

physical 4th Floor, York Park Building,
York Street, George, 6530
website www.capenature.co.za
enquiries Megan Simons
telephone 087 087 3060
email msimons@capenature.co.za
Reference LE14/2/6/1/6/2/ERF 9000_Linear Infrastructure_
Rosemoore
date 15 October 2025

Sharples Environmental Services cc,
P.O.Box 9087,
George,
6530

Attention: Ms Onela Mhobo
By email: onela@sescs.net

Dear Ms Onela Mhobo

**THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF
STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN ROSEMOOR, GEORGE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.**

DEA&DP Reference: I6/3/3/I/D2/47/0013/25

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above report. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application. CapeNature wishes to make the following comments:

According to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (CapeNature 2024)¹ the repair points have fragments of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1: Terrestrial). The fine-scale vegetation map describes the vegetation as Wolwedans Grassy Fynbos Thicket (Vlok *et al.*, 2008)². According to the National Biodiversity Assessment (Skowno *et al.*, 2018)³ the vegetation is Garden Route Granite Fynbos which is listed as Critically Endangered (NEM:BA, 2022)⁴.

The proposed stormwater outlets are within the Meul River which has been classified as a Unchannelled Valley Bottom Wetland (Nel *et al.*, 2011)⁵ which is a poorly protected ecosystem (Van Deventer *et al.*, 2019)⁶. CapeNature has reviewed the dBAR and associated specialist assessments. We have the following comments:

¹ CapeNature. 2024. 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan and Guidelines. Unpublished Report

² Vlok JHJ, Euston-Brown DIW, Wolf T. 2008. A vegetation map for the Garden Route Initiative. Unpublished 1: 50 000 maps and report for C.A.P.E. FSP Task Team, Oudtshoorn.

³ Skowno, A. L., Poole, C. J., Raimondo, D. C., Sink, K. J., Van Deventer, H., Van Niekerk, L., Harris, L. R., Smith-Adao, L. B., Tolley, K. A., Zengeya, T. A., Foden, W. B., Midgley, G. F. and Driver, A. 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report. Pretoria, South Africa. 214 pp.

⁴ National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). The Revised National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of protection. 2022. Government Gazette No. 47526

⁵ Nel, J.L., Murray, K.M., Maherry, A.M., Petersen, C.P., Roux, D.J., Driver, A., Hill, L., Van Deventer, H., Funke, N., Swartz, E.R., Smith-Adao, L.B., Mbona, N., Downsborough, L. & Nienaber, S. (2011). Technical Report for the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas project. WRC Report No. K5/1801

⁶ Van Deventer, H., van Niekerk, L., Adams, J., Dinala, M.K./ Gangat, R., Lamberth, S.J., Lötter, M., MacKay, F., Nel, J.L., Ramjukadh, C.J., Skowno, A., Weerts, S. 2019. National Wetland Map 5-An Improved Spatial Extent and representation of inland aquatic and estuarine ecosystems in South Africa.

1. The surrounding area has been transformed by residential development, and the remaining natural vegetation is severely degraded.
2. The stormwater upgrade follows a severe flooding event. It is recommended that construction takes place during the drier months to minimise the risk of erosion and sedimentation.
3. The removal of pipes located within the watercourse must be conducted manually (i.e., by hand) to avoid further ecological degradation.
4. Eradication of invasive alien plant species are of high priority. Alien plant species that occur outside of the proposed footprint must be cleared during the alien clearing phase. In this way, more alien plant species can be removed. The eradication and monitoring of the spread of invasive alien species should follow the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No.10 of 2004)⁷.
5. All waste and pollutants must be properly removed and managed to minimise environmental impact. Disposal must take place at a registered municipal facility. A waste management plan should be developed for the watercourse, and engagement with the George Municipality is encouraged to support broader river clean-up and awareness initiatives.
6. The recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the Specialists are supported and must be implemented. The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must ensure compliance and the protection of remaining ecological processes.
7. Ablution facilities must not be located near the watercourse and must be regularly inspected for leaks to prevent contamination.

In conclusion, CapeNature does not object to the proposed stormwater infrastructure upgrade, as it is not expected to have a significant impact on biodiversity.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely,



Megan Simons
For: Manager (Conservation Intelligence)

⁷ Government Gazette No. 37885, GN No. R. 598 (2014) National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Ms Marguerite Loubser (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Mr Tom Blok, Ms Reyhana Gani, Dr Colin Johnson, Ms Ayanda Mvandaba, Prof Nicolaas Olivier, Ms Chwayita Shude-Mareka, Dr Razeena Omar