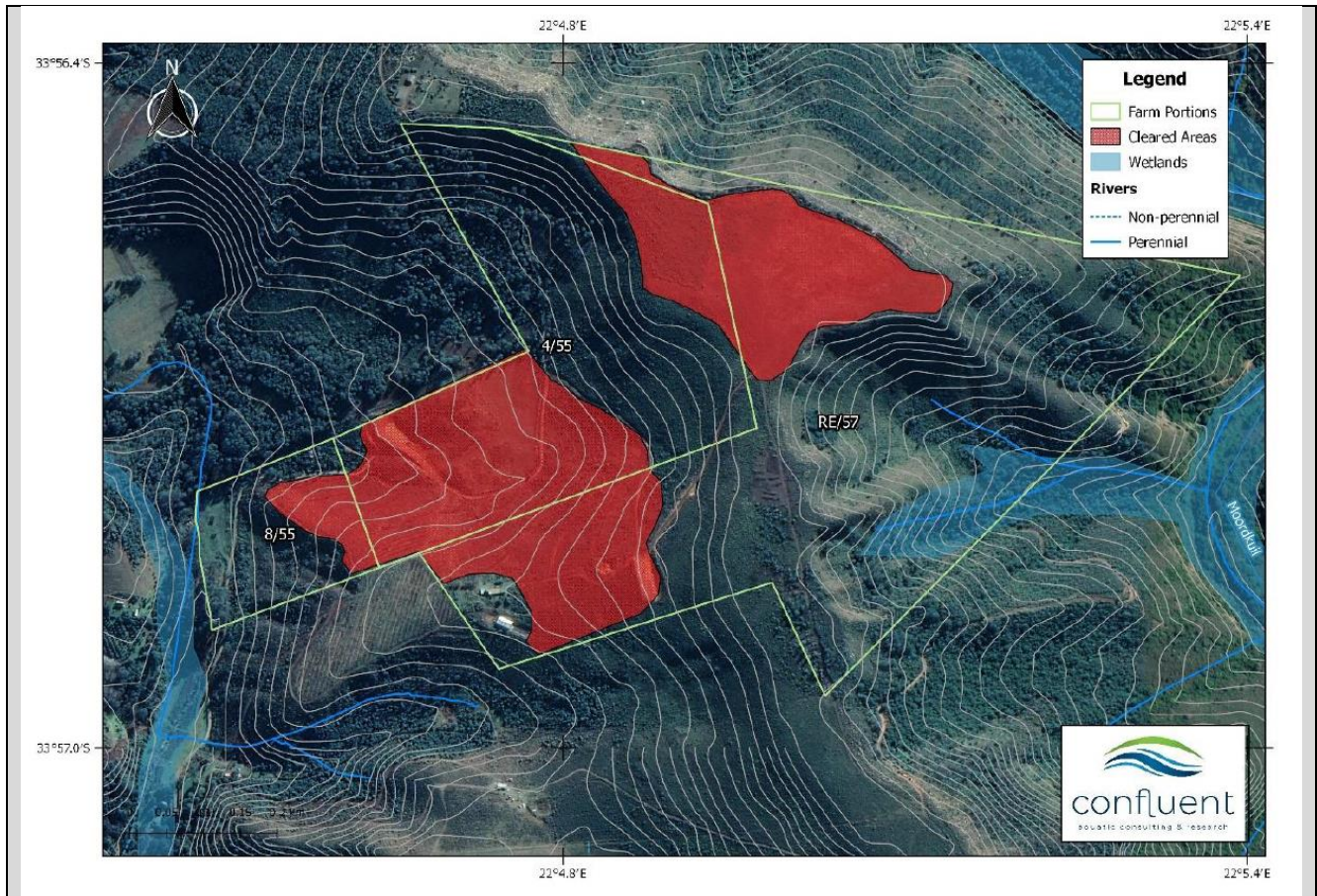


Figure 18: Location of wetlands according to the latest National Wetland Map, Version 5 (CSIR, 2018)

Has the development impacted on terrestrial vegetation, or aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, estuaries or the coastline)?

YES

NO

If yes, please describe:

The development impacted on the clearance of the following vegetation types:

- Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh9) - VU (2011), VU (2018)
- Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc1) - VU (2011), EN (2018)

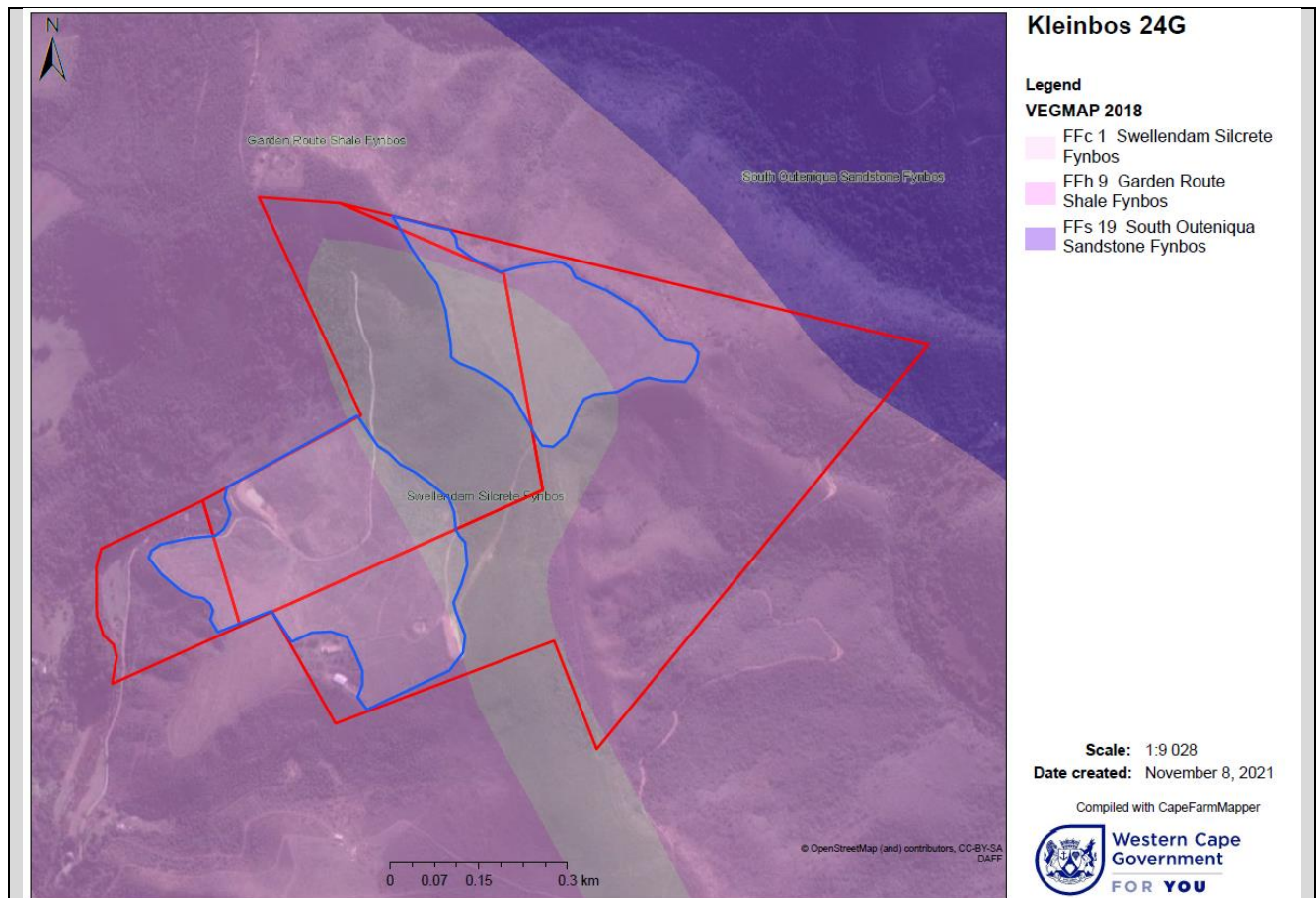


Figure 19: Vegetation Type (CapeFarmMapper, 2021)

According to the Aquatic Compliance Statement, the following is applicable:

Based on the results of the desktop review and the site survey, and taking the limitations of the study into account, the sensitivity of aquatic biodiversity of the proposed development is regarded as

Low. The main factors influencing the statement include the following:

- No freshwater features were identified within the footprint of the cleared area during the site visit; and
- No obvious freshwater features could be identified in recent geospatial databases or historical imagery of the site.

Has the development impacted on any populations of threatened plant or animal species, and/or on any habitat that may contain a unique signature of plant or animal species?

YES

NO

If yes, please describe:

The following excerpt is taken from the Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment:

1. Garden Route Shale Fynbos [VU NBA 2011; VU Skowno et al 2019; EN WCSBP 2017]

The Garden Route Shale Fynbos (FFh 9) status is specified as Endangered (EN) by the WCBSP and Vulnerable (VU) by the NBA. In terms of the 2011 national listing, or as per CapeNature's 2016 assessment of threat status, this ecosystems' habitat loss is currently irreversible (WCBSP, 2017). Skowno's assessment in 2019 remains unchanged from the 2011 NBA status.

From examining Google Earth (2021) imagery within its extent, it is likely that currently more than 80% of this vegetation type is already transformed through crop agriculture, alien plant invasions and coastal developments. Only 4% of this ecosystem is being formally protected and 44% of its original extent remains. This vegetation type contains 8 threatened and 3 endemic plant species.

The conservation target for Garden Route Shale Fynbos vegetation unit is 23% of its original extent.

2. Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos [VU NBA 2011; EN Skowno et al 2019; EN WCSBP 2017]

The national status of Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos (FFc 1) is Endangered [1]. It occurs on undulating hills on the coastal forelands and is described as a medium-tall evergreen shrubland or grassland dominated by asteraceous Fynbos with graminoid Fynbos on disturbed northern slopes. On the southern slopes, proteoid fynbos dominate while ericaceous fynbos occurs in the wetter areas.

This vegetation type has 23 Red Data plant species and 14 endemic species. Additionally, over 40 % of this ecosystem has already been transformed [6]. The conservation target for Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos is 30% of its original extent.

Please describe the manner in which any other biological aspects were impacted:

The predominant impact of the activity is related to the clearance of the vegetation in order to establish crop orchards.

(c) Socio-Economic aspects:

What was the capital value of the activity on completion?	Approx. R 4 500 000.00 (incl. cost of Avo Trees and irrigation)	
What is the (expected) yearly income or contribution to the economy that is/will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	R 13 640 000.00	
Has/will the activity have contributed to service infrastructure?	YES	NO
How many new employment opportunities were/will be created in the construction phase of the activity?	10 additional once the application is agreed and we can start plant Avo Trees	
What was the value of the employment opportunities during the construction phase?	R 0 cleared by machine with existing labour	
What percentage of this accrued to previously disadvantaged individuals?	80%	
How was this ensured and monitored (please explain):		
Employment records and payment invoices		
How many permanent new employment opportunities were/will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	Approximately 62	
What is the current/expected value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	Approx. R 34 112 400 (based on minimum wage in 2022)	
What percentage of this accrued/will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	90%	
How was/will this be ensured and monitored (please explain):		
Employment records and payment invoices		
Any other information related to the manner in which the socio-economic aspects was/will be impacted:		
<p>A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken and is included as Annexure H3 of this report. The SIA concluded as follows:</p> <p>The activities that triggered the 24G Application involved the establishment of a small, off-stream dam (0.31ha) and clearing of ~ 14 ha for the establishment of avocado orchards, with a future total of ~31 ha. Based on the findings of the SIA, the potential negative impacts associated with these activities are marginal and are unlikely to have impacted on the adjacent land users in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.</p>		

The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.

(d) Cultural and historic aspects:

The following statement was provided by the Heritage practitioner in the Notice of Intent to Develop that was submitted to Heritage Western Cape:

Having regard to the above assessment it is our view that the proposed development would not impact on heritage resources considered of cultural significance. It is therefore recommended that no future heritage related studies be required in this instance and that the development may proceed.

2. WASTE AND EMISSIONS

(a) Waste (including effluent) management

Did the activity produce waste (including rubble) during the construction phase?	YES	NO
If yes, indicate the types of waste (actual type of waste, e.g. oil, and whether hazardous or not) and estimated quantity per type?	m ³	
It is likely that some waste was produced during the implementation of the orchards in the form of plant bags, irrigation pipes etc. The volume is not necessarily calculable and it is recommended that all waste removal follow the correct strategy for disposal, especially for any future development of the northern portion.		

Does the activity produce waste during its operational phase?	YES	NO
If yes, indicate the types of waste (actual type of waste, e.g. oil, and whether hazardous or not) and estimated quantity per type?	Unknown	
Waste generated from crop farming will be generated. The landowner must implement sustainable waste strategies on the property.		
In addition some organic waste in the form of plant cuttings and harvesting will be generated during the operation period. This material should all be utilised as for compost and mulch and re-used on the soil as organic material. It is unknown at this time what volumes will be generated as the various trees and plants reach maturity and harvest capability between 5 and 7 years from planting.		

Where and how was/will the waste be treated / disposed of (describe)?		
Organic waste material can be composted on site, however waste such as plastic, paper etc is likely to be collected and disposed of on a regular basis at the municipal disposal site. Burning on site is not advised.		
Has the municipality or relevant authority confirmed that sufficient capacity exists for treating / disposing of the waste (to be) generated by this activity(ies)? If yes, provide written confirmation from Municipality or relevant authority	YES	NO
Does/will the activity produce waste that is/will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility other than into a municipal waste stream?	YES	NO
If yes, has this facility confirmed that sufficient capacity exists for treating / disposing of the waste (to be) generated by this activity(ies)? Provide written confirmation from the facility and provide the following particulars of the facility:	YES	NO
Does the facility have an operating license? (If yes, please attach a copy of the license.)	YES	NO
Facility name:		
Contact person:		
Postal address:		
		Postal code:

Telephone:	Cell:
E-mail:	Fax:

Describe the measures that were/will be taken to reduce, reuse or recycle waste:

An Integrated Waste Management system must be implemented as part of the ongoing operations on the farm. This should include solid waste recycling and sorting, as well as effective management of organic material for reuse.

(b) Emissions into the atmosphere

Does/will the activity produce emissions that will be disposed of into the atmosphere?	YES	NO
If yes, does it require approval in terms of relevant legislation?	YES	NO
Describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration and how it is/will be treated/mitigated:		

3. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water for the activity by ticking the appropriate boxes)

Municipal	Water board	Groundwater	River, Stream, Dam or Lake	Other	The activity did/does/will not use water
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If water was extracted from a groundwater source, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that was extracted per month:

49 577m³

Annexure F1 contains confirmation of the existing water available. No additional abstraction is being applied for. The volume confirmed for these properties is **49 577m³** per year abstraction and **2730m³** storage.

Please provide proof of assurance of water supply (e.g. Letter of confirmation from municipality / water user associations, yield of borehole)

Did/does the activity require a water use permit / license from DWA?

YES

NO

If yes, please submit a certified copy of the water use permit/license or submit the necessary application to Department of Water Affairs and attach proof thereof to this application, whichever is applicable.

Describe the measures that were/ will be taken to reduce water demand, and measures to reuse or recycle water:

Irrigation infrastructure should be developed in such a way that the right amount of water is applied to the crop at the right time so that energy is used as efficiently as possible, production is optimized and as little water as possible is lost to non-beneficial consumption. Technology and good agricultural practices should be used to optimize irrigation water management. These include:

- Remove invasive alien plants and replace with indigenous vegetation. Invasive alien plants that establish in watercourse are spread downstream.
- Restore and protect watercourses (remove alien plants, control burning and grazing, do not cultivate).
- Build up soil organic matter to reduce evaporative water loss and maximise the soil's water-holding capacity.
- Use more efficient irrigation systems.
- Ensure efficient irrigation techniques that take into account soil type, crop type, soil water status and weather conditions.
- Implementing and monitoring soil moisture to determine correct irrigation schedules.
- Implementing and monitoring flow rates to provide correct and up to date data on water usage.
- Record actual water use to compare against registered use.

- Implement water-harvesting and water-recycling techniques where possible.
- Use drought-resistant crop and livestock varieties.
- Planting of crops in correct soil types to ensure optimal growth with efficient water usage.
- Implement and monitoring of water pressure in pipes.
- Ensuring that all equipment (pumps, pipes and irrigation mechanisms) are maintained and in good working order. This will minimise leaks and other water loss and ensure a longer life cycle for equipment.
- Use of cut off valves on storage facilities (where applicable) to prevent overflow.
- Efficient use of energy by means of timing and control devices.

4. POWER SUPPLY

Please indicate the source of power supply e.g. Municipality / Eskom / Renewable energy source

Eskom

If power supply is not available, where will power be sourced from?

Not applicable

5. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, that have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

Not applicable.

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

Not applicable.

6. DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS PRIOR TO AND AFTER MITIGATION

Please note:

- While sections are provided for impacts on certain aspects of the environment and certain impacts, the sections should also be copied and completed for all other impacts.
- Mitigation measures that were implemented and mitigation measures that are to be implemented should be clearly distinguished.

Impacts are grouped into **planning, design & construction**, **operation**, **decommissioning** and **any other impacts**. The tables have been colour coded for ease of reference.

(a) Impacts that resulted from the planning, design and construction phases (briefly describe and compare the impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that occurred as a result of the planning, design and construction phases.

Impacts on geographical and physical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem / vegetation type	Retain status quo, no orchard development
Extent and duration of impact:	Regional, long term	Regional, long term
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Highly probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High	High
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	Find and proclaim a biodiversity offset area of similar size, connectivity and	Restore cleared areas by controlling invasive alien plants

	similar vegetation within the respective endangered vegetation types	
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium	Low

Impact on biological aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Loss of ecosystem services	Retain status quo
Extent and duration of impact:	Regional, long term	Regional, long term
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Highly probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High	Medium
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	Find and proclaim a biodiversity offset area of similar size, connectivity and similar vegetation within the respective endangered vegetation types	Restore cleared areas by controlling invasive alien plants
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium	Low

Impact on biological aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process	Retain status quo
Extent and duration of impact:	Regional, long term	Regional, long term
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Highly probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Medium
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High	Medium
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	Find and proclaim a biodiversity offset area of similar size, connectivity and similar vegetation within the respective endangered vegetation types	Restore cleared areas by controlling invasive alien plants
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium	Low

Impact on biological aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Loss of distinct biodiversity features	Retain status quo
Extent and duration of impact:	Regional, long term	Regional, long term
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Highly probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Medium

Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Medium	Medium
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High	Medium
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Medium	Medium
Proposed mitigation:	Find and proclaim a biodiversity offset area of similar size, connectivity and similar vegetation within the respective endangered vegetation types	Restore cleared areas by controlling invasive alien plants
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Medium	Medium
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium	Low

Impacts on socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Creation of business and employment and opportunities.	None
Extent and duration of impact:	Local – Regional, Short term	None
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	N/A	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	N/A	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Opportunity to up-grade and improve skills levels in the area.	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Moderate (positive)	None

Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	The construction activities associated with the establishment of the small off-stream dam have already been undertaken and an area of ~14ha has been cleared for the establishment of avocados. Local contractors and workers were appointed to undertake the work. This represents the enhancement measures that would typically be recommended for construction related activities.	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Moderate (positive)	None

Impacts on socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	<p>Security and safety risks to adjacent farms posed by workers.</p> <p>The presence of construction workers in the area has the potential to impact on the safety and security of local residents and farms in the area. Based on experience the presence of construction workers can result in an increase in petty crime and theft. This is linked to the ability of the construction workers to monitor the movements of local residents and take advantage of their absence from the property. The majority of the crime is therefore opportunistic and linked to theft and break-ins.</p>	Status quo
Extent and duration of impact:	Local, short term	None
Probability of occurrence:	Probable	None

Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	N/A	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	N/A	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	Based on the findings of the SIA the construction related activities undertaken to date have not resulted in any safety and security impacts on adjacent farms and properties.	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	None

Impacts on socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	<p>Noise, dust, traffic related impacts associated with construction related activities.</p> <p>Construction related activities can impact negatively on adjacent landowners and road users. The typical impacts include noise, dust and traffic related impacts. Based on the findings of the SIA the majority of the impacts were confined to the site and did not impact on adjacent landowners or other road users. Given the nature of the activities, the volume of construction related traffic along the DR1630 and OP6824 was likely to have been low and limited to a short period of time (3-4 months).</p>	None

Extent and duration of impact:	Local, Short Term	None
Probability of occurrence:	Probable	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	High	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	N/A	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Potential damage to road may result in higher maintenance costs for vehicles of other road users.	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	None

Impacts on cultural-historical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None

Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Noise impacts:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Noise impacts related to machinery on site during farming construction.	None
Extent and duration of impact:	Site specific, Short Term	None
Probability of occurrence:	Highly improbable	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Unlikely	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None

Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Negligible	None

Visual impacts / Sense of Place:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

(b) Impacts that result from the **operational phase** (briefly describe and compare impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the operational phase.

Impacts on geographical and physical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Impacts on biological aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None

Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Impacts on the socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	Creation of employment and business opportunities.	None
Extent and duration of impact:	Local - Regional, long term	None
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Impact is positive	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	N/A	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:		None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Moderate positive	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High	None

Proposed mitigation:	Employ community members and contractors.	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Opportunity to up-grade and improve skills levels in the area.	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High positive	None

Impacts on the socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	<p>Implementation of alien clearing and fire management plan.</p> <p>Alien vegetation not only increases the risk of fires, but also reduces biodiversity, exacerbates flood risks and impacts on water supply by invading wetlands and catchment areas. The development and implementation of an alien invasive and fire management plan will improve the overall management of aliens and fire risks in the area which will benefit all landowners. Alien clearing will also improve water security.</p>	<p>Implementation of alien clearing and fire management plan.</p> <p>There is currently an alien management strategy in place and the applicant is an active member of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Agency (SCFPA).</p>
Extent and duration of impact:	Local, Long term	Local, Long term
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Highly probable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Impact is positive	Impact is positive
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Increased water security, reduced fire risk and improved biodiversity protection	Increased water security, reduced fire risk and improved biodiversity protection
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Moderate positive	Moderate positive

Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	Moderate	Moderate
Proposed mitigation:	Development and implementation of an alien clearing and fire management plan.	Development and implementation of an alien clearing and fire management plan.
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Increased water security, reduced fire risk and improved biodiversity protection	Increased water security, reduced fire risk and improved biodiversity protection
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	High positive	High positive

Impacts on the cultural-historical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Noise impacts:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Visual impacts / Sense of Place:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None

Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

(c) Impacts that may result from the decommissioning and closure phase (briefly describe and compare the potential impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, proposed mitigation and significance rating of impacts after mitigation that are likely to occur as a result of the decommissioning and closure phase.

Farming, and in particular crop farming is a long term projected use of the property. Thus in terms of decommissioning, it is not possible to foresee the closure of the facility in the near future. The requirements for closure must comply with any legislative mechanisms in place at the time of closure as a minimum.

Potential impacts on the geographical and physical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None

Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Potential impact on biological aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Potential impacts on the socio-economic aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Potential impacts on the cultural-historical aspects:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None

Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Potential noise impacts:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None

Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Potential visual impacts:	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None
Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

(d) Any other impacts:

Potential impact: Cumulative Impacts	Alternative 1 (Preferred)	No Go Option
Nature of impact:	None	None

Extent and duration of impact:	None	None
Probability of occurrence:	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	None	None
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None	None
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	None	None
Proposed mitigation:	None	None
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	None	None
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	None	None

Please note: If any of the above information is not available, specialist input may be requested.

7. SPECIALIST INPUTS/STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please note: Specialist inputs/studies that will be undertaken as part of this application. These specialist inputs/studies must take into account the Department's relevant Guidelines on the Involvement of Specialists in EIA Processes available on the Department's website (<http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eadp>). A summary of all the specialist inputs/studies must be provided with the additional information.

Specialist inputs/studies and recommendations:

The following specialist studies were undertaken and recommendations provided:

Aquatic Compliance Statement:

As no watercourses have been directly impacted by the clearing of vegetation a detailed specialist report and impact assessment is not required. There are however some areas that do need to be managed and mitigated, which relate primarily to the management and prevention of erosion along steep gradients in close proximity to watercourses. These include the following:

- Orchards must not be established within the drainage area indicated. The delineated area provides sufficient protection for the steep embankments and an additional buffer (approximately 10 – 15 m) beyond the top of the embankments;
- Exposed sections of embankments in the drainage area indicated must be revegetated with an indigenous fynbos reclamation mix;
- The culvert at bottom of the drainage area must be cleared and erosion protection placed at the outlet;
- Orchards must be withdrawn from 15 m away from the edge of the plateau on Portion 4 of 55 and RE/57 to avoid erosion and deterioration of watercourses in the Moordkuil River valley below. This 15 m area must be treated as a buffer which should be rehabilitated and revegetated to provide protection to watercourses located down the steep slopes of the escarpment;
- The drainage area and buffer around the orchards established on the plateau must be routinely monitored for erosion; and
- Tree rows for newly established orchards must be planted parallel to contour lines to minimise soil loss and erosion from the proposed orchard areas.

Terrestrial Biodiversity:

Vegetation clearance and the construction of a small dam for agricultural purposes was undertaken on Farm Kleinbos RE/57, 4/55 and 8/55, Western Cape, henceforth referred to as Farm Kleinbos, without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This impact assessment therefore forms part of a section 24G application process. Two separate areas, with two distinctive footprints, were cleared on the farm, henceforth referred to as the Northern (8.2 ha) and Southern (14.3 ha) sites. The Screening Tool Report of the area, including both sites, and its surroundings delineates the area as of **very high sensitive terrestrial biodiversity** due to the sites' location on two endangered ecosystems as well as Critical Biodiversity Area 1 & 2 (CBA1 & 2), Ecological Support Areas 1 & 2 (ESA1 & 2) and it includes indigenous forest.

The cleared sites lie within two ecosystems, Garden Route Shale Fynbos and Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos, according to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBS 2017), The National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) for the terrestrial realm (2018) and the associated National Vegetation Map. Over 90% of the areas within both the cleared sites were designated as CBA1 (Critical Biodiversity Area 1) with small patches of ESA1 (Ecosystem Support Area 1). The Northern site also had small patches of CBA2 (Critical Biodiversity Area 2).

The steep slopes on and around the sites are delineated as Upland-Lowland Interface [1; 5], an important underlying structural feature that contributes to biodiversity. Before clearance, 6.8 ha (83%) of the Southern site and 9 ha (63%) of the Northern site's area was covered by dense stands of alien invasive trees [5]. The clearance of the sites has removed the dense patches of alien trees that would have impeded the ecosystem function prior to clearance thereof.

Before clearance action, 1.4 ha (17%) of the Northern site and 5.4 ha (37%) of the Southern site's area was covered by fynbos and natural vegetation. Since the clearance was undertaken some signs of natural recovery is visible, with a range of pioneer plants and some fynbos elements spontaneously regenerating on the cleared sites. Since fynbos vegetation is capable of natural recovery from a persistent seedbank if left undisturbed, the cleared sites and its immediate surrounding areas, with the continued control of alien infestation, can potentially support ecological processes and biodiversity to a higher level than it could before clearance (Low Impact with IAP control as mitigation). If not managed, the alien infestation is likely to intensify in the cleared sites (High-Medium Impact significance without mitigation).

The significance for development of the planned avocado orchard on the site is considered here as High for all impacts identified (without mitigation), and Medium if a suitable biodiversity offset area is implemented and proclaimed of similar or larger area of the impacted footprint area, within the same endangered vegetation types impacted (Medium impact with mitigation).

Invasive alien plant species management must be ongoing.

Socio-Economic:

The activities that triggered the 24G Application involved the establishment of a small, off-stream dam (0.31ha) and clearing of ~ 14 ha for the establishment of avocado orchards, with a future total of ~31ha. Based on the findings of the SIA, the potential negative impacts associated with these activities are marginal and are unlikely to have impacted on the adjacent land users in the vicinity of the site.

The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.

The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.

Heritage:

Apart from the two outer gables and internal walling, little historic fabric remains to the fire-damaged historic structure. It is also evident that extensive additions and alterations were made to the historic core of the structure prior to the fire. The ruin was not impacted through the works outlined in this report.

