

**From:** Carolyn [mailto:afromatz@telkomsa.net]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2013 01:56 PM  
**To:** 'Rebecca Bowd'  
**Cc:** Bianca Morgan  
**Subject:** BID Agric. Farm Clovelly Cultivation, Dam, WML

Dear Rebecca

Farm Clovelly No 16370, Underberg – Cultivation of 15 ha virgin ground; Dam - 650 000 m3; Waste Management (Dairy)

Background Information Document:

The proposed activities require environmental authorization following scoping and an environmental impact assessment – please keep WESSA informed throughout the process.

While recognizing the importance of an economically sustainable farming enterprise cumulative impacts of cultivation of virgin veld and loss of wetlands is a concern and the loss of habitat and ecosystem services needs to be offset. With respect to specific requirements for critically endangered species such as Cranes WESSA supports the suggestions put forward by the KZN Crane Foundation in its email dated 18 January 2013 with respect to recreating habitat around the new dam. In addition we offer the following –

- Wetland offsets must be looked and WESSA supports Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal in its 'no net loss' policy;
- Cultivation. The loss of 15 ha of virgin ground must be looked at not only from species diversity within an altered landscape but also how loss of the area impacts on connectivity and ecological linkages. Again, a no net loss should be the aim;
- Waste Management. While it is generally acknowledged that harnessing biogas is the way of the future it appears not to have been readily accepted to date, and understandably costs may be high, however the state of the environment indicates a need for change and best practice options must be fully evaluated with a demonstrated intention to implement such options. We trust that re-use of animal waste after treatment is already practiced with monitoring for impacts on water resources undertaken.

We look forward to receiving further information.

Regards

Carolyn Schwegman  
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WESSA KZN Region