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ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE

MOLEN CLOSE RIVER REHABILITATION REMAINDER OF FARM
464, GEORGE, WESTERN CAPE

PREPARED FOR: George Municipality
Lionel Daniels
PO Box 19
George
6530

DATE: 03 December 2024

REPORT NR: EAR/MCRR/F464G/WC/12/24

DEADP REF NO: 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22

COPY TO: Danie Swanepoel – DEADP
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-
- Environmental Impact Assessments • Basic Assessments • Environmental Management Planning
 - Environmental Control & Monitoring • Water Use License Applications • Aquatic Assessments



PROJECT DETAILS

| | |
|--|--|
| TITLE: | Proposed Molen Close River Rehabilitation Remainder of Farm 464, George, Western Cape. |
| LOCATION: | George, Western Cape |
| ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY: | Sharples Environmental Services cc. |
| PRIMARY AUDITOR | Mr. M. Bennett. |
| EXPERTISE: | Michael studied at the University of Cape Town completing a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Environmental and Geographic Sciences and Ocean and Atmospheric Science. Michael joined SES in 2014. |
| SECONDARY AUDITOR & AUTHOR: | Mr. C. Smit. |
| EXPERTISE: | Christiaan graduated from the University of Stellenbosch completing his Masters on the Ocean Economy and also holds a BSc in Biodiversity and Ecology with a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management. He is well versed in the technicalities associated with Monitoring and has ensured that all of the sites he has worked on have been environmentally acceptable. Christiaan is registered with EAPASA as a Candidate Environmental Assessment Practitioner. |
| CLIENT: | George Municipality |
| REPORT CLASSIFICATION: | Environmental Audit Report |
| SES REFERENCE NUMBER: | EAR/MCRR/F464G/WC/12/24 |

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1. Introduction:

Sharples Environmental Services cc (SES) has been appointed by the George Municipality(client), to conduct an External Environmental Audit pertaining to the construction activities for the Proposed Molen Close River Rehabilitation Remainder of Farm 464, George, Western Cape. The project has been authorised under the Environmental Authorisation (EA) (EA Ref No: 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22) issued on the 6th of February 2018.

The purpose of this Audit Report is to comply with condition 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the EA (16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22) which states that:

14. The Holder must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMMPr remain valid ensure the compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMMPr, is audited;

15. The frequency of auditing of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and of compliance with the EMMPr, must adhere to the following programme:

- 15.1. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within **three (3)** months of the conclusion of the stabilization, rehabilitation and monitoring requirements thereof.
- 15.2. An audit report must also be submitted each time after maintenance activities are concluded,

16. The Environmental Audit Report(s), must –

- 16.1. be prepared and submitted to the Competent Authority, by an independent person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise. Such person may not be the ECO or EAP who conducted the EIA process;
- 16.2. provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on–
 - 16.2.1. the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation, EMMPr and the EMMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
 - 16.2.2. the ability of the measures contained in the EMMPr to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
- 16.3. identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
- 16.4. evaluate the effectiveness of the EMMPr or both;
- 16.5. identify shortcomings in the EMMPr;
- 16.6. identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMMPr;
- 16.7. indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
- 16.8. indicate the date on which the operational phase was commenced with and the progress of the rehabilitation;
- 16.9. include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
- 16.10. be informed by the ECO reports.

17. The Holder must, within 7 calendar days of the submission of the audit report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

The findings and recommendations in this report are based on evidence gathered from Cape EAPrac Environmental Consultants who were employed as the Environmental Control Officer of the development and have monitored compliance with the EA and EMMPr.

According to Appendix 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. 982 in Gazette No. 3822 of December 2014, in terms of Sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998); The objective of the audit report is to:

Table 1: Objectives of the Audit Report:

| 2. The objective of the environmental audit report is to – | |
|---|--|
| (a) Report on – | |
| i) The level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan; and | |
| ii) The extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan achieves the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr, and closure plan | |
| (b) Identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity. | |
| (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | |
| (d) Identify shortcomings in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan; and | |
| (e) Identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan. | |

In addition, Appendix 7 also refers to the content of the Environmental Audit Report:

Table 2: Content of the Audit Report:

| 3. An environmental audit report prepared in terms of these regulations must contain – | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Details of the – i) Independent person who prepared the environmental audit report; and ii) Expertise of the independent person that compiled the environmental audit report; | Annexure A |
| (b) a declaration that the independent auditor is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority; | Annexure B |
| (c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the environmental audit report was prepared; | Section 1 and 3 |
| (d) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the environmental audit report; | Section 2 |
| (e) an indication of the ability of the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan to – i) Sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity on an on going basis; ii) Sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the closure plan of the facility; and iii) Ensure compliance with the provisions of environmental authorisation, EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan; | Section 6 |
| (f) a description of any assumptions made, and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge; | Section 4 |
| (g) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the environmental audit report; | Section 2 |
| (h) a summary and copies of any comments that were received during any consultation process; | Section 2 |
| (i) any other information requested by the competent authority | NA |

2. Methodology:

After being appointed, Cape EAPrac Environmental Consultants provided Sharples Environmental Services cc with the relevant information pertaining to the Proposed Molen Close River Rehabilitation Remainder of Farm 464. Following this a site visit was conducted by Mr. Christiaan Smit of Sharples Environmental Services cc on the 11th of November 2024 to establish the site evidence supporting the Audit Report outcome. To conduct the audit of this report, a systematic review approach was followed regarding the information provided and the conditions and objectives of the EA and EMMPr, to determine compliance with the EA and EMMPr for the Molen Close River Rehabilitation.