Given the known extent of vegetation clearing and cultivation along the lower, western portion of the study area, it is considered unlikely that archaeological resources would remain within an undisturbed context around this area. However, the potential of unearthing such occurrences along the higher-lying escarpment is uncertain. Given the information provided it would appear that much of the surface area of the study area had already been transformed through various forms of cultivation and that works undertaken as well as further clearing proposed would not militate against the overall cultural landscape of the environs.

According to the SAHRIS Paleo-sensitivity mapping the property is situated within an area earmarked as being of "Low" palaeontological sensitivity where, "*no palaeontological studies are required however protocol for finds [is] required*".

Having regard to the above assessment it is our view that the proposed development would not impact on heritage resources considered of cultural significance. It is therefore recommended that no future heritage related studies be required in this instance and that the development may proceed.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Briefly describe the impacts (as appropriate), significance rating of impacts, mitigation and significance rating of impacts of the activity. This must include an assessment of the significance of all impacts.

Impacts	Significance rating of impacts after mitigation (Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, Very High):
Construction	
Clearance of vegetation: Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem type Loss of ecosystem services Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process Loss of distinct biodiversity features	High Medium Medium Medium
Creation of business and employment and opportunities Local contractors and workers were appointed to undertake the work. This represents the enhancement measures that would typically be recommended for construction related activities.	Moderate (positive)
Security and safety risks to adjacent farms posed by workers. The presence of construction workers in the area has the potential to impact on the safety and security of local residents and farms in the area.	Low
Noise, dust, traffic related impacts associated with construction related activities. Construction related activities can impact negatively on adjacent landowners and road users. The typical impacts include noise, dust and traffic related impacts. Based on the findings of the SIA the majority of the impacts were confined to the site and did not impact on adjacent landowners or other road users. Given the nature of the activities, the volume of construction related traffic along the DR1630 and OP6824 was likely to have been low and limited to a short period of time (3-4 months).	Low
Cultural - Historical	None
Noise The farmlands are isolated and farming noise is unlikely to bother anyone.	Negligible
Visual	None
Operation	

Creation of employment and business opportunities Opportunity to up-grade and improve skills levels in the area.	High positive
Implementation of alien clearing and fire management plan. Development and implementation of an alien clearing and fire management plan.	High positive
Cultural – Historical	None
Noise	None
Visual	None

9. SUMMARY OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF/ IMPACTS OF THE UNLAWFULLY COMMENCED ACTIVITY/IES

Please provide a detailed summary of the consequences/impacts of commencement of the activity/ies on the environment.

The following summaries from the specialist studies are provided:

Aquatic:

Based on a detailed analysis of historical imagery and other geospatial datasets, the area cleared for the establishment of avocado orchards is associated with a Low aquatic sensitivity (no natural watercourses are located within the footprint of the cleared area). This aquatic compliance statement report is therefore sufficient to meet the NEMA environmental authorisation requirements for aquatic biodiversity. This statement does however acknowledge that the establishment of orchards is located in a SWSA, characterised by high elevation and on or near to steep gradients (particularly in RE/57), which could potentially negatively affect watercourses located at lower elevations. For this reason, mitigation measures listed under Section 6.1 must be implemented as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

According to the National Water Act, the area proposed for the establishment of orchards does fall within the regulated area of a watercourse (i.e. within 500m of nearby wetlands) and is therefore considered a Section 21 (c) and (i) water use. The risk of construction and operational phase activities associated with the establishment of orchards is however Low. The water use therefore does not require a WUL and can be generally authorised (assuming the full implementation of mitigation measures listed in Tables below).

Table 1: Construction phase risk matrix

Phase	Activity	Aspect	Impact	Flow Regime	Water Quality	Habitat	Biota	Severity	Spatial scale	Duration	Consequence	Frequency of activity	Frequency of impact	Legal Issues	Detection	Likelihood	Significance	Risk Rating	Confidence level	Control Measures	PES & EIS
CONSTRUCTION & LAYOUT	Clearing of vegetation to establish orchards	Exposure of soil to erosion	Increased turbidity and sedimentation of aquatic habitats	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	5	2	10	40	Low	95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing activities should, as far as is possible, be scheduled for the dry season or when the probability of rainfall is low. • Clearing must not take place within designated buffer areas. • 15 m buffer area between orchards and the edge of the escarpment on Portion 4 of 55 and RE/57 • Buffer areas to be revegetated. 	See Section 7
		Spills and leakage of hydrocarbons and other pollutants	Toxicity to instream aquatic biota	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	5	2	10	30	Low	95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction vehicles and machinery to be serviced routinely and checked daily for oil and fuel leaks; • Re-fuelling, maintenance and parking of vehicles and machinery must take place outside of designated buffer areas. 	

Table 2: Operational phase risk matrix

Phases	Activity	Aspect	Impact	Flow Regime	Water Quality	Habitat	Biota	Severity	Spatial scale	Duration	Consequence	Frequency of activity	Frequency of impact	Legal issues	Detection	Likelihood	Significance	Risk Rating	Confidence level	Control Measures	PES & EIS
OPERATIONAL PHASE	Cultivation of avocado orchards	Erosion of fields	Increased turbidity and sedimentation of wetlands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	1	8	24	Low	95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard rows must be planted along natural contours. Cover crop must be established within orchard rows to minimise soil erosion. All buffer areas to be designated as no-go areas 	See Section 7
		Runoff of pesticides and fertilizers	Toxicity to aquatic biota	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	2	9	27	Low	95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard rows must be planted along natural contours. Cover crop must be established within orchard rows to minimise soil erosion. 	

Terrestrial Biodiversity:

The identified impacts of the proposed development and current vegetation clearance are identified as:

- Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem / vegetation type
- Loss of ecosystem services
- Loss of ecosystem function and process
- Loss of distinct biodiversity features.

Scenario 1: Current Impact

At present the current impact is assessed as of High-Medium significance. Although large (83% and 63%) areas of the cleared sites consisted of heavy infestation of invasive alien plants (IAPs), some natural vegetation was cleared alongside this. The clearance of IAPs will likely passively regenerate with fynbos species from existing seedbanks if not smothered again with IAPs. IAP reestablishment will mostly likely intensify if not actively managed, especially after clearance of natural vegetation – see Table 6. The prescribed mitigation measure here would involve active alien plant management to foster regeneration of natural fynbos vegetation. This mitigation measure will render all the identified impacts as of Low significance.

Table 6: Scenario 1: Current Impact assessment significance without mitigation.

Impact	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Score	Significance
Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem type	3	4	4	0.9	9.9	High
Loss of ecosystem services	3	4	4	0.8	8.8	Medium
Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process	3	4	4	0.7	7.7	Medium
Loss of distinct biodiversity features	3	4	4	0.8	8.8	Medium

Table 7: Scenario 1: Post-mitigation impact significance.

Impact	Mitigation	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Score	Significance
Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem type	Restore cleared areas by controlling invasive alien plants	2	4	-4	0.9	1.8	Low
Loss of ecosystem services		2	4	-4	0.8	1.6	Low
Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process		2	4	-4	0.7	1.4	Low
Loss of distinct biodiversity features		2	4	-4	0.8	1.6	Low

Scenario 2: Impact of planned development

Should the planned establishment of an avocado orchard be applied without any mitigation measures, a High significance for each of the impacts is identified. This is compounded as crop agriculture is currently the most destructive landuse in this area (along with alien invasive plant infestations) and on these ecosystems and has been showing an increasing growing trend. Therefore the extent of this impact is considered higher than as the current situation where no orchard development has yet taken place (see Table 8). The only mitigation action that is reasonable within this scenario is the establishment of a proclaimed offset biodiversity area consisting of roughly equal to or larger in size and spanning the same vegetation types as the full proposed development area footprint. With this mitigation measure in place, the impact significance is considered Medium (Table 9).

Table 8: Impact assessment significance without mitigation

Impact	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Score	Significance
Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem type	3	4	8	0.9	13.5	High
Loss of ecosystem services	3	4	8	0.8	12	High
Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process	3	4	8	0.7	10.5	High
Loss of distinct biodiversity features	3	4	8	0.8	12	High

Table 9: Post-mitigation impact significance

Impact	Mitigation	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Score	Significance
Loss of habitat of an endangered ecosystem type	Find and proclaim a biodiversity offset area of similar size, connectivity and similar vegetation within the respective endangered vegetation types	3	4	4	0.8	8.8	Medium
Loss of ecosystem services		3	4	4	0.8	8.8	Medium
Loss of ecosystem function, pattern and process		3	4	4	0.7	7.7	Medium
Loss of distinct biodiversity features		3	4	4	0.8	8.8	Medium

Socio-Economic:

The key findings of the study are summarised under the following sections:

- Fit with policy and planning.
- Construction phase impacts.

- Operational phase impacts.
- No-development option.

POLICY AND PLANNING FIT

In terms of the Spatial Planning Categories contained in the WC Rural Areas Development Guideline, Kleinbos Farm is located in an area designated as Agriculture. The Garden Route (Eden) District SDF is also adopts the Spatial Planning Categories (SPC) contained in the Draft WCG Rural Land Use Planning and Management Guidelines (2017) and their definitions. The Mossel Bay SDF indicates that Kleinbos Farm is located in an area identified as Intensive Agriculture. The proposed development of avocados on the property is therefore aligned with and supported by the key policy and planning documents for the area.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE IMPACTS

The key social issues associated with the construction phase include:

Potential positive impacts

- Creation of business and employment and opportunities.

The creation employment and business opportunities are associated with preparation of the land for the avocado orchards and the construction of the small, off-stream dam. Based on figures for the citrus sector, the cost of establishing ~ 31 ha of avocado orchards would be in the region of R 4.6 million. The establishment of orchards is also labour intensive and creates employment opportunities for low and semi-skilled workers. The majority of these workers are likely to be locally based Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs).

