

Appendix 2

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA
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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0002509/2014

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1259

Enquiries: Zamalanga Langa

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Mr Umesh Bahadur
SANBI: Working for Wetlands Programme
Private Bag X101
PRETORIA
0001

Telephone Number: (012) 843 5200
Fax Number: (086) 555 9838
E-mail Address: u.bahadur@sanbi.org.za

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Bahadur

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/545/546: PROPOSED WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROJECT WITHIN THE WITZENBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, OVERSTRAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND CAPE AGULHAS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of regulation 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the amendment decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of this decision, by means of one of the following methods:

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or
By hand: Department of Environmental Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
Pretoria.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

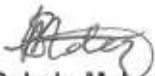
Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za

The authorised activities must not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the environmental authorisation. Further, please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 27/3/2015

cc:	Ms Franci Gresse	Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Tel: (021) 526 6022	E-mail: franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com
	Mr. Zaahir	Department of Environmental Affairs and Dvelopment Planning	021 483 4327	Zaahir.toefy@pgwc.gov.za

APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA. with the Minister of Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection. 	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

NOTES:

1. An appeal must be:-

- a) submitted in writing;
- b) accompanied by:
 - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
 - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
 - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

Rehabilitation of wetlands: Working For Wetlands Project, Witzenberg Local Municipality,
Overstrand Local Municipality and Cape Agulhas Local Municipality within the Western Cape
Province

Overberg District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1259
NEAS reference number:	DEA/EIA/0002509/2014
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI)
Location of activity:	WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE, WITZENBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, OVERSTRAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND CAPE AGULHAS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI)

With the following contact details –

Mr Umesh Bahadur
SANBI: Working for Wetlands Programme
Private Bag X101
PRETORIA
0001

Telephone Number: (012) 843 5200
Fax Number: (086) 555 9838
Cell phone Number: (072) 072 0750
E-mail Address: u.bahadur@sanbi.org.za

To undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 or 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R.544, Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>The construction of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; (v) weirs; (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures; (x) buildings exceeding 50m² in size; or (xi) Infrastructure or structures covering 50m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line. 	<p>In order to achieve the objectives of wetland rehabilitation, changes must be made to artificial drainage lines or eroding water channels if the wetland systems are to be returned to their original statuses. The following may be necessary: The construction of concrete or gabion weirs within watercourses (wetlands); the formalisation of stream crossings to ensure that the integrity of wetland systems downstream and upstream of the crossings are protected from further degradation; the construction of bird hides and walkways in public wetlands to limit human impact, and to form part of the educational component of the project.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 18:</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock of more than 5m³ from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a watercourse. but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving; (a) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a management plan agreed to by the relevant environmental authority; or (b) occurs behind the development setback line. 	<p>In order to achieve the objectives of wetland rehabilitation, changes must be made to artificial drainage lines or eroding water channels, and banks or gullies may need to be stabilised if the wetland systems are to be returned to their original statuses. The following may be necessary: The construction of earth berms to correct water flow paths in artificial drainage lines,</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	diverted stream channels or watercourses and; the removal or addition of material to stabilise stream banks or erosion gullies.
<p><u>GN R. 545 Item 17:</u></p> <p><i>The extraction or removal of peat or peat soils, including the disturbance of vegetation or soils in anticipation of the extraction or removal of peat or peat soils.</i></p>	<p>The WfWetlands Programme will be implementing interventions that are located within exposed degraded peat lands and/or peat soils to improve the condition and integrity of the wetland system and ultimately its overall functioning.</p>
<p><u>GN R.546, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 m² or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</i></p> <p><i>(a) 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;</i></p> <p><i>(b) within critically biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</i></p>	<p>In order to achieve the objectives of wetland rehabilitation, some indigenous vegetation may need to be cleared to construct interventions. It is important to note that clearance of wetland vegetation in order to construct a number of interventions throughout the wetland system would only be proposed if the rehabilitation efforts would ultimately gain many hectares of desired wetland vegetation and habitat. Even though the interventions are intended to improve ecological status and habitats, this listing notice will be triggered because: The cumulative clearance of more than 300m² of wetland vegetation may be necessary to construct a number of interventions</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	throughout the wetland system and; wetlands may form part of critical biodiversity areas or endangered ecosystems.
<p><u>GN R.546, Item 16:</u></p> <p><i>The construction of:</i></p> <p><i>(iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 m² in size; or</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Infrastructure covering 10 m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i></p> <p><i>(d) In Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>(i) All watercourses (ii) In an estuary</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Outside urban areas in: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (cc) World Heritage Sites; (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent</i></p>	<p>In order to achieve the objectives of wetland rehabilitation, some educational infrastructure may be required to limit human impact on the wetland system. Even though the interventions are intended to improve ecological status and habitats, this listing notice will be triggered because: bird hides and walkways may constitute buildings with a footprint exceeding 10m² in size; wetlands may form part of critical biodiversity areas or endangered ecosystems; wetlands may form part of protected areas or sensitive areas; wetlands may be located within or near national parks or world heritage sites.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2015 at:

Project	Wetland System	Central Coordinate of Wetland System	Intervention Type
West Coast	Ai Zuurvlak	33°24'51.60"S 19°06'51.27"E	Typical interventions used for wetland rehabilitation as illustrated in Appendix C and described on pages 20 - 21 of the BAR, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologs • Rock packs • Road strips • Berms • MacMat / MacMat-R
	Aii Grootwinterhoek	32°58'37.88"S 19°03'16.39"E	
	Aiii Krom Antonies	32°39'49.21"S 18°41'10.42"E	
Agulhas National Park	Bi Agulhas	34°44'10.00"S 19°51'03.00"E	
Riviersonderend	Ci Vyeboom	34°03'52.96"S 19°05'09.18"E	

- for the proposed rehabilitation of wetlands: working for wetlands project situated within Witzenberg Local Municipality, Overstrand Local Municipality And Cape Agulhas Local Municipality situated within the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Please note that GN R. 546 Item 13 as applied for in the application form does not form part of the EA because it is longer applicable as per GN R 982, GN R 983 and GN R 985 of 2014

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Plugging artificial drainage channels created by development or historical agricultural practices to drain wetland areas for other land use purposes;
- Constructing structures (gabions, berms, weirs) to divert or redistribute water to more natural flow paths, or to prevent erosion by unnatural flow rates that have resulted from unsustainable land use practices or development; and

- Removing invasive alien or undesirable plant species from wetlands and their immediate catchments.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred wetland systems as described in the table above are approved.
2. The Rehabilitation Plans submitted with the BAR dated January 2015 prepared by Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd applicable to this Environmental Authorisation are also approved. The Rehabilitation Plans for the project sites within these approved wetland systems must be submitted on an annual basis for approval by this Department prior to commencement of construction activities on site.
3. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
4. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
5. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
6. All recommendations included in Section E of the BAR dated January 2015 must be adhered to.
7. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the regulations.
8. This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

10. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

11. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 12 (twelve) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
12. The notification referred to must –
 - 12.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 12.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
 - 12.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 12.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
13. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 13.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 13.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 13.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

Management of the activity

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Rehabilitation Plan submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr and Rehabilitation Plan must be implemented and adhered to.

Monitoring

15. The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that
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the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.

- 15.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
- 15.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
- 15.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 15.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

16. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring at the Department.
17. The holder of the authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
18. The environmental audit report must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the EMPr.
19. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Commencement of the activity

20. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
21. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.

22. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedures, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such an activity in writing.

Notification to authorities

23. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

Operation of the activity

24. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

Site closure and decommissioning

25. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

Specific conditions

26. The Applicant and the contractor must ensure that all site workers understand the content of the EMP, Rehabilitation Plan and this EA prior construction.
27. All mitigation measures identified in the EMP must be adhered to at all times.
28. Off-site mitigation must be implemented to compensate for the loss of biodiversity.
29. The activities associated with this environmental authorisation must commence once the necessary water use authorisations have been obtained from the Department of Water Affairs.
30. Indigenous vegetation, or any other natural features outside the work area, which will not be cleared for construction purposes, must not be defaced or painted for benchmarks.