The table below depicts the key sources that were used to assess the compliance with the EA and EMMPr:

Table 3: Key Sources Used in this Audit Report:

| Source | Content | Reference | Appendix no. |
|--|---|---|--------------|
| Environmental Authorisation | Section E: Conditions of Authorisation. | 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22 | 1 |
| Environmental Management & Maintenance Programme | Mitigations; Pre-construction Design Considerations; Construction Considerations and Operational/Maintenance Phase Environmental Management Requirements. | GEO752/10 | 2 |
| EA Cover Letter | Departments letter granting Environmental Authorisation. | 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22 | 3 |
| EA Notification Letter to I&AP's | Notification of the decision of EA and appeal period to I&AP's. | 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22 and MOS752/09 | 4 |
| Notification of EA to Authorities | E-mail to authorities on decision including EA Notification Letter. | Complied by Mariska Byleveld of Cape EAPrac. | 5 |
| Notification of EA to I&AP's | E-mail to I&AP's on decision including EA Notification Letter. | Complied by Mariska Byleveld of Cape EAPrac. | 6 |
| 7-Day Notice of Commencement | 7-Day notice letter, notifying the department of the commencement of activities. | 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22 and GEO752/10 | 7 |
| ECO Report May & June 2023 | Monitoring compliance with the EMMPr and EA for the months of May and June 2023. | GEO752 | 8 |
| ECO Report July 2023 | Monitoring compliance with the EMMPr and EA for the month of July 2023. | GEO752 | 9 |
| ECO Report August 2023 | Monitoring compliance with the EMMPr and EA for the month of August 2023. | GEO752 | 10 |
| ECO Completion Report | Final ECO report and completion report of project. | GEO752/11 | 11 |
| No Appeals Proof | Proof from DEADP that no appeals were lodged. | Molen Close River Rehab_16.3.3.1.D2.48.00027.22 | 12 |

3. Assumptions, Uncertainties and Gaps in Knowledge:

SES has compiled this Audit Report based on information and observations that were received from the ECO of the Molen Close River Rehabilitation project, Cape Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd, it is assumed that all parties involved in the process had the agenda of best practice. It is assumed that no evidence has been withheld from the Auditor (SES), and where documents or evidence could not be received or found it is assumed that those documents or evidence do not exist unless verbally specified otherwise by the ECO.

Uncertainties and gaps in knowledge include:

- The holder is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of the EA, therefore the holder should have ensured that the project was audited within the 3 month threshold after completion of the stabilization, rehabilitation and monitoring activities.
- The final audit report was not undertaken within the 3 month threshold. This is regarded as Non-Compliance (low) because Sharples Environmental Services cc has been appointed and the audit has now been conducted, a final environmental completion report was also submitted by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd upon completion of the works.
- As per the ECO Completion Report - Considering cost implications, only the disturbed areas were rehabilitated with kweek grass and indigenous trees.

4. Location, Scope of the Development, and Photo Record:

4.1 Location

The site is located along a riverbank of the Meul River on Remainder of farm 464 in Rosemoor, George. The area where the rehabilitation works were conducted consists of a small section along the eastern embankment of the river, which is located in close proximity to Erven 21150 and 21151 along Molen Close Street.



Figure 1: Locality Map.



Figure 2: Close-Up of Rehabilitation Work.

4.2 Scope:

The development entailed the stabilization of the embankment of the Meul River riverbank by the placement of reno mattresses and gabions inside the perennial watercourse along Erven 21150 and 21151. The gabions were positioned in a curving manner to preserve the flow's characteristics and to prevent any further erosion. The rehabilitation works were implemented according to Figure 3 and 4 below.

