



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3891 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0002308/2014

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1130

Enquiries: Ms Zamalanga Langa

Telephone: 012 310 3891 Fax: 012 320 7539 E-mail: ZLanga@environment.gov.za

Ms Franci Gresse  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 494  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Telephone Number: (021) 526 6022  
Fax Number: (021) 526 9500

**PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms Gresse

No.	File
Date	10/7/2014
B.I.	
O.	
	FG

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/546: PROPOSED WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROJECT WITHIN PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN FREE-STATE 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 decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

- By facsimile: 0123207561;
- By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001; or
- By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower, Cnr. Lilian Ngoyi (Van der Walt) and Pretorius Streets, 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:**

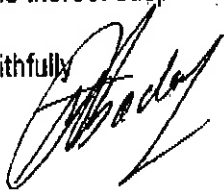
Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-310-3271

Email: [AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za](mailto:AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za)

The authorised activity/ies shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Ishaam Abader**

**Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: 9/07/2014

CC:	Ms Franci Gresse	Aurecon (Pty) Ltd	Fax: 021 526 9500
	Umesh Bahadur	SANBI	086 555 9838
	Ms Grace Mkhosana	DEDTEA	N/A
	MR. LMD Ntombela	Maluti A Phofong Local Municipality	058 718 3767
	Mr. Bruce William Kannemeyer	Phumelela Local Municipality	058 913 3601

**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)**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)</b>
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 Water and 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 Water and 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"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.</li> </ul>	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.</li> </ul>
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 against a decision must be lodged with:-**
  - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
  - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
2. **An appeal lodged with:-**
  - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
  - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
3. **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 affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

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

Rehabilitation of wetlands: For Wetlands Rehabilitation Project in Free State Province

Phumelela Local Municipality and Maluti a Phofung Local Municipality

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	14/12/16/3/3/1/1130
<b>NEAS reference number:</b>	DEA/EIA/0002313/2014
<b>Last amended:</b>	First issue
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI)
<b>Location of activity:</b>	PHUMELELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND MALUTI A PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN FREE STATE

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

Private Bag X101

PRETORIA

0001

Tel: (012) 843 5200

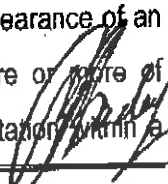
Fax: 086 555 9838

Cell: 072 072 0750

E-mail: [u.bahadur@sanbi.org.za](mailto: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>                      The construction of:                      (v) weirs;                      where such construction occurs <i>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>The construction of weirs (concrete or gabions) within a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 18:</u>                      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 from                      (a) watercourse.                      but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving, occurs behind the development setback line.</p>	<p>The potential wetland rehabilitation work will involve excavating and infilling of material exceeding 5m<sup>3</sup> in stream channel and wetland i.e. watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 12:</u>                      The clearance of an area of 300 m<sup>2</sup> or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.                      (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;                      (b) within critically biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The cumulative clearance of more than 300m<sup>2</sup> of wetland vegetation may be necessary to construct a number of interventions throughout the wetland system;                      Wetlands may form part of critical biodiversity areas or endangered ecosystems.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 13:</u>                      The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitute indigenous vegetation.                      (a) Critical biodiversity areas and ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent</p>	<p>The proposed rehabilitation work could potentially involve the cumulative clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of indigenous vegetation within a</p> 

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
authority.	critical biodiversity area to allow the establishment of gabions and earthen diversion berms.
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 16:</u>                      The construction of –                      (iv) infrastructure covering 10 m<sup>2</sup> 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.                      (a) In Limpopo,                      ii. Outside urban areas, in:                      (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	The construction of a weir (concrete or gabions) concrete strips and gabions wall within a watercourse/wetland within a critical biodiversity area.

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated April 2014 at:

**Maluti proposed new interventions**

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Latitude	Longitude
<b>ESCOL 1 – C81D-01</b>			
C81D-01-201-00	Earthworks, Sloping 1:4 and MAC-MAT-R	28°24'21.89 S"	28°58'20.34 E"
C81D-01-202-00	Gabion drop inlet structure and Earth berms	28°24'24.07 S"	28°58'19.57 E"
C81D-01-203-00	Earthworks, Sloping 1:4 and MAC-MAT-R	28°24'22.90 S"	28°58'23.02 E"
C81D-01-204-00	Gabion drop inlet structure	28°24'26.38 S"	28°58'34.00 E"
C81D-01-205-00	Concrete Weir	28°24'29.42 S"	28°58'40.39 E"
C81D-01-206-00	Concrete Weir	28°24'30.06 S"	28°58'40.93 E"
<b>Escol 2–C81D-02</b>			
C81D-02-201-00	Gabion drop inlet	28°24'43.25 S"	28°58'45.61 E"

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NEAS Reference Number: DEAEIA/0002313/2014

C81D-02-202-00	Earth berm to divert water away from the head cut	28°24'42.93 S"	28°58'49.83 E"
C81D-02-203-00	Concrete strips	28°24'44.49 S"	28°58'47.66 E"
<b>Sterkfontein –C81D-03</b>			
C81D-03-001-00	Gabion drop inlet	28°30'33.43 S"	29°01'30.51 E"
<b>Monontsha (Qwa Qwa) –C81F-02</b>			
C81F-02-205-00	Concrete Weir	28°33'26.21 S"	28°44'36.39 E"
C81F-02-206-00	Concrete Weir	28°33'24.05 S"	28°44'45.41 E"
C81F-02-207-01	Earth berm (Maintenance)	28°33'32.09 S"	28°44'49.66 E"
<b>Diatlawa – C81H-11</b>			
C81H-11-202-01	Maintenance	28°19'01.45 S"	28°53'53.18 E"
C81H-11-203-01	Fence and ecologs	28°18'59.96 S"	28°53'55.50 E"
C81H-11-204-01	Maintenance on concrete drop inlet weir	28°19'03.71 S"	28°53'57.19 E"
C81H-11-201-00	Concrete weir	28°18'58.02 S"	28°53'47.00 E"
C81H-11-205-00	Concrete Weir	28°19'11.31 S"	28°54'02.09 E"
C81H-11-206-00	Concrete Weir	28°19'15.26 S"	28°54'04.48 E"
C81H-11-207-00	Earthworks, slope 1:4	28°19'17.82 S"	28°54'04.79 E"
C81H-11-208-00	Fence and ecologs	28°19'23.77 S"	28°54'07.63 E"