Given the low income levels and limited employment opportunities in the area employment opportunities that will be associated with establishment of the avocado plantation represent a socio-economic benefit.

Potential negative impacts

- Security and safety risks to adjacent farms posed by workers.
- Noise, dust, traffic related impacts associated with construction related activities.

The significance of the potential negative impacts with mitigation was assessed to be of **Low Negative to Negligible** significance.

OPERATIONAL PHASE IMPACTS

Potential positive impacts

- Creation of employment and business opportunities.
- Implementation of alien clearing and fire management plan.

Based on the information provided by the client ~2 workers are employed per ha. The total number of employment opportunities would therefore be in the region of 62. The majority of the workers will be locally based HDIs. The total annual wage would be in the region of R 3 million. Given the low income levels and limited employment opportunities in the area employment opportunities that will be associated with establishment of the avocado plantation will represent a socio-economic benefit. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.

Potential negative impacts

Based on the findings of the SIA there are no significant negative social impacts associated with the operational phase of the development that would have a bearing on the decision -making process.

NO-DEVELOPMENT OPTION

The site is located within an area designated as an Agriculture SPC. The area has therefore been identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. Within this context the no-development alternative would result in the

benefits associated with the investment into avocado farming being forgone. These include the creation of employment and business opportunities associated with the initiative. The no-development option is therefore not supported.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The activities that triggered the 24G Application involved the establishment of a small, off-stream dam (0.31ha) and clearing of ~ 14 ha for the establishment of avocado orchards. An expected final total of ~31ha under orchard is envisaged by the applicant. Based on the findings of the SIA, the potential negative impacts associated with these activities are marginal and are unlikely to have impacted on the adjacent land users in the vicinity of the site.

The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.

The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.

Heritage:

Having regard to the above assessment it is our view that the proposed development would not impact on heritage resources considered of cultural significance. It is therefore recommended that no future heritage related studies be required in this instance and that the development may proceed.

10. OTHER MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES

(a) Over and above the mitigation measures described above, please indicate any additional management, mitigation and monitoring measures.

None

(b) Describe the ability of the applicant to implement the management, mitigation and monitoring measures.

The applicant and the company have many years' experience in land management and farming. The mitigations that are being proposed can easily be implemented by them and will ensure that the farming activities are greatly improved.

Please note: A draft **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME** must be attached to this application as **Appendix I**.

SECTION G: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES AND CRITERIA, GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE, UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

(a) Please describe adequacy of the assessment methods used.

The assessment was undertaken using national and international criteria for assessment and its adequacy is of a high standard.

The specialists all have extensive knowledge and experience in their respective fields which further supports the adequacy of the assessments.

(b) Please describe the assessment criteria used.

Criteria for Assessment

These criteria are drawn from the EIA Regulations, published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (April 1998) in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act No. 73 of 1989.

These criteria include:

- **Nature of the impact**

This is the appraisal of the type of effect the construction, operation and maintenance of a development would have on the affected environment. This description should include what is to be affected and how.

- **Extent of the impact**

Describe whether the impact will be: local extending only as far as the development site area; or limited to the site and its immediate surroundings; or will have an impact on the region, or will have an impact on a national scale or across international borders.

- **Duration of the impact**

The specialist / EAP should indicate whether the lifespan of the impact would be short term (0-5 years), medium term (5-15 years), long term (16-30 years) or permanent.

- **Intensity**

The specialist / EAP should establish whether the impact is destructive or benign and should be qualified as low, medium or high. The study must attempt to quantify the magnitude of the impacts and outline the rationale used.

- **Probability of occurrence**

The specialist / EAP should describe the probability of the impact actually occurring and should be described as improbable (low likelihood), probable (distinct possibility), highly probable (most likely) or definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).

The impacts should also be assessed in terms of the following aspects:

- **Legal requirements**

The specialist / EAP should identify and list the relevant South African legislation and permit requirements pertaining to the development proposals. He / she should provide reference to the procedures required to obtain permits and describe whether the development proposals contravene the applicable legislation.

- **Status of the impact**

The specialist / EAP should determine whether the impacts are negative, positive or neutral ("cost – benefit" analysis). The impacts are to be assessed in terms of their effect on the project and the environment. For example, an impact that is positive for the proposed development may be negative for the environment. It is important that this distinction is made in the analysis.

- **Accumulative impact**

Consideration must be given to the extent of any accumulative impact that may occur due to the proposed development. Such impacts must be evaluated with an assessment of similar developments already in the environment. Such impacts will be either positive or negative, and will be graded as being of negligible, low, medium or high impact.

- **Degree of confidence in predictions**

The specialist / EAP should state what degree of confidence (low, medium or high) is there in the predictions based on the available information and level of knowledge and expertise.

Based on a synthesis of the information contained in the above-described procedure, you are required to assess the potential impacts in terms of the following significance criteria:

No significance: the impacts do not influence the proposed development and/or environment in any way.

Low significance: the impacts will have a minor influence on the proposed development and/or environment. These impacts require some attention to modification of the project design where possible, or alternative mitigation.

Moderate significance: the impacts will have a moderate influence on the proposed development and/or environment. The impact can be ameliorated by a modification in the project design or implementation of effective mitigation measures.

High significance: the impacts will have a major influence on the proposed development and/or environment and will result in the "no-go" option on the development or portions of the development regardless of any mitigation measures that could be implemented. This level of significance must be well motivated.

Socio-Economic Assessment:

METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the above issues, as well as all other issues identified will be assessed in terms of the following criteria:

- The nature, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The extent, where it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development), regional, national or international. A score between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with a score of 1 being low and a score of 5 being high).
- The duration, where it will be indicated whether:
 - * the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
 - * the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
 - * medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
 - * long-term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
 - * permanent - assigned a score of 5.
- The magnitude, quantified on a scale from 0-10, where a score is assigned:

- * 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment;
 - * 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes;
 - * 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes;
 - * 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way;
 - * 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease); and
 - * 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- The probability of occurrence, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale, and a score assigned:
 - * Assigned a score of 1–5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen);
 - * Assigned a score of 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood);
 - * Assigned a score of 3 is probable (distinct possibility);
 - * Assigned a score of 4 is highly probable (most likely); and
 - * Assigned a score of 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
 - The significance, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above (refer formula below) and can be assessed as low, Moderate or high.
 - The status, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
 - The degree to which the impact can be reversed.
 - The degree to which the impact may cause *irreplaceable loss of resources*.
 - The degree to which the impact can be *mitigated*.

The significance is determined by combining the criteria in the following formula:

$S = (E + D + M)P$; where

S = Significance weighting

E = Extent

D = Duration

M = Magnitude

P = Probability

The significance weightings for each potential impact are as follows:

- < 30 points: Low (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- 30-60 points: Moderate (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- > 60 points: High (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

Terrestrial Biodiversity:

Since this study forms part of a Section 24G application, the terrestrial biodiversity related impacts were identified and assessed for two scenarios related to the nature of the impact in terms of i) the current extent of transformation and, ii) after full completion of the envisaged development (i.e. an avocado orchard).

The Impact Assessment (IA) was adapted and performed according to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT 2002,2004) guidelines [11,12,13,14], and takes into account:

1. Impact nature (direct, indirect and cumulative);
2. Impact status (positive, negative or neutral);
3. Impact spatial extent;
4. Impact duration;
5. Potential impact intensity;
6. Impact reversibility (high, moderate, low or irreversible);
7. Irreplaceability of the impacted resource (high, moderate, low or replaceable);
8. Impact probability;
9. Confidence in the ratings (high, moderate or low);

(c) Please describe the gaps in knowledge.

Aquatic:

Extensive earth moving and clearing of vegetation has occurred on each of the three properties in preparation for the establishment of avocado orchards. This could possibly have buried or obscured any watercourses (i.e. drainage lines and wetlands), particularly ephemeral or seasonal watercourses that may have been present prior to the activity. Additionally, the natural contours that often indicate the presence of natural drainage areas and watercourses may have been altered. These factors make it difficult to reliably confirm the presence of any freshwater features post vegetation clearing. This assessment had to therefore rely heavily on historical satellite and aerial imagery to confirm the presence of wetlands prior to clearing of vegetation

(d) Please describe the underlying assumptions.

Aquatic:

Extensive earth moving and clearing of vegetation has occurred on each of the three properties in preparation for the establishment of avocado orchards. This could possibly have buried or obscured any watercourses (i.e. drainage lines and wetlands), particularly ephemeral or seasonal watercourses that may have been present prior to the activity. Additionally, the natural contours that often indicate the presence of natural drainage areas and watercourses may have been altered. These factors make it difficult to reliably confirm the presence of any freshwater features post vegetation clearing. This assessment had to therefore rely heavily on historical satellite and aerial imagery to confirm the presence of wetlands prior to clearing of vegetation.

Socio-Economic:

Fit with planning and policy requirements

Legislation and policies reflect societal norms and values. The legislative and policy context therefore plays an important role in identifying and assessing the potential socio-economic impacts associated with a proposed development. In this regard a key component of the Socio-Economic Assessment process is to assess the proposed development in terms of its fit with key planning and policy documents. As such, if the findings of the study indicate that the proposed development in its current format does not conform to the spatial principles and guidelines contained in the relevant legislation and planning documents, and there are no significant or unique opportunities created by the development, the development cannot be supported.

