



WETLAND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR:
THE PROPOSED SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 1359
QUEENSBURGH, 35 - 53 HUNTLEY ROAD WITHIN ETHEKWINI
MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU - NATAL

Prepared by:
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1. INTRODUCTION

Afzelia Environmental Consultants was appointed by Mondli Consulting to undertake a wetland impact assessment for the proposed social housing development. The site is located on ERF 1359, Queensburgh, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The geographic co-ordinates of the site are 29°52'26.93"S and 30°55'54.00"E. The site boundary falls within the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS) and some extent has been relaxed for development. The layout has been refined to include a 25 metre (m) buffer from the edge of the non-relaxed D'MOSS.

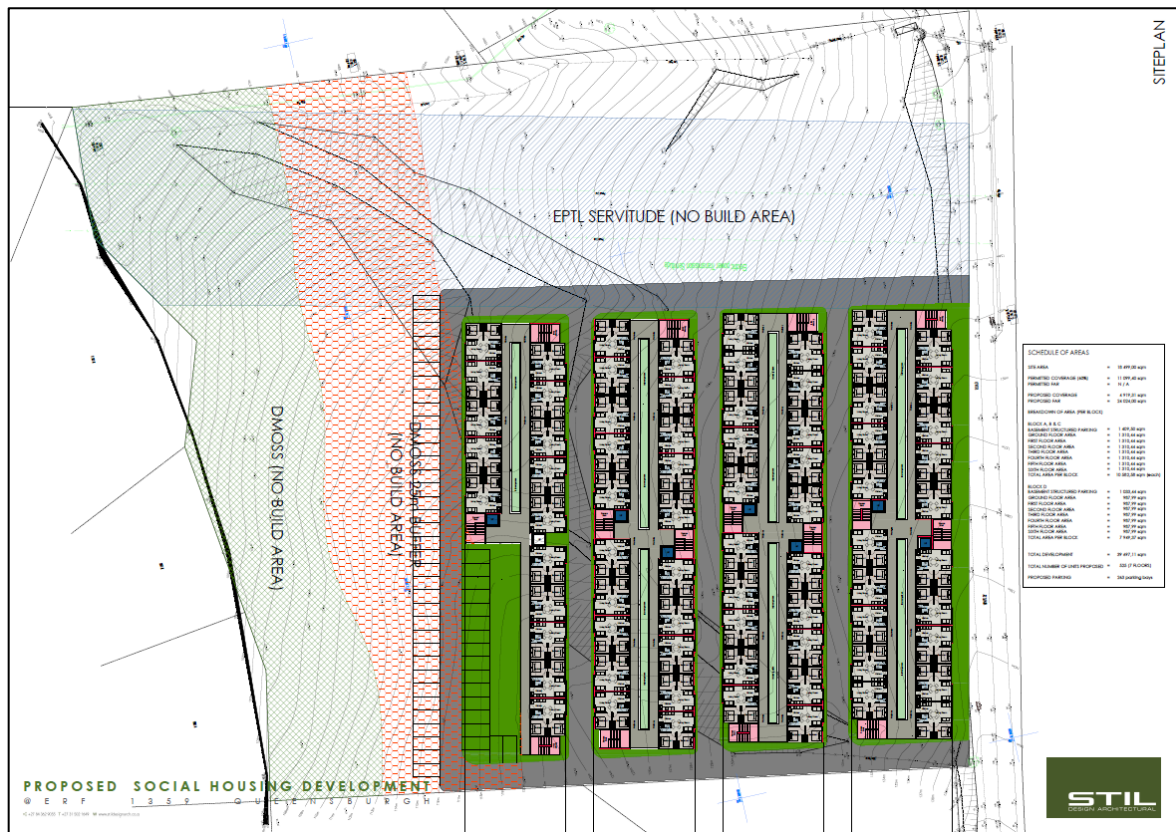


Figure 1: Design plan for the housing development.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The objectives of this report are to:

- Review available project related information;
- Undertake a desktop analysis of the site sensitivity with reference to the presence of wetlands within the development footprint;
- Conduct a site inspection to verify the site sensitivity; and
- Compile a Wetland Compliance Statement based on the site verification.

The following is noted in accordance with Government Notice No. 648, Government Gazette 45421 (May 2019) Protocol for the Assessment and Reporting of Environmental Impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity

1. An applicant, intending to undertake an activity identified in the Scope of this Protocol, on a site identified as being of "low sensitivity" for aquatic biodiversity on the national web based environmental screening tool must submit an **Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement** to the competent authority.

2. Where the information gathered from the Initial Site Sensitivity Verification differs from that identified as having a “low” aquatic biodiversity sensitivity by the national web based environmental screening tool and it is found to be of a “very high” sensitivity an Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement is not required.
3. Should paragraph 1.2 apply, an **Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment** is to be undertaken and a report prepared in accordance with the requirements of an Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment.

3. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- A once-off site verification was undertaken on 16th of November and 22nd of November 2022. Therefore, any activities that have taken place since such time have not been reported.
- During the time of the field assessment, vegetation clearing had commenced.