**Seekoeivlei proposed new interventions**

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Latitude	Longitude
<b>SEEKOEIVLEI WETLAND –C13C-01</b>			
C13C-01-211-00	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip south of old road crossing	27°33'28.85"	29°35'35.28"
C13C-01-212-00	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip linking to bridge crossing on west side	27°33'28.85"	29°35'35.28"
C13C-01-214-00	Concrete strips, 95m concrete strip west & 95m east of existing crossing	27°34'14.73"	29°34'57.88"
C13C-01-215-00	Concrete strips, 220m concrete strips on west side of Klip river	27°34'50.16"	29°35'01.82"
C13C-01-216-00	Concrete road strips, 240m concrete strip west of weir on Klip River	27°34'57.43"	29°35'02.27"
C13C-01-217-00	Concrete strips, 250m strips east side proceeding north of existing geocell	27°34'56.43"	29°35'08.03"



	berm		
C13C-01-218-00	Concrete strips, extend strips 92m from oxbow inlet to culvert	27°35'12.06"	29°35'18.63"
C13C-01-220-00	Concrete strips, 50m concrete strip south of old road strip	27°36'04.41"	29°34'29.12"
C13C-01-221-00	Earth structure (berms/plugs) + revegetation	27°36'08.40"	29°34'35.70"
C13C-01-222-00	Concrete drop inlet	27°36'09.82"	29°34'36.82"
C13C-01-223-00	Earth structure (berms/plugs)+ revegetation	27°36'11.73"	29°34'37.41"
C13C-01-224-00	Concrete weir	27°36'14.42"	29°34'39.89"
C13C-01-225-00	Earthworks (shaping & chute), Mac-Mat R	27°36'14.95"	29°34'37.74"
C13C-01-226-00	Concrete strips, 10m strip south and 10m strip on north side of weir	27°36'35.74"	29°34'27.38"
<b>BERGPLAATS WETLAND –C13C-04</b>			
C13C-04-201-00	Increase the spillway with concrete capping, repacking	27°37'28.02"	29°29'52.58"
C13C-04-202-00	Gabion structure. Concrete capping, geotextile and check stability	27°37'26.75"	29°29'47.62"
C13C-04-203-00	Repair wing wall, earth structure	27°39'10.72"	29°28'56.88"
C13C-04-204-00	Plug the holes in the spillway to raise U/S water level	27°39'13.00"	29°28'55.00"

- for the proposed rehabilitation of wetlands: Working for Wetlands project, Phumelela Local Municipality and Maluti a Phofung Local Municipality in Free State , hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Constructing gabions to deactivate eroding head cuts.
- Constructing gabions with concrete capping to prevent gully erosion.
- Geo-textile chutes to prevent head cut erosion.
- Earth structures to spread flow across wetlands.



- Earth works including the removal of dam walls.
- Constructing concrete structures to deactivate eroding head cuts and recent gully erosion and to restore water levels.
- Alien invasive plant removal to prevent loss of natural habitat.

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred intervention types and positions as described for each intervention in the table above is approved.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. 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

9. 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.
10. The notification referred to must –
  - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
  - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 11.3. 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

12. 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

13. 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 the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
  - 13.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.

- 13.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
- 13.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 13.4. 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**

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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**

18. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
19. 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.
20. 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**

21. 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**

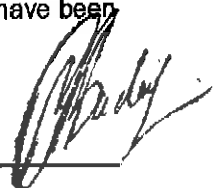
22. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

23. 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.

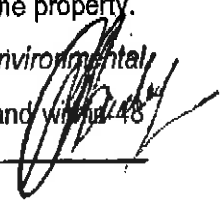
### **Specific conditions**

24. The Applicant and the contractor must ensure that all site workers understand the content of the EMPr, Rehabilitation Plan and this EA prior construction.
25. The activities associated with this environmental authorisation must commence once the necessary water use authorisations have been obtained from the Department of Water Affairs.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. Should fauna be encountered during site clearance, earthworks must cease until fauna have been safely relocated by a suitably qualified personnel.



29. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
30. If sandbags are used for temporarily diverting water, the bags must be in good condition and the sand to fill up the bags must come from the wetland and must be returned to the excavation points after construction.
31. 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.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. Soil used in interventions must be stabilized to counteract the dispersive tendencies.
35. The topsoil must be stockpiled separately from subsoil and used for subsequent rehabilitation and re-vegetation. Topsoil stockpiles must not be compacted.
36. Topsoil from all sites must be used, as well as grass mulch, to retain soil moisture.
37. 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.
38. "No go" areas must be clearly demarcated with commercially available danger tape.

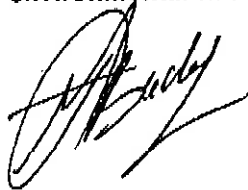
#### General

39. 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.
40. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and  with the 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.

41. 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: 9 July 2014



**Mr Ishaam Abader**

**Deputy Director General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement**  
**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 April 2014;
- b) The comments received from the organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated April 2014.
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated April 2014 and the EMPr.
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies 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 April 2014 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated April 2014.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated April 2014 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) 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 April 2014 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 April 2014 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.