Terrestrial Biodiversity:

To distinguish between natural forest patches and alien invasive tree stands that existed on the sites before clearance, a historic forest distribution map of Geldenhuys (1989) was spatially overlaid with imagery of the cleared sites just before clearance. Additionally, satellite images of the fire scar that was left after a 2017 fire, was overlaid with images of before the fire to distinguish between dense tree patches of alien trees and natural forest types in the areas immediately surrounding the sites. We assumed that natural forest patches are less likely to burn than alien invasive tree strands. Inferences could therefore be made from the colours on the satellite image of the fire scar as natural forest patches display green (unburnt) whereas alien patches display brown (burnt) after a fire. We could thereby make inferences of whether the historic tree stands on the sites, visible on historic satellite images, were wattle or natural forest types.

(e) Please describe the uncertainties.

Socio-Economic:**Demographic data**

Some of the provincial documents refer to data from the 2011 Census. Where possible this has been updated with information from the 2016 Household Community Survey.

SECTION H: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EAP

In my view (EAP), the information contained in the Application and the documentation attached hereto is sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for.	YES	NO
If "NO", list the aspects that should be further assessed through additional specialist input/assessment:		
If "YES", please indicate below whether in your opinion the applicant should be directed to cease the activity or if it should be authorised:		
Applicant should be directed to cease the activity:	YES	NO
Please provide reasons for your opinion		
<p>The property is zoned as Agriculture 1, has been identified in spatial programmes as an area suitable for intensive agriculture and the implementation of the orchards provides a high value product that can significantly improve agricultural development in the region. The impacts associated with it have been rated between negligible and medium negative to high positive.</p> <p>The Terrestrial Biodiversity specialist has recommended a biodiversity offset option as primary mitigation for the ongoing planting of a crop orchard. The total property size is approximately 84.6ha and the proposed orchards are approximately 31ha. This office recommends that the remainder of the property retain natural status, with active alien invasive management taking place to ensure the re-establishment and endurance of the natural ecosystems. Furthermore, the guidelines for sustainable farming by WWF must be taken into consideration with regard to water use, herbicide and pesticide usage.</p>		
If you are of the opinion that the activity should be authorised, then please provide any conditions, including mitigation measures that should in your view be considered for inclusion in an authorisation.		
<p>The following conditions should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mitigation measures as provided by the specialist must be implemented; • Alien invasive clearing should continue on site. 		

SECTION I: REPRESENTATIONS – RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT OR EMERGENCY SITUATION

This section is only applicable to instances where Section 49A (2) of NEMA applies. Please list all steps that were taken in response to the incident or emergency situation.

Not applicable.

Please note:

Section 30 of NEMA deals with the procedures to be followed for the control of emergency incidents and Section 30A deals with procedures to be followed in the case of emergency situations.

SECTION J: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED

1.1 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF THE SECTION 24G FINE REGULATIONS, 2017

Regulation 8 of the Section 24G Fine Regulations require that all applicants must conduct public participation **prior to submission** of a section 24G application (as outlined in Annexure A of the Section 24G Fine Regulations - Section D: Preliminary Advertisement).

"The applicant must place a preliminary advertisement in-

(1) A local newspaper in circulation in the area in which the activity was, or activities were, commenced; and on the applicant's website, if any.

(2) This advertisement must comply with the requirements set out in Annexure A, Section D of the Section 24G Fine Regulations, 2017.

(3) The applicant must open and maintain a register of interested and affected parties.

(4) The **register must be attached to the application form and included in the report**, or form part of the information submitted in terms of section 24G(1) of the Act, which the register must, as a minimum, contain the names, contact details and addresses of-

(a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted in respect of the application, have submitted written comments or attended meetings with the applicant or any environmental assessment practitioner or other specialist appointed by the applicant to assist with the application;

(b) all persons who have requested the applicant, in writing, to place their names on the register; and

(c) all organs of state that have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which application relates."

Please provide a summary of the steps followed where public participation was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 8 prior to submission of this Application Form. Ensure that proof of compliance with Regulation 8 is submitted with this Application Form, including, *inter alia*, proof of preliminary advertisement in a local newspaper.

The following public participation will be undertaken as part of the S24G application:

- Site notices will be placed at the entrance to the property;
- An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper (*Mossel Bay Advertiser*) calling for registration and making the Application and specialist reports available for comment for a period of 30 days;
- Neighbours immediately adjacent to the property will be notified in writing of the process and availability of the various documents;
- Key stakeholders have been identified and will be notified in writing of the process and availability of the various documents;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stakeholder register will be opened and maintained, and all registered Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) will be provided with opportunities to comment on various documentation; All comments received will be included in a Comments & Responses report which will be circulated to all registered I&APs once the final documentation is submitted to the DEA&DP. 		
Please indicate whether the applicant has a website (please tick relevant box):	YES	NO
If yes, please note that the application information as specified above must have been advertised on such website and proof thereof must accompany this application.		
The documentation will be made available on the Cape EAPrac website (www.cape-eaprac.co.za).		

Please note: Annexure A: Section D attached to this Application form must be strictly adhered to.

1.2 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2014

As the applicant, you may be directed to conduct the public participation process that fulfils the requirements outlined in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. In doing so, you must take into account any applicable guidelines published in terms of Section 24J of NEMA, the Department's Circular EADP 0028/2014 on the "One Environmental Management System" and the EIA Regulations, 2014 as well as any other guidance provided by the Department. Note that the public participation requirements are applicable to all proposed sites.

Please highlight the appropriate box below to indicate the public participation process that has been or will be undertaken to give notice of the application to all potential interested and affected parties, including deviations that may be agreed to by the competent authority:

1. In terms of regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 -			
(a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of -			
(i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and	YES	DEVIATION	
(ii) any alternative site	YES	DEVIATION	
(b) giving written notice, in any manner provided for in section 47D of the NEMA, to -			
(i) the occupiers of the site and, if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	YES	DEVIATION	N/A
(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;	YES	DEVIATION	
(iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;	YES	DEVIATION	
(iv) the municipality (Local and District Municipality) which has jurisdiction in the area;	YES	DEVIATION	
(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	YES	DEVIATION	
(vi) any other party as required by the Department;	YES	DEVIATION	N/A
(c) placing an advertisement in -			
(i) one local newspaper; or	YES	DEVIATION	
(ii) any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	YES	DEVIATION	N/A
(d) placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it is or will be undertaken	YES	DEVIATION	N/A
(e) using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the Department, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to— (i) illiteracy; (ii) disability; or (iii) any other disadvantage.	YES	DEVIATION	N/A
If you have indicated that "DEVIATION" applies to any of the above, then Section 2. below must be completed.			
NOTE: 2. The NEM: WA requires that a notice must be placed in at least two newspapers.			
If applicable, have/will an advertisement be placed in at least two newspapers?	YES	NO	
If "NO", then an application for exemption from the requirement must be applied for.			

1. Provide a list of all the state departments that has been / will be consulted:

List of State Depts.	Comment obtained (YES/NO)	If not, provide reasons
Department of Agriculture	Pending	
Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	Pending	
CapeNature	Pending	

2. Provide a summary of the issues raised by I&APs and an indication of the manner in which the issues raised were incorporated, or the reasons for not being incorporated or addressed. (The details of the outcomes of this process, including supporting information must be included in the Comments and Report to be attached to this application as Appendix G.)

Pending

3. Provide a summary of any conditional aspects identified / highlighted by any Organs of State, which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity.

Pending

Please note:

- A list of all the potential interested and affected parties, including the organs of State must be opened, maintained and made available to any person requesting access, in writing, to the register.
- All comments of interested and affected parties on the Application Form and Additional Information must be recorded, responded to and included in the Comments and Responses Report attached as Appendix G to the Application. The Comments and Responses Report must also include a description of the Public Participation Process followed.
- The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with interested and affected parties and other role players which record the views of the participants must also be submitted as part of the public participation information to be attached to the additional information/Environmental Impact Report as Appendix G.
- Proof of all the notices given as indicated, as well as of notice to the interested and affected parties of the availability of the Application Form/Additional Information must be submitted as part of the public participation information to be attached to the application as Appendix G.

1.3 REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING DEVIATION FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE EIA REGULATIONS, 2014

Please provide detailed reasons (representations) as to why it would be appropriate not direct you to comply with all of the requirements and to deviate from the requirements of regulation 41 as indicated above.

Not applicable

1.4 LIST OF STATE DEPARTMENTS

Section 24(O)(2) obliges the relevant authority to consult with every State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment when such authority considers an application for an environmental authorisation.

Provide a list of all the State departments that will be/have been consulted, including the name and contact details of the relevant official.			
State Department	Name of person	Contact details	
Department of Agriculture	Mr Cor van der Walt	Tel	021 808 5093/9
		Fax	086 544 8977

		E-mail	landuse.elsenburg@elsenburg.com
Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)	Mr Carlo Abrahams	Tel	023 346 8000
		Fax	
		E-mail	cabrahams@bgcma.co.za
CapeNature	Ms Megan Simons	Tel	087 087 3058
		Fax	044 802 5313
		E-mail	msimons@capenature.co.za

Please note:

A State department consulted in terms of Section 24O(2) of NEMA and Regulations 3(4) and 43(2) must within 30 days from the date of the Department/EAP's request for comment, submit such comment in writing to the Department. The applicant/EAP is therefore required to inform this Department in writing when the application/relevant information is submitted to the relevant State Departments. Upon receipt of this confirmation, this Department will in accordance with Section 24O (2) & (3) of the NEMA inform the relevant State Departments of the commencement date of the 30-day commenting period.