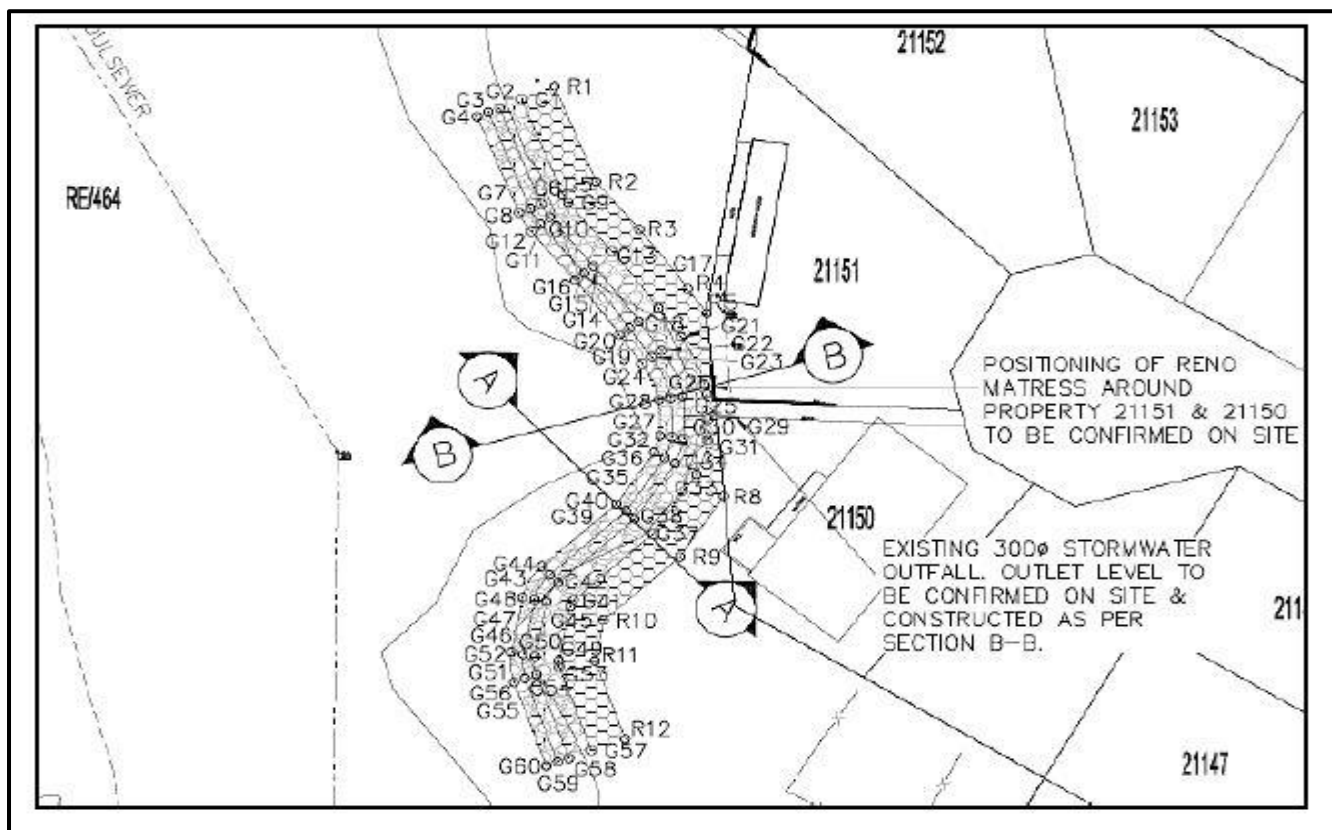


Figure 3: Positioning of gabions along Erf 21150 and Erf 21151

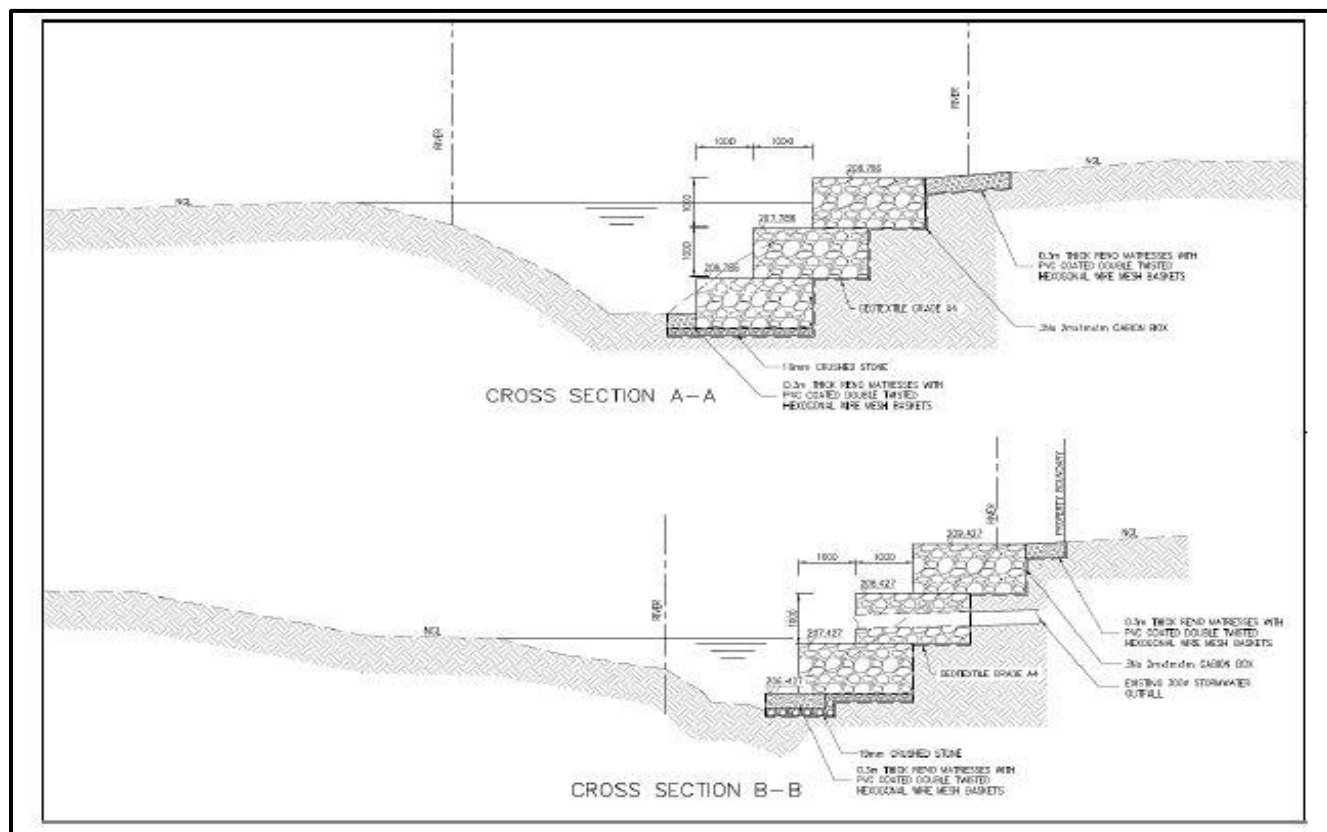


Figure 4: Generic cross-section for how gabions/reno mattresses will be installed along the riverbank.

The activity involved temporarily and partially diverting the stream within the streambed to facilitate the construction of the gabion boxes along the eastern riverbank. An existing stormwater outlet located at the perimeter of Erf 21150 (Which exacerbated the bank erosion) was temporarily diverted by placing sandbags in the proposed area of construction. After construction, the streambeds and the embankments were re-instated and rehabilitated.

Temporary access to the site was accessed via Grens Street where it crosses the Molen River, along the elevated eastern bank of the Meul River, the access was rehabilitated once construction was completed.

The listed activities also include maintenance activities for a period of 5 years, which includes visual maintenance and inspection followed by physical maintenance if and as required. The maintenance activities are only limited to structures and rehabilitation measures included in the Environmental Authorisation (Ref: 16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22).

4.3 Photo record:

The images bellow show the current state of the site at the time of our site visit on the 11th of November 2024.



Image 1: Gabions that have been installed.



Image 2: Gabions that have been installed.



Image 3: Gabions that have been installed and stockpile area that has been rehabilitated.



Image 4: Stockpile area that has been rehabilitated.



Image 5: Gabions that have been installed.



Image 6: Gabions that have been installed and kweek grass that has been planted.