4. DESKTOP FINDINGS

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Tool was used to determine the site sensitivity in terms of the presence of wetlands and reported very high aquatic sensitivity. Figure 2 illustrates the sensitivity on site and it can be seen that the site was identified to be of very high sensitivity.

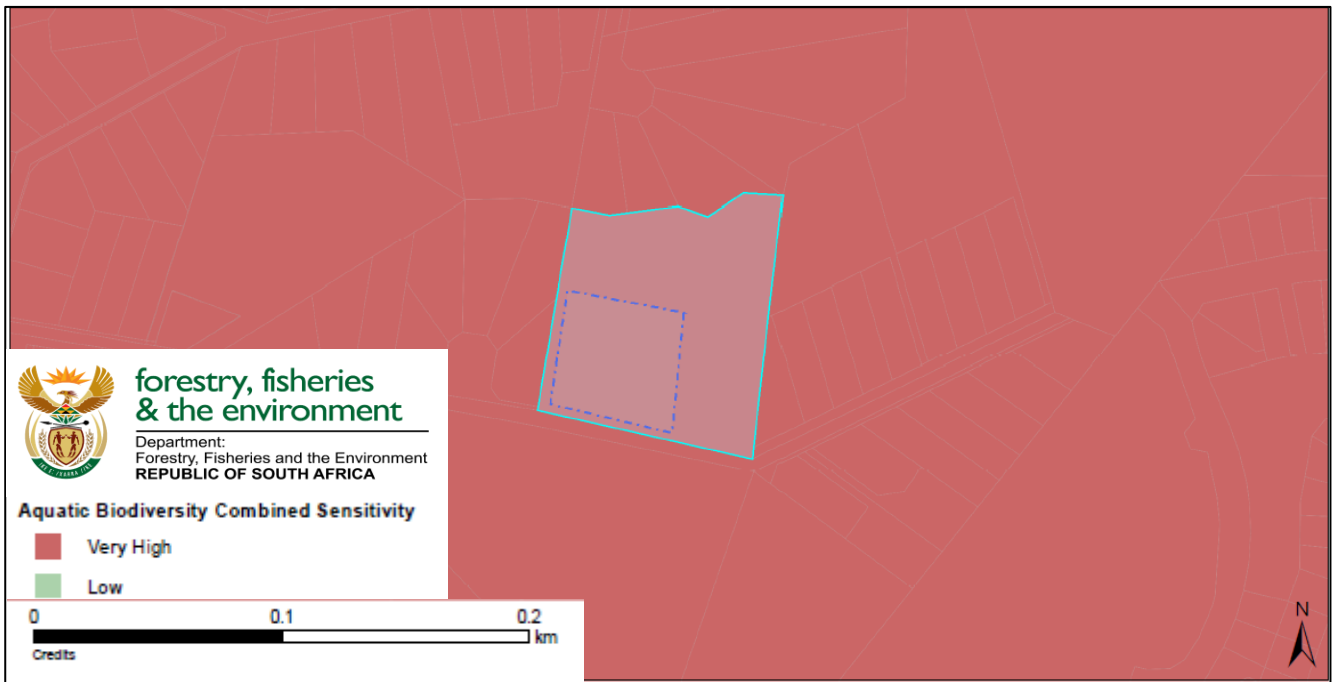


Figure 2: Aquatic and wetland sensitivity for the development footprint.

Several watercourse datasets were consulted to determine their presence within the development footprint. No wetlands were recorded to fall within the development footprint.

Table 1: Datasets consulted during desktop study.

Dataset	Presence
NFEPA Wetlands (CSIR, 2011)	No
NWM5 (SANBI, 2018)	No
Wetland clusters (CSIR, 2011)	No