PART 2 – ANNEXURE A TO THE SECTION 24G APPLICATION FORM

SECTION A: DIRECTIVES

Section 24G(1) of NEMA provides that on application by a person who has commenced with a listed or specified activity without an environmental authorisation in contravention of section 24F(1); or a person who has commenced, undertaken or conducted a waste management activity without a waste management licence in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) ("NEM:WA") the Minister, the Minister responsible for mineral resources or the MEC concerned (or the official to which this power has been delegated), as the case may be, may direct the applicant to-

i	immediately cease the activity pending a decision on the application submitted in terms of this subsection	
ii	investigate, evaluate and assess the impact of the activity on the environment	
iii	remedy any adverse effects of the activity on the environment	
iv	cease, modify or control any act, activity, process or omission causing pollution or environmental degradation	
v	contain or prevent the movement of pollution or degradation of the environment	
vi	eliminate any source of pollution or degradation	
vii	compile a report containing-	
	aa	a description of the need and desirability of the activity
	bb	an assessment of the nature, extent, duration and significance of the consequences for or impacts on the environment of the activity, including the cumulative effects and the manner in which the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity

	cc	a description of mitigation measures undertaken or to be undertaken in respect of the consequences for or impacts on the environment of the activity
	dd	a description of the public participation process followed during the course of compiling the report, including all comments received from interested and affected parties and an indication of how the issues raised have been addressed
	ee	an environmental management programme
viii		provide such other information or undertake such further studies as the Minister, Minister responsible for mineral resources or MEC, as the case may be, may deem necessary.

You are hereby provided with an opportunity to make representations on any or all of the abovementioned instructions including where you are of the opinion that any of these instructions are not relevant for the purposes of your application setting out the reasons for your assertion. Kindly note further that after taking your representation into account a final directive may be issued.

Please Note:

Notwithstanding the above, subsequent to submission of the application form to the Department, you may be issued with a specific directive in terms of section 24G(1)(i) to (viii), and you will therefore be provided with an opportunity to make further representations as to the specific directive.

The appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner, on behalf of the applicant, may be directed to compile and submit a report that meets the requirements of section 24G(vii)(aa)-(ee) as specified above.

SECTION B: DEFERRAL OF THE APPLICATION

Section 24G(7) of the NEMA provides that if at any stage after the submission of an application it comes to the attention of the Minister, the Minister responsible for mineral resources or the MEC, that the applicant is under criminal investigation for the contravention of, or failure to comply with, section 24F(1) of the NEMA or section 20(b) of the NEM:WA, the Minister, Minister responsible for mineral resources or MEC may defer a decision to issue an environmental authorisation until such time as the investigation is concluded and-

- (a) the National Prosecuting Authority has decided not to institute prosecution in respect of such contravention or failure;
- (b) the applicant concerned is acquitted or found not guilty after prosecution in respect of which such contravention or failure has been instituted; or
- (c) the applicant concerned has been convicted by a court of law of an offence in respect of such contravention or failure and the applicant has in respect of the conviction exhausted all the recognised legal proceedings pertaining to appeal or review.

Kindly answer the following questions:

Are you, the applicant, being investigated for a contravention of section 24F(1) of the NEMA in respect of a matter that <u>is not subject to this application</u> and in any province in the Republic?	YES _____	NO _____	UNCERTAIN _____
If yes provide details of the offence being investigated and authority conducting the investigation. If uncertain provide details of the activity or activities in relation to which you suspect you may be under investigation.			
Are you, the applicant, being investigated for the contravention of section 20(b) of the NEMWA in respect of a matter that <u>is not subject to this application</u> and in any province in the Republic?	YES _____	NO _____	UNCERTAIN _____
If yes provide details of the offence being investigated and authority conducting the investigation.			

If uncertain provide details of the activity or activities in relation to which you suspect you may be under investigation.			
Are you, the applicant, being investigated for an offence in terms of section 24F(1) of the NEMA or section 20(b) of the NEMWA in terms of which this application directly relates?	YES _____	NO _____	UNCERTAIN _____
If yes provide details of the offence being investigated and authority conducting the investigation. If uncertain provide details of the activity or activities in relation to which you suspect you may be under investigation.			

If you have answered yes or uncertain to any of the above questions, you are hereby provided with an opportunity to make representations as to why the Minister, Minister responsible for mineral resources or MEC, as the case may be, should not defer the application as he or she is entitled to do under section 24G(7).

SECTION C: QUANTUM OF THE SECTION 24G FINE

In terms of section 24G(4) of the NEMA, it is mandatory for an applicant to pay an administrative fine as determined by the competent authority before the Minister, Minister responsible for mineral resource or MEC may take a decision on whether or not to grant an *ex post facto* environmental authorisation or a waste management licence as the case may be. The quantum of this fine may not exceed R5 million.

Having regard to the factors listed below, you are hereby afforded with an opportunity to make representations in respect of the quantum of the fine and as to why the competent authority should not issue a maximum fine of R5 million.

Please note that Part 1 of this section must be completed by an independent environmental assessment practitioner after conducting the necessary specialist studies, copies of which must be submitted with this completed application form.

Please also include in your representations whether or not the activities applied for in this application (if more than 1) are in your view interrelated and provide reasons therefor.

PART 1: THE IMPACTS OR POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES

Index	Socio Economic Impact	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
	Description of variable	
	The activity is not giving, has not given and will not give rise to any negative socio-economic impacts	x
	The activity is giving, has given, or could give rise to negative socio-economic impacts, but highly localised	
	The activity is giving, has given, or could give rise to significant negative socio-economic and regionalized impacts	
	The activity is resulting, has resulted or could result in wide scale negative socio-economic impacts.	
Motivation:		
Based on the findings of the SIA, the potential negative impacts associated with these activities are marginal and are unlikely to have impacted on the adjacent land users in the vicinity of the site.		
The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.		

The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.

Index	Biodiversity Impact	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
	Description of variable	
	The activity is not giving, has not given and will not give rise to any impacts on biodiversity	
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to localised biodiversity impacts	x
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to significant biodiversity impacts	
	The activity is, has or is likely to permanently / irreversibly transform/ destroy a recognised biodiversity 'hot spot' or threaten the existence of a species or sub-species.	
Motivation:		
<p>As no watercourses have been directly impacted by the clearing of vegetation a detailed specialist report and impact assessment is not required. There are however some areas that do need to be managed and mitigated, which relate primarily to the management and prevention of erosion along steep gradients in close proximity to watercourses.</p> <p>In terms of terrestrial biodiversity, the specialist has indicated that the impact related to the removal of the vegetation is high, but can be mitigated with the implementation of a biodiversity offset. This could be on the properties or at an alternative site. This impact would be mitigated to Medium.</p>		

Index	Sense of Place Impact and / or Heritage Impact	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
	Description of variable	
	The activity is in keeping with the surrounding environment and / or does not negatively impact on the affected area's sense of place and /or heritage	x
	The activity is not in keeping with the surrounding environment and will have a localised impact on the affected area's sense of place and/or heritage	
	The activity is not in keeping with the surrounding environment and will have a significant impact on the affected area's sense of place and/ or heritage	
	The activity is completely out of keeping with the surrounding environment and will have a significant impact on the affected area's sense of place and/ or heritage	
Motivation:		
<p>Heritage Western Cape confirmed that there is no reason to believe that the proposed clearing of vegetation on Rem of Farm 57, Kleinbos, Ptns 4, 8 of Farm 55 Landsekloof, Mossel Bay will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.</p>		

Index	Pollution Impact	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
	Description of variable	
	The activity is not giving, has not given and will not give rise to any pollution	
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to pollution with low impacts.	x
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to pollution with moderate impacts.	
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to pollution with high impacts.	
	The activity is giving, has given or could give rise to pollution with major impacts.	
Motivation:		
<p>It is not possible to state categorically that the operation will produce no pollution, as farming activities always have the chance of pollution occurring. This could be in the form of dust, herbicide, pesticide or waste. However, correct management of the farming operations and prompt and effective responses in the event of an incident will ensure that any pollution impact remains low.</p>		

PART 2: COMPLIANCE HISTORY AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT

Index	Previous administrative action (i.e. administrative enforcement notices) issued to the applicant in respect of a contravention of section 24F(1) of the National Environmental Management Act and/or section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management Waste Act	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
Description of variable		
	Administrative action was previously taken against the applicant in respect of the abovementioned provisions.	
	No previous administrative action was taken against the applicant but previous administrative action was taken against a firm(s) on whose board one or more of the applicant's directors sit or sat at the relevant time when the administrative action was taken.	
	Administrative action was not previously taken against the applicant in respect of the abovementioned provisions.	x
Explanation of all previous administrative action taken in respect of the above:		
Not applicable		

Index	Previous Convictions in terms of section 24F(1) of the National Environmental Management Act and/or section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management Waste Act	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
Description of variable		
	The applicant was previously convicted in terms of either or both of the abovementioned provisions.	
	No previous convictions have been secured against the applicant but a conviction has been secured against a firm(s) on whose board one or more of the applicant's directors sit or sat at the relevant time; or a conviction was secured against a director of the applicant in his or her personal capacity.	
	The applicant has not previously been convicted in terms of either or both of the abovementioned provisions.	x
Explanation of all previous convictions in respect of the above:		
Not applicable.		

Index	Number of section 24G applications previously submitted by the applicant	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
Description of variable		
	Previous applications in terms of section 24G of NEMA were submitted by the applicant.	
	No previous applications have been submitted by the applicant but a previous application(s) have been submitted by a firm(s) on whose board one or more of the applicant's directors sit or sat at the relevant time.	
	No previous applications have been submitted by the applicant but the applicant sat on the board of a firm that previously submitted an application.	x
Explanation in respect of all previous applications submitted in terms of section 24G		
Not applicable.		