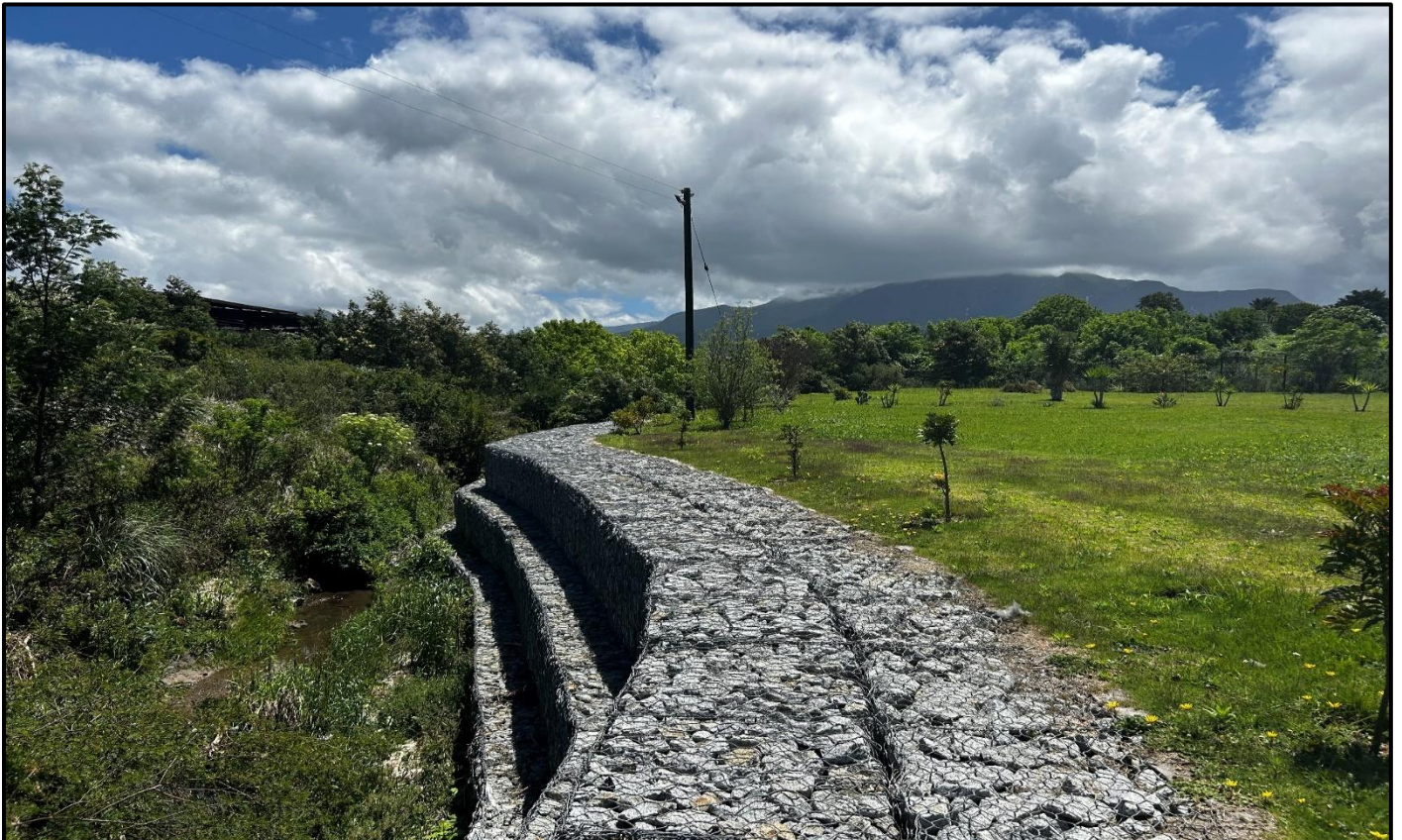


Image 7: Gabions that have been installed, work area that has been rehabilitated and trees that have been planted.



Image 8: Gabions that have been installed and work area that has been rehabilitated.



Image 9: Gabions that have been installed and work area that has been rehabilitated.

5. EA (16/3/3/1/D2/48/0027/22) Compliance:

The following checklist was used to assess the level of compliance to the conditions contained within the EA, as stipulated in Section E (Conditions of Authorisation) of the EA. To assess the level of compliance, the following table is applicable:

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| | Full Compliance | Successful adherence to the condition (to be continued, if applicable) |
| | Partial Compliance | Adherence to some conditions, whilst action/effort required in other regards. Can be high or low (see checklist below). |
| | Non - Compliance | Does not adhere to the condition. |
| | Not yet applicable | Not yet applicable to this audit or still to be done |

Partial and Non-Compliance Checklist:

| | |
|------|---|
| High | In which case the duration, extent, local impact and regional impact of the environmental impact is high. |
| Low | In which case the duration, extent, local impact and regional impact of the environmental impact is low. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1. | <p>This Environmental Authorisation is granted for the period from date of issue until 30 April 2028 to commence and complete all the listed activities, rehabilitation and monitoring requirements. A further 5 years until 30 April 2033 is granted for maintenance activities to the rehabilitated area where the new structures are installed.</p> <p>Failing which, this Environmental Authorisation and Environmental Management and Maintenance Programme (EMMP) shall lapse, unless the environmental authorisation is amended in accordance with the relevant process contemplated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998).</p> | <p>Full Compliance (to date)</p> | <p>The listed activities have been completed as stipulated in the ECO completion report that was submitted on the 12th of December 2023, this condition is marked as full compliance (to date) because an additional 5 years until 30 April 2033 have been granted for maintenance activities to rehabilitate the area where the new structures are installed.</p> |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|-----------------|---|
| 2. | <p>The Holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with a part of the Preferred Alternative described in the FBAR dated 14 December 2022 on the site as described in Section C above.</p> <p>The development entails the stabilization of the embankment of the Meul Riverbank by the placement of reno mattresses and gabions inside the perennial watercourse along Erven 21150 and 21151, Rosemoor, George. The reno mattresses and gabions will be positioned in a curving manner to preserve the flow's characteristics and to prevent further erosion as per Annexure 2 of this authorisation.</p> <p>The activity includes temporarily and partially diverting the stream within the streambed to facilitate construction of the gabion boxes along the eastern riverbank. The existing stormwater pipe that discharges at this point (partially responsible for the eroded bank) stormwater will also be diverted by placing sandbags in the proposed area of construction. After construction, the streambed and embankments will be re-instated and rehabilitated. Temporary access to the site will be via Grens Street where it crosses the Molen River, along the elevated eastern bank of the Meul River. This access will be rehabilitated once construction is complete.</p> | Full Compliance | As per the ECO reports and the ECO completion report, the activities listed in condition 2 of the EA have been completed. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 3. | This Environmental Authorisation may only be implemented in accordance with an approved Environmental Management & Maintenance Programme ("EMMPr"). | Full Compliance | The EA was implemented in accordance with the approved EMMPr, as per the ECO reports. |
| 4. | The Holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the Holder. | Partial Compliance (low) | The holder is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of the EA, therefore the holder should have ensured that the project was audited within the 3 month threshold after completion of the stabilization, rehabilitation and monitoring activities. |
| 5. | Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the Holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation. | Full Compliance | No changes or deviations from the original scope have occurred throughout the rehabilitation works. |
| 6. | 6. The Holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision– 6.1. notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of – | Full Compliance | All I&AP's were notified within 14 days, refer to Appendix 5 and 6 of this report. |
| | 6.1.1. the decision reached on the application; | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.1.2. the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3; | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 6.1.3. the date of the decision; and | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.1.4. the date when the decision was issued. | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.2. draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section G below; | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.3. draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4. provide the registered I&APs with the: | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4.1. name of the Holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation, | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4.2. name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation, | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4.3. postal address of the Holder, | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4.4. telephonic and fax details of the Holder, | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.4.5. e-mail address, if any, of the Holder, | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|--|------------------------|--|
| | 6.4.6. contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations (as amended). | Full Compliance | Refer to Appendix 4 of this report. |
| | 6.5. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder notifies the registered I&APs of this decision. | Full Compliance | The holder notified the registered I&AP's of the decision on the 8 th of May 2023, according to the 7-day notice, construction commenced on the 1 st of June 2023. |
| | 6.6. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided. | Not Applicable | No appeals were lodged, see Appendix 12. |
| 7. | Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities. | Full Compliance | Proof of the 7-day notice of commencement letter was provided, please refer to Appendix 7 of this report. |
| | 7.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above. | Full Compliance | The 7-day notice letter makes clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number, please refer to Appendix 7 of this report. |
| | 7.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein: Condition no.: 6, 10 and 18 | Full Compliance | Proof of compliance with condition no. 6, 10 and 18 was provided in the 7-day notice letter, please refer to Appendix 7 of this report. |
| 8. | The draft Environmental Management & Maintenance Programme ("EMMPr") dated 14 December 2022 and submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and agreed to. | Full Compliance | EMMPr was approved and implemented. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|------------------------|--|
| | 8.1. With reference to the EMMPr, kindly note: 8.1.1. All references to 'operational phase' in the EMMPr are also regarded to include maintenance; | Full Compliance | EMMPr was approved and implemented. |
| | 8.1.2. Comply with section 24N of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014; | Full Compliance | EMMPr was approved and implemented. |
| 9. | The EMMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation. | Full Compliance | Confirmed by Cape EAPrac. |
| 10. | The Holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer ("ECO"), for the duration of the construction and rehabilitation phases of implementation contained herein. | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd were appointed as ECO for the project. |
| 11. | The ECO must– 11.1. be appointed prior to commencement of any construction works | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd were appointed as ECO prior to the commencement of construction works. |
| | 11.2. ensure compliance with the EMMPr and the conditions contained herein; | Full Compliance | Monthly ECO reports were submitted by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd during the construction process, monitoring compliance with the EA and EMMPr. |
| | 11.3. keep record of all activities on the site; problems identified; transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO; | Full Compliance | Monthly ECO reports were submitted by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd during the construction process, monitoring compliance with the EA and EMMPr. |
| | 11.4. remain employed until all development activities are concluded, and the post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements are finalised. | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd remained employed until the development activities concluded, and the post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements were finalised. |
| 12. | A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMMPr, any independent assessments of financial provision for rehabilitation and environmental liability, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd have confirmed that this condition had been complied with and that copies of the EA and EMMPr were kept on site. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | at the site of the authorised activities and be made available to anyone on request, and where the Holder has website, such documents must be made available on such publicly accessible website. | | |
| 13. | Access to the site referred to in Section C must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein. | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd have confirmed that this condition had been complied with, the case officer from DEADP (Shireen Pullen) conducted a compliance inspection on the 24 th of October 2024. |
| 14. | The Holder must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMMP _r remain valid ensure the compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMMP _r , is audited; | Full Compliance | Monthly audits were submitted by Cape EAP _r ac Environmental Consultants throughout the construction phase. Sharples Environmental Services cc have also been appointed by the Holder to conduct the external audit. |
| 15. | The frequency of auditing of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and of compliance with the EMMP _r , must adhere to the following programme: 15.1. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority within three (3) months of the conclusion of the stabilization, rehabilitation and monitoring requirements thereof. | Non-compliance (low) | The final audit report was not undertaken within the 3 month threshold, however this is regarded as Non-Compliance (low) because Sharples Environmental Services cc has been appointed and the audit has now been conducted, a final environmental completion report was also submitted by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd upon completion of the works. |
| | 15.2. An audit report must also be submitted each time after maintenance activities are concluded, | Not Yet Applicable | Still to be done. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|--|------------------------|---|
| 16. | The Environmental Audit Report(s), must – 16.1. be prepared and submitted to the Competent Authority, by an independent person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise. Such person may not be the ECO or EAP who conducted the EIA process; | Full Compliance | Audit Report will be submitted by Sharples Environmental Services cc. |
| | 16.2. provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on– 16.2.1. the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation, EMMP and the EMMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.2.2. the ability of the measures contained in the EMMPr to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity. | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.3. identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.4. evaluate the effectiveness of the EMMPr or both; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.5. identify shortcomings in the EMMPr; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 16.6. identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMMPr; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.7. indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.8. indicate the date on which the operational phase was commenced with and the progress of the rehabilitation; | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.9. include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| | 16.10. be informed by the ECO reports. | Full Compliance | See Audit Report. |
| 17. | The Holder must, within 7 calendar days of the submission of the audit report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable). | Not Yet Applicable | Still to be done. |

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----|---|------------------------|--|
| | | | |
| 18. | The affected area must be demarcated prior to commencement of construction activities. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Report of May-June 2023, the site had been demarcated prior to the commencement of construction. See Appendix 8 of this report. |
| 19. | <p>Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains may only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority.</p> <p>Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains may only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority.</p> | Full Compliance | No heritage remains were found during the construction process. |

6. Summary of Partial and Non-Compliances:

Partial Compliance:

- **Condition No. 4:** The holder is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of the EA; therefore the holder should have ensured that the project was audited within the 3 month threshold after completion of the stabilization, rehabilitation and monitoring activities. This is regarded as **Partial Compliance (low)** because Sharples Environmental Services has since been appointed to conduct the External Environmental Audit, and no consequences to the environment were posed by this contravention.