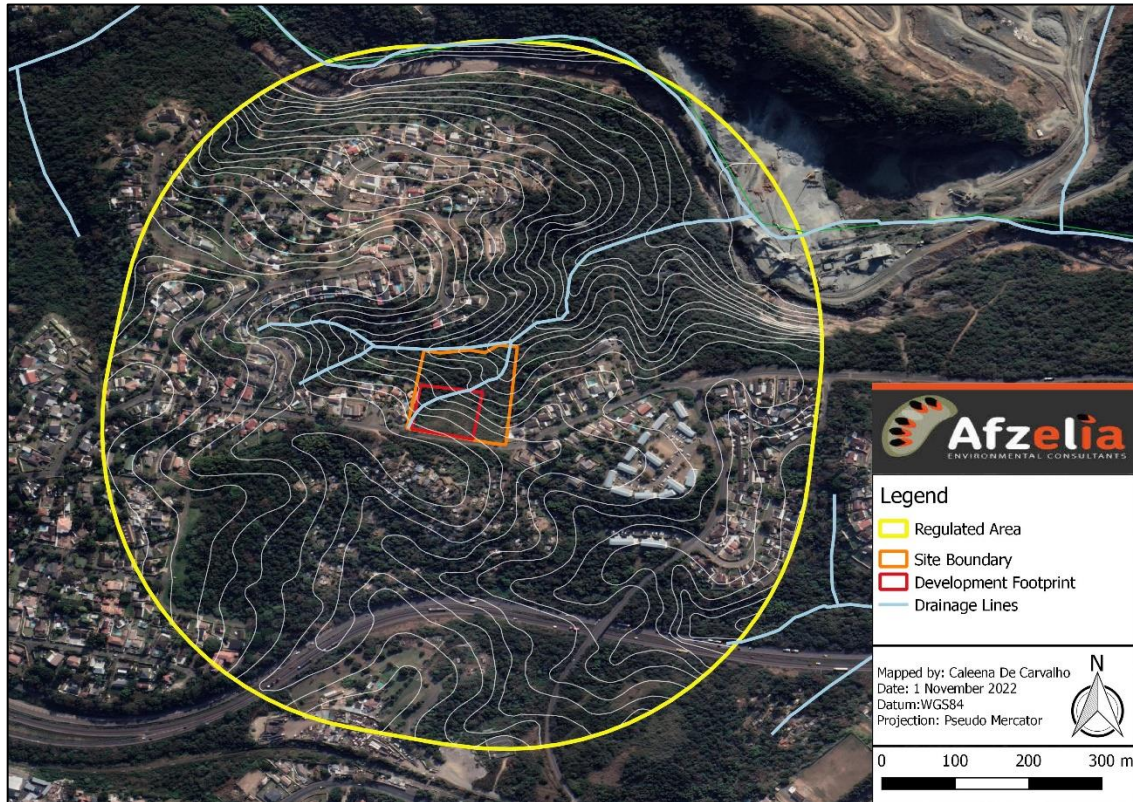


Figure 3: Wetland (S7) located within the revised development footprint.

5. SITE VERIFICATION

A site verification was done on the 16th of November 2022. The site verification confirmed no presence of wetlands within the development footprint. A drainage line features south-west of the site, and connects to the Umbilo River north-east of the site. As a result of its location in the landscape, the conditions were not suitable for wetland formation as the drainage line was incised and did not permit diffuse flows. The site also fell within the Northern Coastal Forest and only woody vegetation was evident during the time of the field verification. The site was disturbed through clearing activities, dumping and encroachment of invasive and alien plant species mainly *Chromolaena odorata* and *Solanum mauritianum*. Figures 4 to 6 provide indications of the site characteristics and conditions.



Figure 4: Drainage line and encroachment of invasive and alien plant species.



Figure 5: Drainage line across the development footprint.



Figure 6: Conditions of the site during the field verification.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the site verification, the wetland sensitivity ERF 1359, Queensburgh, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, can be regarded as low as no wetlands were present within the development footprint. A drainage line cut across the landscape and thereafter feeds into the Umbilo River and this system will be at risk of impact and results in very high aquatic sensitivity. Vegetation clearing was noted during the field verification, the Applicant may not commence with construction without an environmental authorisation as this will constitute an unlawful activity.

Yours sincerely



Caleena De Carvalho (Wetland Ecologist)
23 November 2022

7. DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE

SPECIALIST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 1359 QUEENSBURGH, 35 - 53 HUNTLEY ROAD WITHIN ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU - NATAL

Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

Departmental Details

Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
 Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 Private Bag X447
 Pretoria
 0001

Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
 Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 Environment House
 473 Steve Biko Road
 Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:
 Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Specialist Company Name:	Afzelia Environmental Consultants		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	1	Percentage Procurement recognition
Specialist name:	Caleena De Carvalho		
Specialist Qualifications:	BSc (Hons) in Environmental Water Management		
Professional affiliation/registration:			
Physical address:	236 Ninth Avenue, Morningside		
Postal address:	PO Box 37069		
Postal code:	4067	Cell:	+27 79 717 0420
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:	Caleena76@gmail.com		

DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I, **Caleena De Carvalho** _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the Specialist

Afzelia Environmental Consultants

Name of Company:

23 November 2022

Date



UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, **Caleena De Carvalho**..... , swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleena De Carvalho", written over a horizontal line.

Signature of the Specialist

Afzelia Environmental Consultants

Name of Company

23 November 2022

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

Date



8. DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST REVIEWER, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Specialist Company Name:	Afzelia Environmental Consultants		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	1	Percentage Procurement recognition
Specialist name:	Nonjabulo Matomela		
Specialist Qualifications:	MSc Ichthyology (Rhodes University)		
Professional affiliation/registration:			
Physical address:	236 Ninth Avenue, Morningside		
Postal address:	PO Box 37069		
Postal code:	4067	Cell:	+27 765034241
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:	Enjay.matomela3@gmail.com		

DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I, **Nonjabulo Matomela** _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Signature of the Specialist



Afzelia Environmental Consultants

Name of Company:

6 November 2022

Date

UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, **Nonjabulo Matomela**..... , swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nonjabulo Matomela", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Signature of the Specialist

Afzelia Environmental Consultants

Name of Company

6 November 2022

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

Date