



**ANDREW WEST**

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

for

### **UPGRADE OF EDEN SEWAGE PUMP STATION ON ERVEN RE/5987, 6013 & 6014, GEORGE**



Date: Sept 2025

Ref: GEO25/315/05

**Applicant: *George Municipality: Water and Sanitation: Civil Engineering Services***

**Consulting Engineer: *Lukhozi Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd***

**REPORT PRODUCED BY:**

***Andrew West Environmental Consultancy***

P. O. Box 9187

George

6530

Tel: 044 8730228

Cell: 0823336880

Email: andrewwest@isat.co.za

**Academic Qualifications:**

Stellenbosch University:

BSc (Forestry/Nature Conservation) IV

Rhodes University:

Certificate in Industrial Environmental Management, Environmental Auditing and ISO 14000/18000

**Other Short Courses:**

Environmental Compliance Monitoring

Environmental Conflict Management

Rehabilitation Ecology

**Affiliation:**

Professional Natural Scientist (Pr Sci Nat)

International Association of Impact Assessors (IAIAsa)

**Field of expertise:**

Facilitation of the EIA process

Environmental Management Plans

Environmental control (ECO) & auditing

Alien vegetation identification & mapping

Advise regarding the Environment Conservation Act, National Environmental Management Act, Agricultural Resources Act, National Heritage Resources Act and the National Water Act, S24G Rectification process