PART 3: APPLICANT'S PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Index	Applicant's legal persona	Place an "x" in the appropriate box
Description of variable		

The applicant is a natural person.	
The applicant is a firm.	x
Describe the firm:	
Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd is a private company, Pty Ltd or proprietary limited company with a board of shareholders / directors who manage the company. Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd has multiple business components associated with it.	

Index	Any other relevant information that the applicant would like to be considered.
	<p>Motivate and explain fully:</p> <p>The construction and operational phase will create a number of socio-economic opportunities, including employment, skills development, and training. Additional downstream employment and business opportunities will also be associated with the avocado propagation nursery and avocado packing plant in George.</p> <p>The site is also located in an area that is identified as suitable for intensive agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the development be approved.</p>

NOTE: An explanation as to why the applicant did not obtain an environmental authorisation and/or waste management licence must be attached to this application.

SECTION D: PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT

When submitting this application form, the applicant must attach proof that the application has been advertised in at least one local newspaper in circulation in the area in which the activity was commenced, and on the applicant's website, if any.

The advertisement must state that the applicant commenced a listed or specified activity or activities or waste management activity or activities without the necessary environmental authorisation and/or waste management licence and is now applying for *ex post facto* approval. It must include the following:

- the date;
- the location;
- the applicable legislative provision contravened; and
- the activity or activities commenced with without the required authorisation.

Interested and affected parties must be provided with the details of where they can register as an interested and affected party and / or submit their comment. At least 20 days must be provided in which to do so.

This advertisement shall be considered as a preliminary notification and the competent authority may direct the applicant to undertake further public participation and advertising after receipt of this application form.

NOTE: Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this application form may become public information on receipt by the competent authority. This application must be attached to any documentation or information submitted by an applicant further to section 24G(1).

PART 3 - APPENDICES & DECLARATIONS

1. APPENDICES

The following appendices must, where applicable, be attached to this form:

Appendix		Tick the box if Appendix is attached
Appendix A:	Locality map	✓
Appendix B:	Site plan(s)	✓
Appendix C:	Building plans (if applicable)	✓
Appendix D:	Colour photographs	✓
Appendix E:	Biodiversity overlay map	✓
Appendix F:	Permit(s) / license(s) from any other organ of state including service letters from the municipality	✓
Appendix G:	Public participation information: including a copy of the register of interested and affected parties, the comments and responses report, proof of notices, advertisements, Land owner consent and any other public participation information as required in Section J above.	✓
Appendix H:	Specialist Report(s), if any	✓
Appendix I:	Environmental Management Programme	✓
Appendix J:	Supporting documents relating to compliance/enforcement history of the applicant, including but not limited to, Pre-compliance/compliance notices, Pre-directives/directives etc.	✓
Appendix K:	Certified copy of Identity Document of Applicant	Not for public distribution
Appendix L:	Certified copy of the title deed (or title deeds in the case of linear activities)	Not for public distribution
Appendix M:	Any Other (if applicable) (describe) M1: Windeed Property Report M2: EAP Company Profile	✓

Where an application has been made in terms of the waste management activities, please complete and annex Annexure 1 as in the following:

Annexures for waste listed activity/ies supporting information		Tick the box if Annexure is attached
Annexure 1	Waste listed activities supporting information (as in prescribed attached form)	
Other	(please list accordingly)	

2. DECLARATIONS

2.1 The Applicant

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one applicant

- I, **Ms Nicole Rimbault**, in my ~~personal capacity~~ or duly authorised as **Director** (state capacity) by **Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd** thereto hereby declare/affirm that all the information contained in this application to be true and correct, and that I:
 - am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations") in terms of NEMA, the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) ("NEM:WA") and all relevant specific environmental management Act(s), and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute an offence in terms of the environmental legislation;
 - appointed the environmental assessment practitioner as indicated above, which meet all the requirements in terms of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations to act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner for this application;
 - have provided the environmental assessment practitioner and the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
 - am aware that I may be issued with a directive and that I must comply with such a directive;
 - am fully aware of the administrative fine to be paid before a decision, with respect to the continuation of the listed activity(ies), will be made;
 - will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the environmental legislation including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred in connection with the appointment of the environmental assessment practitioner or any specialist appointed in terms of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations);
 - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of this application;
 - costs in respect of any prescribed fee payable in respect of this application;
 - costs in respect of specialist reviews, if the competent authority decides to recover costs;
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with the applicable management and mitigation measures; and
 - fine costs
 - am responsible for complying with the conditions that might be attached to any decision(s) issued by the competent authority;
 - have the ability to implement the applicable management, mitigation and monitoring measures; and
 - hereby indemnify, the government of the Republic of South Africa, the competent authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of, inter alia, the content of any report, any procedure or any action for which the applicant or environmental assessment practitioner is responsible.
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (

Please Note: If acting in a representative capacity, a certified copy of the resolution or power of attorney must be attached.

Nicole Rimbault
Signature of the applicant:

Nicole Rimbault
Name:

Group Editors Company (Pty) Ltd
Name of Firm (if applicable):

6 May 2022
Date:

2.2 The Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP")

I **Ms Melissa Mackay, EAPASA Registration 2019/4446**, as the appointed independent environmental practitioner ("EAP") hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that I:

- act/ed as the independent EAP in this application;
- regard the information contained in this application to be true and correct, and
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 ("EIA Regulations") in terms of NEMA, the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) ("NEM:WA") and the relevant specific environmental management Act(s);
- have and will not have any vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the EIA Regulations, the NEM:WA and any specific environmental management Act(s);
- am able to meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the EIA Regulations (specifically in terms of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, 2014) and any specific environmental management Act, and am fully aware that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application was distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties were considered, recorded and submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application;
- have kept a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in the public participation process; and
- have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not.
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations

Note: The terms of reference must be attached.

Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac)

Name of company:

6 May 2022

Date:

PART 4 – WASTE MANAGEMENT

ANNEXURE B – SUPPORTING INFORMATION WHERE THE ACTIVITY BEING APPLIED FOR IS A LISTED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY/IES (IF RELEVANT)

1. WASTE QUANTITIES

Indicate or specify types of waste and list the estimated quantities (expected to be) managed daily (should you need more columns; you are advised to add more)

Note: In this case of hazardous waste, the National Department of Environmental Affairs is the relevant competent authority to consider the 24G application.

Non-hazardous waste	Total waste handled (tonnes per day)

Source of information supplied in the table above Mark with an "X"

Determined from volumes

Determined with weighbridge/scale

Estimated

1.1. Recovery, Reuse, Recycling, treatment and disposal quantities:

Indicate the applicable waste types and quantities expected to be disposed of and salvaged annually:

TYPES OF WASTE	MAIN SOURCE (NAME OF COMPANY)	QUANTITIES		ON-SITE RECOVERY REUSE RECYCLING TREATMENT OR DISPOSAL	OFFSITE RECOVERY REUSE RECYCLING TREATMENT OR DISPOSAL	OFFSITE DISPOSAL
		Tonnes / Month	M³ / Month	Method & Location	Method & Location and Contractor details	

2. GENERAL

Prevailing wind direction (e.g. NWW)

November – April

May – October

The size of population to be served by the facility:

	Mark with "X"	Comment
0-499		
500-9,999		
10,000-199,999		
200,000 upwards		

LANDFILL PARAMETERS (If applicable)

The method of disposal of waste:

Land-building ☐ Land-filling ☐ Both ☐**The dimensions of the disposal site in metres**

	At commencement	After rehabilitation

The total volume for the disposal of waste on the site:

Volume Available	Mark with "X"	Source of information (Determined by surveyor/ Estimated)
Up to 99		
100-34 999		
35 000-3,5 million		
>3,5 million		

The total volume already used for waste disposal on the site:

(a) Will the waste body be covered daily	Yes	No
(b) Is sufficient cover material available	Yes	No
(c) Will waste be compacted daily	No	No

If the answers (a) and/or (b) are No, what measures will be employed to prevent the problems of burning or smouldering of waste and the generation of nuisance?

The Salvage method

Mark with an "X" the method to be used.

At source	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling installation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal salvaging	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/>
No salvaging planned	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fatal flaws for the site:

Indicate which of the following apply to the facility for a waste management activity:

Within a 3000m radius of the end of an airport landing strip	Yes	No
Within the 1 in 50 year flood line of any watercourse	Yes	No
Within an unstable area (fault zone, seismic zone, dolomitic area, sinkholes)	Yes	No

Within the drainage area or within 5 km of water source	Yes	No
Within the drainage area or within 5 km of water source	Yes	No
Within an area adjacent to or above an aquifer	Yes	No
Within an area with shallow bedrock and limited available cover material	Yes	No
Within 100 m of the source of surface water	Yes	No
Within 1 km from the wetland	Yes	No

Indicate the distance to the boundary of the nearest residential

Indicate the distance to the boundary of the industrial area

metres	area
metres	

Wettest six months of the year

November- April
May-October

For the wettest six month period indicated above, indicate the following for the preceding 30 years

	Total rainfall for 6 months	Total rainfall for 6 months	Total rainfall for 6 months
For the 1st wettest year			
For the 2nd wettest year			
For the 3rd wettest year			
For the 4th wettest year			
For the 5th wettest year			
For the 6th wettest year			
For the 7th wettest year			
For the 8th wettest year			
For the 9th wettest year			
For the 10th wettest year			

Location and depth of ground water monitoring boreholes:

Codes of the boreholes	Borehole locality	Depth (m)	Latitude	Longitude
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "
			° ' "	° ' "

Location and depth of landfill gas monitoring test pit:

Codes of the boreholes	Borehole locality	Latitude	Longitude
		° ' "	° ' "
		° ' "	° ' "
		° ' "	° ' "

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