Non-Compliance:

- **Condition No. 15:** The final audit report was not undertaken within the 3 month threshold; however, this is regarded as **Non-Compliance (low)** because Sharples Environmental Services cc has been appointed and the audit has now been conducted, a final environmental completion report was also submitted by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd upon completion of the works. No consequences to the environment were posed by this contravention.

7. EMPr Compliance:

The following checklist was used to assess the level of compliance to the conditions contained within the EMPr, as stipulated in Section 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the EMPr. To assess the level of compliance, the following table is applicable:

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| | Full Compliance | Successful adherence the condition (to be continued, if applicable) |
| | Partial Compliance | Adherence to some conditions, whilst action/effort required in other regards. Can be high or low (see checklist below). |
| | Non - Compliance | Does not adhere to the condition. |
| | Not Yet applicable | Not yet applicable to this audit or still to be done |

Partial Compliance Checklist:

| | |
|------|---|
| High | In which case the duration, extent, local impact and regional impact of the environmental impact is high. |
| Low | In which case the duration, extent, local impact and regional impact of the environmental impact is low. |

Section 4.1 Mitigations and Best Practice:

| Mitigation | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Gabions must mimic the curved profile of the embankment. | Full Compliance | The gabions mimic the curved profile of the embankment. See Image 1, 2 and 5. |
| The river reach must be routinely monitored to ensure that any constrictions to flow (dumped waste, felled trees, stormwater debris) are removed from the channel. | Full Compliance | According to the ECO Completion Report (Appendix 11) the construction team routinely removed plastic material from the channel as construction progressed. A diesel/oil spill was noted by the construction team in the Meul River (unknown sources) and this was reported to the Environmental Control Officer of the George Municipality. |
| The most upstream and downstream ends of the gabions must align (or be flushed) with the existing stream bank. | Full Compliance | Both ends of the gabions (upstream and downstream) align with the streambank. |
| After long-term monitoring, determine if additional protection is necessary (opposite side of the bank). | Not Yet Applicable | This is in progress. ECO has noted that this area must be monitored, particularly after heavy rainfall events. |
| Applicant must appoint an ECO to oversee construction. | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd were appointed as ECO. |
| The stormwater outlet pipe, must be designed adequately to dissipate the energy. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion Report: The stormwater outlet pipe was designed by Nadeson Consulting. Dr James Dabrowski (Aquatic Specialist from Confluent Environmental) recommended that they cut the stormwater outlet a little bit shorter so that stormwater will be directed into the underlying gabions and not the bed of the watercourse. This will mitigate the risk of further erosion from the stormwater outlet. The Contractor did cut the stormwater outlet shorter. |
| Clearly demarcate areas where instream construction activities will take place. | Full Compliance | The site development area was clearly demarcated as per the ECO reports. |
| Stockpiles of materials must be placed outside the channel of the watercourse (on as flat as possible) and protected (through use of sandbags and/or tarpaulins). | Full Compliance | The stockpile was on a flat surface and stable. Material was removed from site and transported to the Municipal dump. |
| Prevent uncontrolled access of vehicles into the watercourse. | Full Compliance | Access was controlled by the manager on-site. The only entrance to the site was closed during the night. The Applicant |

| Mitigation | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---|-----------------|--|
| | | also hired security that were present during the night to secure the area. |
| Construction activities must be timed to coincide with a dry period. Due to the emergency state of this project and George's unpredicted weather changes, it is advised that the holder of the EA first contact with the ECO & aquatic specialist to determine whether it is the right time to start construction (based on the most recent weather reports). | Full Compliance | No excavations took place in the rain. The ECO and Aquatic Specialist were consulted with to determine whether it is the right time to excavate/work within the watercourse. ECO also gave many instructions to contractor on excavations during wet conditions as noted in the ECO Reports. |
| A temporary check dam (using sandbags) should be established upstream of the construction to create dry working conditions should work not be undertaken during a dry period. | Full Compliance | According to the ECO Completion Report (Appendix 11) a temporary check dam was created upstream and two silt fences were installed downstream. Please refer to Appendix 8. |
| A flexible pipe should be used to transfer water from upstream. | Full Compliance | Although the pipes were not flexible, the contractor did use pipes with sandbags to create dry working conditions. This was noted as being sufficient by the ECO. |
| Temporary straw-bales can be placed across the channel (downstream of the streambank) to trap high levels of sediment in the event of a high rainfall. | Full Compliance | The contractor installed two silt fences across the channel (downstream of the streambank) and secured it with sandbags and straw-bales. |
| Demarcate the area(s) chosen for the stockpiling of imported materials and put-up notices declaring what must be stockpiled where i.e. bank material vs riverbed material separately. | Full Compliance | The entire site was demarcated and closed-off to the public. |
| Development of a construction schedule. | Full Compliance | A construction programme was sent to DEA&DP as per the ECO Completion Report. |
| Post-installation, stabilise exposed banks with indigenous vegetation. | Full Compliance | Disturbed and unstable areas were rehabilitated with kweek grass and indigenous trees. It was however noted that a small portion of the soil embankment next to the downstream gabion end can easily erode because the soil in that area is quite loose with no indigenous vegetation to stabilize it. The contractor stabilized this area with gabion rocks and indigenous vegetation. This area must be monitored, especially after heavy rainfall as per the ECO Completion Report. |
| Gabions will be packed by manual labour. | Full Compliance | Gabions were packed by the contractor's team and local people from Rosemoor suburb as per the ECO Reports. |
| No operating vehicles within 5m of the edge of the channel. The 5m setback line will be relaxed, where necessary, to accommodate for operating vehicles in consultation with the ECO. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard in the ECO Completion Report or any of the monthly ECO Reports. |