31. All cleared vegetation must either be mulched and mixed into the topsoil stockpiles or disposed of at an approved disposal site. The disposal of vegetation by burying or burning is prohibited without the requisite permit from the local authority.
32. Should fauna be encountered during site clearance, earthworks must cease until fauna have been safely relocated by suitably qualified personnel.
33. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
34. If sand bags are used for temporarily diverting water, the bags must be in a good condition and the sand used to fill up the bags must be obtained from the excavations at the construction site. Should this not be possible, clean sand that does not contain seeds or any plant material must be obtained from a reliable source.
35. All efforts must be made to prevent erosion caused by work, operations and activities undertaken during excavation and construction activities. Disturbances on steep slopes must be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for erosion.
36. Water from washing concrete-mixing equipment must not be discharged overland; conservatory tanks must therefore be used. These must be removed from site and disposed at a registered waste disposal site.
37. No batching activities shall occur directly on unprotected ground. The batching plant shall be located on a smooth impermeable surface. The area must be bounded and sloped towards a sump to contain spillages of substances. All wastewater resulting from batching of concrete shall be disposed of via a contaminated water management system and shall not be discharged into the wetland.
38. Soil used in interventions must be stabilized to counteract the dispersive tendencies.
39. The topsoil must be stockpiled separately from subsoil and used for subsequent rehabilitation and re-vegetation. Topsoil stockpiles must not be compacted.
40. Topsoil from all sites must be used, as well as grass mulch, to retain soil moisture.
41. All species protected in terms of National and Provincial Legislation within the wetland system must not be collected, harvested or hunted before permits are obtained from relevant authorities.
42. All alien plants present on the wetland area need to be removed in terms of CARA, and follow up-actions for at least five years need to take place.
43. Should burning be required in exceptional cases, it must be noted that most species within wetlands are summer breeders, crane species are winter to early-spring breeders. The location of breeding areas should therefore be noted and careful planning of burning should then be

undertaken to ensure that burning does not take place while birds are nesting or before chicks have fledged and can vacate the area.

44. Burning in exceptional cases, should be restricted outside the breeding season and Endangered Wildlife Trust– African Crane Conservation Programme or Birds specialist should be contacted for further advice. Where Cranes breed, it is vitally important to ensure that sufficient tall vegetation areas remain un-burned for chicks to hide from predators.
45. Autumn/early winter breeding species such as the Marsh Owl and Marsh Harrier (if occurring in the area) may be negatively impacted by early winter burning. Where these species occur, burn rotationally through block burning and check before burning by having beaters 10 meters apart walking through the area and then closely examining all localities where these birds are flushed. Leave areas un-burned where chicks have still not fledged.
46. In areas where livestock depends on wetland areas for grazing and drinking, a livestock management plan should be established. This plan should be developed and implemented before the rehabilitation program commences to avoid conflict during the rehabilitation process.
47. An agreed buffer where applicable, should be maintained between any agricultural lands and wetland areas so as to limit impacts associated with sedimentation, pollutant runoff and where intensive cultivation is undertaken as preferred by specialist.
48. All efforts must be made to prevent erosion caused by work, operations and activities undertaken during excavation and construction activities. If required, disturbances on steep slopes must be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for erosion.
49. "No go" areas must be clearly demarcated with commercially available danger tape.

General

50. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity/ will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
51. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.

52. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 27/3/2015


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration –

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2015;
- b) The comments received from the interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated January 2015;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated January 2015 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist study contained within Appendix A of the Rehabilitation Plan;
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the need to rehabilitate the degraded wetlands identified for the project in order for the wetlands to resume their normal functioning.
- c) The BAR dated January 2015 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) Comments from DEA Biodiversity Conservation Management.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2015 and the specialist study has been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated January 2015 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2015 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.