EMPR's and rehabilitation of sand mining activities

Liaison with other professionals, consultants and specialists in the EIA process

Committee member - IAIAsa Southern Cape

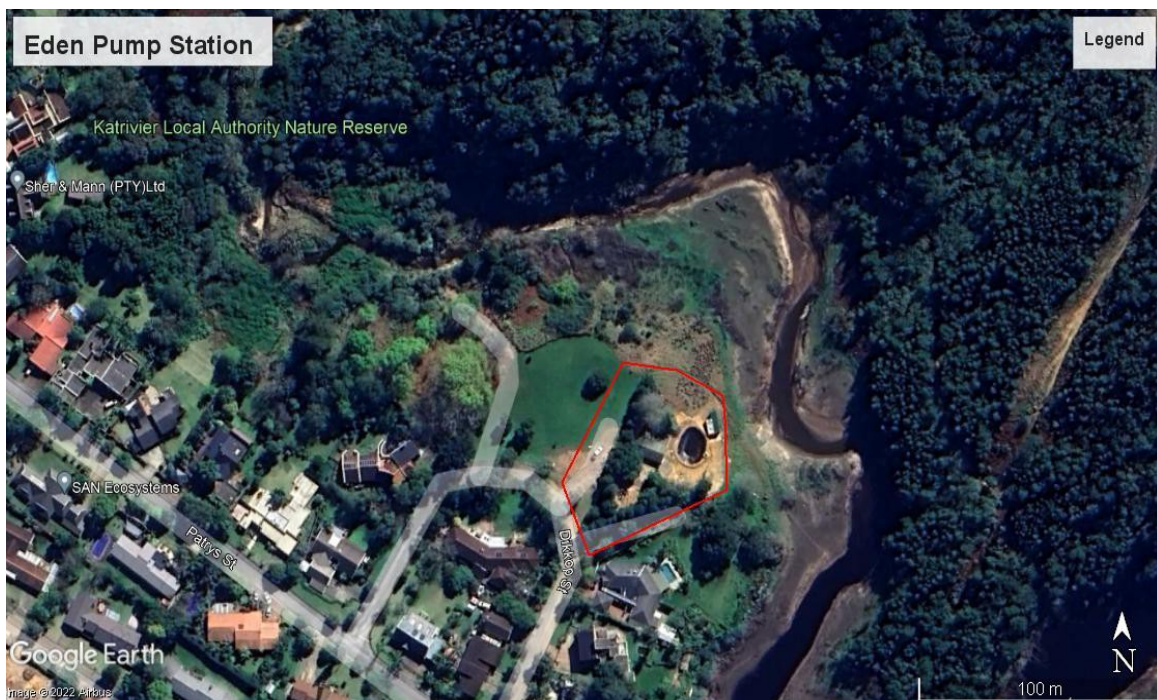
24 Years own Environmental Consultancy

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Consultant, *Andrew West Environmental Consultancy* was appointed by the *George Municipality: Water & Sanitation: Civil Engineering Services*, through *Sharples Environmental Services* to conduct an environmental audit for the upgrade of the existing Eden Sewage Pump Station, as presently located on Erven RE/5987, 6013 and 6014. This audit is in fulfilment of conditions 14 to 16 of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued by the *Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning* under EIA reference: 16/3/3/1/D2/17/0008/23, in terms of the *National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)* on 26/10/2023.

### The proposed and approved works entails the following:

The upgrade of the existing Eden Pump Station located on Erven 6013, 6014 and the remainder of 5987, in accordance with the preferred Layout and located as shown below:



***Locality of the existing Eden Sewage Pump Station***

My consultancy, *Andrew West Environmental Consultancy*, has had contact with the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) from *Sharples Environmental Services (SES)* and I have perused the regular Environmental Monitoring Reports and Method Statement Checklists as provided by the *Consultant*. The Amended Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) dated 26/02/2025 for the pre-construction, construction and post-construction phases, compiled by *Sharples Environmental Services*, has also been studied with respect to the contents and applicability to the site activities.

For the purposes of this external audit, I have looked at the Site Development Plan as presented in the EMPr.

As the appointed Environmental Auditor, I have taken all of the documents and site photographs provided into account in the evaluation of **compliance** and the compilation of this Report and also specifically the Environmental Monitoring Reports over a period of time: **July 2024 to August 2025** (monthly site inspections by the appointed ECO).

A site inspection was undertaken on **12/08/2025** and again on **05/09/2025**.

## **Objective of the Environmental Audit Report**

In broad terms, the objective of the environmental audit report is to:

- Report on the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the regulations and recommendations as stipulated in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures are successful in achieving the outcomes stipulated.
- The identification and assessment of any new impacts and risks that may have arisen through the construction activities on the particular property.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr.
- Identify any shortcomings, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge associated with the EMPr in terms of management and mitigatory measures implemented.

The conditions as stipulated in the issued Environmental Authorisation (EA) under various sub-headings have been checked against the actual site operations and office administration (ie. record keeping, monitoring, incident files, etc.).

## **2. DECLARATION OF IDEPENDENCE BY THE AUDITOR**

The Environmental Auditor is completely independent of the approved activity on this property and has no financial interest in the development, other than the professional fee that will be paid for the completion of this

environmental audit. The signed Declaration is attached in the *Appendix* to this Report.

### 3. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The scope of the environmental report is in compliance with the conditions of the issued Environmental Authorisation and the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) by SES (04 March 2022) for the approved *Sewer Pump Station upgrade* works on the designated site, as mentioned above and in the EA.

The purpose of the Environmental Audit is to comply with the requirements of the *Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning*:

- i. Report on the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the regulations and recommendations as stipulated in the EMPr and the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures are successful in achieving the outcomes stipulated.
- ii. Evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr and to identify any shortcomings, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge associated with the EMPr in terms of management and mitigatory measures implemented.

and more specifically to:

- As a first audit, within the first year of the commencement of the activity as listed, show how mitigatory measures have been implemented.
- show how *Section 2* of the *National Environmental Management Act, 1998 NEMA* has been considered in terms of best practicable environmental options.

### 4. METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

The methodology adopted in preparing the environmental audit report was as follows:

- Peruse and study the regular Environmental Monitoring Reports and Method Statement Checklists as provided by the appointed ECO from *Sharples Environmental Services* and the EMPr for the various aspects of the pump station upgrade as compiled by SES (26/02/2025).
- Conduct a thorough perusal / scrutiny of the site photographs as noted in the



regular Compliance Monitoring Reports, taken at various stages of construction and to check on satisfactory compliance.