| Mitigation | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Oil and fuel leaks of excavators and all other machinery must be checked daily. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO reports, no oil or fuel leaks were noted throughout the construction process, an oil spill was noted in the river however the ECO confirmed that the source was unknown (coming from further upstream) and that it was not related to the construction works. |
| No fuel storage, refuelling, vehicle maintenance or vehicles debris to be allowed within the delineated area of the wetland. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard in the ECO Completion Report or any of the monthly ECO Reports. |
| Bunds should be placed around refuelling, fuel storage and servicing areas. These areas must not be located within any natural drainage areas or preferential flow paths and must be located more than 20m away from the delineated area of each wetland. | Full Compliance | Refuelling and maintenance took place off-site as per the ECO Completion Report. |
| Chemical toilets (1 toilet / 10 persons). | Full Compliance | One toilet was on-site and kept neat and clean throughout the construction phase as per the ECO Reports. |
| Waste from chemical toilets must be disposed of regularly by a registered waste contractor. | Full Compliance | Chemical toilet was kept neat and tidy, waste was disposed of by a registered waste contractor. |
| No mixing of cement / concrete on bare ground or within the watercourse. | Full Compliance | No cement or concrete noted on site as per the ECO Completion Report. |
| Instruct workers & contractors properly of the environment (environmental inductions). | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Reports, two environmental inductions were conducted by the ECO. |
| All waste generated on-site must be adequately managed. | Full Compliance | All waste material was put in drums on site. Housekeeping was good and effectively managed by the ECO as can be seen in the ECO Reports. |
| Separation and recycling of different waste materials should be supported. | Full Compliance | No evidence of recycling could be found in the ECO Reports or ECO Completion Report. |
| All gabions must be inspected on a routine basis. Any faults must be immediately addressed to prevent unwanted environmental damages. | Not Yet Applicable | The Municipality to inspect gabions on a routine basis. |
| Scouring or undercutting caused by gabion weirs must be rehabilitated following the inputs of an aquatic ecologist. | Not Yet Applicable | The Municipality to consult with an aquatic ecologist. |
| Withdrawn lawns from the edge of the streambank and a 5m riparian buffer, consisting of appropriate indigenous plants must be re-established along the length of the eastern bank post-construction. It | Partial Compliance (low) | As per the ECO Completion Report - Considering cost implications, only the disturbed areas were rehabilitated with |

| Mitigation | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---|--------------------|--|
| should be noted that a lot of factors including municipal budget and the property owners along this embankment might hinder this mitigation. | | kweek grass and indigenous trees. This is therefore appropriate indigenous plants. |
| Any construction camp, storage, washing and maintenance equipment, storage of construction materials, or chemicals, as well as any sanitation and waste management facilities – (a) is located outside the 1 in 100-year flood line or riparian habitat of the river. (b) is removed within 30 days after the completion of any works. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion report, this had been complied with. |
| Construction must start upstream and proceed in a downstream direction. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion report, this had been complied with. |
| All excavated material from the banks of the watercourse must be stored and clearly demarcated until the works have been completed. The excavated material must be backfilled. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion report, this had been complied with. |
| Following completion and during annual inspection to determine the need for maintenance, ensure that all disturbed areas are – (a) cleared of construction debris and other blockages; (b) re-vegetated with indigenous vegetation suitable to the area | Not Yet Applicable | In progress. |
| Monitor water quality during construction. Water samples must be taken (both upstream & downstream) before, during and after construction to ensure that the water quality isn't affected. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion Report this was monitored by the Aquatic Specialist (Confluent Environmental). |
| Gabions must be inspected regularly and after every large storm, to detect damages or abnormalities. Any vegetation growing out of the gabion boxes must be removed. Broken or damaged panels can be repaired on site. If several gabion baskets are broken advice should be sought from the Engineer and maintenance must be undertaken under supervision of an ECO. | Not Yet Applicable | To be inspected. |
| Gabion baskets must be inspected for differential settlement caused by major storm events. | Not Yet Applicable | To be inspected. |

| Best Practice | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Construction work must take place during normal work hours. | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion report, this had been complied with. |
| Traffic management must be in place during construction | Full Compliance | As per the ECO Completion report, this had been complied with. |
| Additional Actions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
| Temporary access to the site changed from via Grens Street to via Molen Street through erf 21151 and a portion of erf 21150. Temporary access was approved on condition that (a) the landowners provide consent, (b) the temporary access must be rehabilitated, (c) the garden on erf 21150 must be re-instated and (d) the wall between erven 21151 and 21150 must be re-build. | Full Compliance | Compliant. Note: The landowner of erf 21151 asked if the contractor could leave the gravel of the temporary access on his property and not to re-plant the grass that was initially there. This was approved on condition that all areas outside the private erven boundaries of 21150 and 21151 be rehabilitated. |

Pre Construction Design Considerations

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 6.1 Stormwater Management Preparation | a. Final design of the stormwater system must take place prior to construction to ensure timeous implementation. Refer to Site Development Plan & Method Statement compiled by Nadeson Consulting Services (Appendix 2). | Full Compliance | Final design of stormwater system was done prior to construction. |
| 6.2 Gabion Design | b. Final design of gabions must take place prior to construction to ensure timeous implementation. Nadeson Consulting Services designed | Full Compliance | Gabions were designed by Nadeson Consulting and gabions mimic the curved profile of the embankment to prevent increased stream velocity and consequent further erosion. |

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|-----------|---|------------|-----------------------|
| | the gabions in a curved manner to prevent increased stream velocity and consequent further erosion. | | |

Construction Considerations

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| 7.1 Stormwater Management | a. Divert stormwater by placing sand bags in the proposed area of construction which prevent the area from being saturated before placing gabions. | Full Compliance | Sandbags were used in the proposed area of construction to divert stormwater before placing gabions. |
| 7.2 Dust Control | a. Implement a dust prevention strategy, developed at the project planning stage | Full Compliance | No issues regarding dust were noted in the ECO Reports. |
| 7.3 Noise | a. Fit and maintain appropriate mufflers on earth-moving and other vehicles on the site. | Full Compliance | No issues regarding noise were noted in the ECO Reports. |
| | b. Enclose noisy equipment such as generators and pumps. | Full Compliance | No issues regarding noise were noted in the ECO Reports. |
| | c. Provide noise attenuation screens, where appropriate. | Full Compliance | No issues regarding noise were noted in the ECO Reports. |
| | d. Where an activity is likely to cause a noise nuisance to nearby residents, restrict operating hours to between 7 am and 6 pm weekdays and 7 am to 1 pm Saturday, except where, for practical reasons, the activity is unavoidable. | Full Compliance | No issues regarding noise were noted in the ECO Reports. |

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 7.4 Traffic Control | a. Implement a traffic management strategy during construction. | Full Compliance | |
| 7.5 Waste Management | a. Reduce wastes by selecting, in order of preference, avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling. | Full Compliance | No issues regarding waste was noted in the ECO Reports, housekeeping issues were consistently addressed by the ECO. |
| | b. Maintain a high quality of housekeeping and ensure that materials are not left where they can be washed or blown away to become litter. | Full Compliance | Housekeeping was effectively monitored by ECO during construction and any issues were reported on and attended to as per the ECO Reports. |
| | c. Provide bins for construction workers and staff at locations where they consume food. | Full Compliance | Bins were present on site as per the ECO Reports. |
| | d. Conduct ongoing awareness with staff of the need to avoid littering. | Full Compliance | Two environmental inductions were conducted by the ECO. |
| 7.6 Stockpile Management | a. Minimise the number of stockpiles, and the area and the time stockpiles are exposed. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |
| | b. Keep topsoil and underburden stockpiles separate. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |
| | c. Ensure that stockpiles and batters are designed with slopes no greater than 2:1 (horizontal/vertical). | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |
| | d. Stabilise stockpiles and batters that will remain bare for more than 28 days by covering with mulch or anchored fabrics or seeding with sterile grass. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |
| | e. Establish sediment controls around unstabilised stockpiles and batters. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| | f. Suppress dust on stockpiles and batters, as circumstances demand. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to stockpiles in the ECO Reports. |
| 7.7 Storing Fuels & Chemicals | a. Minimise fuels and chemicals stored onsite. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard in the ECO Reports. |
| | b. Install bunds and take other precautions to reduce the risk of spills. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard and as per the ECO Completion Report, refuelling and maintenance took place off-site. |
| | c. Implement a contingency plan to handle spills, so that environmental damage is avoided. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard and as per the ECO Completion Report, refuelling and maintenance took place off-site. |
| 7.8 Minimising Erosion | a. Schedule measures to avoid and reduce erosion by phasing the work program to minimise land disturbance in the planning and design stage. | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| | b. Keep the areas of land cleared to a minimum, and the period areas remain cleared to a minimum | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| | c. Base control measures to manage erosion on the vulnerability of cleared land to soil loss, paying particular attention to protecting slopes. | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| | d. Mulch, roughen and seed cleared slopes and stockpiles where no works are planned for more than 28 days, with sterile grasses. | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| | e. Keep vehicles to well-defined haul roads. | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| | f. Rehabilitate cleared areas promptly. | Full Compliance | Erosion was effectively monitored and managed by ECO, as per the ECO Reports. |
| 7.9 Rehabilitation and Botanical Management | | Full Compliance | Site development area was clearly demarcated, and construction was restricted to within this area. |

| Condition | Actions Required | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| | a. Demarcate sensitive areas to avoid damage during construction. | | |
| | b. Rehabilitation and landscaping may only make use of indigenous vegetation. | Full Compliance | Only indigenous vegetation was used for rehabilitation purposes by contractor. |
| 7.10 Fauna Management | a. Prevent unnecessary mortalities of indigenous fauna | Full Compliance | No issues were noted in this regard. |
| 7.11 Social Requirements | a. It is strongly recommended that the Contractor make use of local labour as far as possible for the construction phase of the project. | Full Compliance | Local workers from Rosemoor were employed to help install the gabions. |
| | b. Theft and other crime associated with construction sites is not only a concern for surrounding residents, but also the Developer and the Contractor. | Full Compliance | No issues were noted with regards to theft and other crime. |
| 7.12 Method Statements | a. Method statements are written submissions by the Contractor to the ECO in response to the requirements of this EMMPr or to a request by the ECO. The Contractor shall be required to prepare method statements for several specific construction activities and/or environmental management aspects. | Full Compliance | Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd have confirmed that this condition had been complied with, and that all method statements were provided by the contractor. |
| 7.13 Health and Safety | The Contractor must ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety (No. 85 of 1993). | Full Compliance | No recommendations required. |

Operational/Maintenance Phase Environmental Management Requirements

| No. | Conditions | Compliance | Comments/Observations |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|
| 8.1 Stormwater Management | a. No stormwater runoff should be allowed to concentrate onto open spaces and roadways downstream of the property. | Not Yet Applicable | To be monitored in audit report following maintenance activities. |
| 8.2 Botanical/Landscaping/rehabilitation | a. Home owners must practice ongoing alien invasive management. | Not Yet Applicable | To be monitored in audit report following maintenance activities. |
| | b. Retain and manage protected and indigenous vegetation (Rehabilitated Indigenous vegetation on the Molen River embankment). | Not Yet Applicable | To be monitored in audit report following maintenance activities. |

8. Summary of Partial and Non-Compliances:

Partial-Compliance:

- **Mitigation Measure** - Withdrawn lawns from the edge of the streambank and a 5m riparian buffer, consisting of appropriate indigenous plants must be re-established along the length of the eastern bank post-construction. It should be noted that a lot of factors including municipal budget and the property owners along this embankment might hinder this mitigation. As per the ECO Completion Report - Considering cost implications, only the disturbed areas were rehabilitated with kweek grass and indigenous trees. This is regarded as **Partial-Compliance (low)** because the areas that were disturbed by construction activities had all been rehabilitated with appropriate indigenous plants, and it had been predetermined that this mitigation measure could be hindered.

9. **Recommendations:**

- We recommend that the George Municipality follow up on maintenance activities as required and ensure that the site is audited following the completion of maintenance activities.
- We recommend that alien vegetation that is present on site be cleared and that indigenous vegetation be planted in areas where aliens have occurred.

_____ End _____