- Conduct a comparative assessment of the management and mitigatory measures stipulated in the documentation and the implementation at ground level during the construction / installation phase of activities.

## 5. SPECIFIC SITE ISSUES NOTED

The construction site for the upgrade works, on the whole, is in a good environmental condition and the effects of any disturbance caused by construction phase activities is visible, but an effort has been made to effect mitigatory measures:



***Yellowwood trees have been successfully relocated and stabilised –  
Photo 05/09/2025***

## 5.1 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Construction activities and rehabilitation mitigation have been monitored, recorded and reported on, for the period 2024 to 2025 in the form of various Monthly Reports provided. From documentation provided, construction activities commenced on 08 July 2024.



***A general view of upgrade works looking towards the south-west***

It was also observed from the regular reporting and photographic records that the contractor has taken suitable measures to prevent erosion from resulting from a diversion, restriction or increase in flow of stormwater caused by the presence of his own works, operations and activities to the satisfaction of the ECO and in line with the EMPr. Mitigatory measures were in place to prevent accelerated erosion from occurring.

There has also been a satisfactory attempt to keep the dust created at acceptable levels (see overleaf). It was noted that use has been made of suitable shade cloth to cordon off sensitive areas on site.

The purpose of the EMPr is to provide specifications for “**Good Environmental Practice**” and “**Duty of Care**” as stipulated in the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) NEMA: Section 28** in order to avoid and/or minimize adverse environmental impacts associated with construction activities and this has been adhered to.





***Access roads are being swept regularly in an effort to reduce dust***



***Effective use of shade netting to demarcate sensitive areas***



There is no *specific*, visual evidence of unnecessary environmental disturbance to the area outside of the designated pump station upgrade work area.

## 5.2 ABILITY OF EMPr TO SUFFICIENTLY PROVIDE FOR MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

The objectives as stipulated in the EMPr under various sub-headings have been checked against the reporting by the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and depicted in the completed Table below:

<i>EMPr Objective</i>	<i>Satisfactorily Addressed</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Appointment of an ECO & Env Auditor	Yes	This was duly done and functions are being fulfilled
Contractor Awareness Training	Yes	Completed on site at the establishment of site office on 18/07/2024.
Site Camp & Facilities establishment / demarcation	Yes	Satisfactorily completed and documented / photos
Ablution Facilities		
Site Access & Traffic Management	Yes	Ongoing - successful
Site Camp and associated facilities	Yes	Satisfactorily completed and documented / photos
Vegetation clearance	Yes	No issues were observed
Prevent Soil Erosion & siltation	Yes	Conducted satisfactorily
		As per Monitoring Reports - all in order
Manage stormwater	Yes	Done
Topsoil and Subsoil management	Yes	No issues were observed

Construction in or near a watercourse: Protection of the watercourse.	Yes	No issues were noted on site
Integrated Waste Management System	Yes	No issues. Successful and ongoing with marked waste bins as per EMPr
Manage hazardous substances & fuels	Yes	No issues noted
Cement & concrete batching control	Yes	Has taken place under supervision; building waste to be disposed of at a suitably registered site as per EMPr.
Excavations and Earthworks Dust control Erosion control	Yes	Duly noted Any dust issues noted on site are being well managed / controlled
Activities within or close proximity to a watercourse	Yes	As per Monitoring Reports, well controlled with mitigation in place.
Rehabilitation / re-instatement of natural vegetation	Yes	At the end of construction.

### 5.3 SECTION 2 OF NEMA

*Section 2(3) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)* clearly states that “Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable” and this is why the planning and public participation is iterative and considers alternatives that can be evaluated, given the above three legs of *sustainable* development.

*Section 2(2)* states that environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably, but together with this, *Section 4* must be taken into account with due consideration to the potential disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are

minimised and remedied. Also that pollution and waste are avoided or minimised and that a waste management and recycling plan be implemented as part of the proposal.

It is believed that the approved Project, although somewhat of an inconvenience to neighbouring property owners at present, will provide the broader Community with a more efficient facility, going forward.

#### 5.4 ASSUMPTIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

There are no assumptions, uncertainties or gaps in knowledge and all the Reports and Documentation provided were adequate to be able to conduct an open and thorough environmental audit of the activities.

#### 5.5 CONSULTATION PROCESS UNDERTAKEN

The main source of consultation was with the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) from *Sharples Environmental Services* and the regular Environmental Reports and Method Statement Checklists / Compliance with the EA and EMPr Tables, as provided. The Environmental Management Plan/Programme as compiled by *SES* (Feb 2025) has also been studied with respect to the contents thereof and applicability to the site activities.

### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

During both the two site visits and the subsequent study of all the Reports and Documentation provided, as mentioned above, in terms of the site establishment / construction phase of the development, the keeping of site records / reporting and the adequacy of the EMPr and rehabilitation / mitigatory measures, the development was found to address all aspects and environmental issues in an above satisfactory manner. No serious or new impacts or risks were identified.

There has been a very good level of compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the regulations and recommendations as stipulated in the EMPr with adequate measures / regulations to promote the avoidance, management and mitigation measures in achieving the desired environmental outcomes. *Section 2 of NEMA* has been duly considered in the process of the upgrade and improvement of Eden Sewage Pump Station.

***Subsequent audit reports may be carried out as the upgrade progresses with a Final Audit Report to DEA&DP within 3 months after conclusion of the Project (construction and rehab) - as per the EA.***

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## **Appendix: Declaration of Independence**



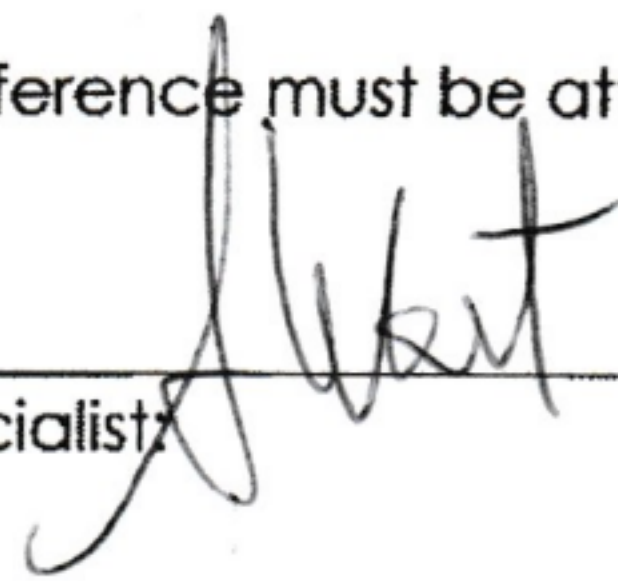
**THE INDEPENDENT PERSON WHO COMPILED A SPECIALIST REPORT OR UNDERTOOK A SPECIALIST PROCESS**

I, Andrew West, as the appointed independent specialist hereby declare that I:

- act/ed as the independent specialist in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct, and
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have no vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (specifically in terms of regulation 17 of GN No. R. 543) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the specialist input/study was distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on the specialist input/study;
- have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties on the specialist input/study were considered, recorded and submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application;
- have ensured that the names of all interested and affected parties that participated in terms of the specialist input/study were recorded in the register of interested and affected parties who participated in the public participation process;
- have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 71 of GN No. R. 543.

**Note:** The terms of reference must be attached.

Signature of the specialist:



**ANDREW WEST**  
Environmental Consultancy  
P.O Box 9187  
George 6530  
Cell 082 333 6880

Name of company:

Date:

10/09/2025