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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

FOR THE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE N7 VISSERSHOK WEIGHBRIDGE ON FARM 153 VISSERSHOK OUTSPAN, MORNING STAR 25/141 AND MORNING STAR RE/141 (C1038: UPGRADING OF TR11/1), CITY OF CAPE TOWN MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

APPLICANT:	WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT:	SHARPLES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CC Author: BETSY DITCHAM (EAPASA REG: 1480) and Contributing Author: JESSICA GOSSMAN (EAPASA REG: 6154).
SES REFERENCE NUMBER:	26/SSVR/02/26
DEADP REFERENCE:	16/3/3/1/A1/41/3042/25
DATE:	February 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE N7 VISSERSHOK WEIGHBRIDGE ON FARM 153 VISSERSHOK OUTSPAN (C1038: UPGRADING OF TR11/1), CITY OF CAPE TOWN MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE

Sharples Environmental Services cc (SES) has been appointed by Hatch South Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Western Cape Government: Department of Infrastructure to undertake the environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended (GNR 326 of 2017), for the proposed relocation and construction of the N7 Vissershok Weighbridge (C1038: upgrading of TR11/1).

At present, there is an operational weighbridge along the N7 northbound (**Figure 1**). The proposed relocated weighbridge will be predominantly located on a portion of Farm Vissershok Outspan 153, City of Cape Town (CoCT) Municipality, Western Cape. Sections of the proposed weighbridge site, such as service roads, are located on Farm Morningstar 25/141 and a portion of Morningstar RE/141. Two other layout locations have been assessed for the proposed weighbridge. During the site sensitivity verification, an area of "High Conservation Value" Cape Flats Sand Fynbos was noted by the Botanical Specialist in the central portion of the site. Given the conservation importance of this vegetation type, three additional layouts have been assessed in conjunction with the originally proposed layouts. Engineering and environmental considerations have been proposed, with multiple design layouts that have been considered. However, Alternative 5 (layout 5) has been selected as the final design for implementation (**Figure 2**).

Figure 1. Existing Vissershok Weighbridge.

Figure 2. Proposed Alternative 5.

The intention is to establish the new Vissershok Weighbridge approximately 600 m north of the existing site, followed by the demolition of the existing weighbridge and rehabilitation of that site. This proposal aligns with a larger ongoing road works programme.to accommodate the N7 Van Schoorsdrift diamond interchange, to the south of the existing site, which was approved on 13 April 2022, DEADP Ref.: 14/3/1/1/1A1/16/0564/21. The new proposed project will help improve road safety along the route.

The Draft BAR for the proposed N7 weighbridge was released for public participation from August 28, 2025, to September 29, 2025. The City of Cape Town raised concern that the proposed Alternative 5 would be located within a newly mapped east-west ecological corridor and deemed the design fatally flawed. This concern was communicated to the engineers, who subsequently redesigned and relocated the proposed weighbridge further north. The engineers developed Alternative 6 (

Figure 3) to the west of the N7 and Alternative 7 (Figure 4) to the east of the N7. Both designs are located on Morningstar RE/141.

Figure 3. Alternative 6

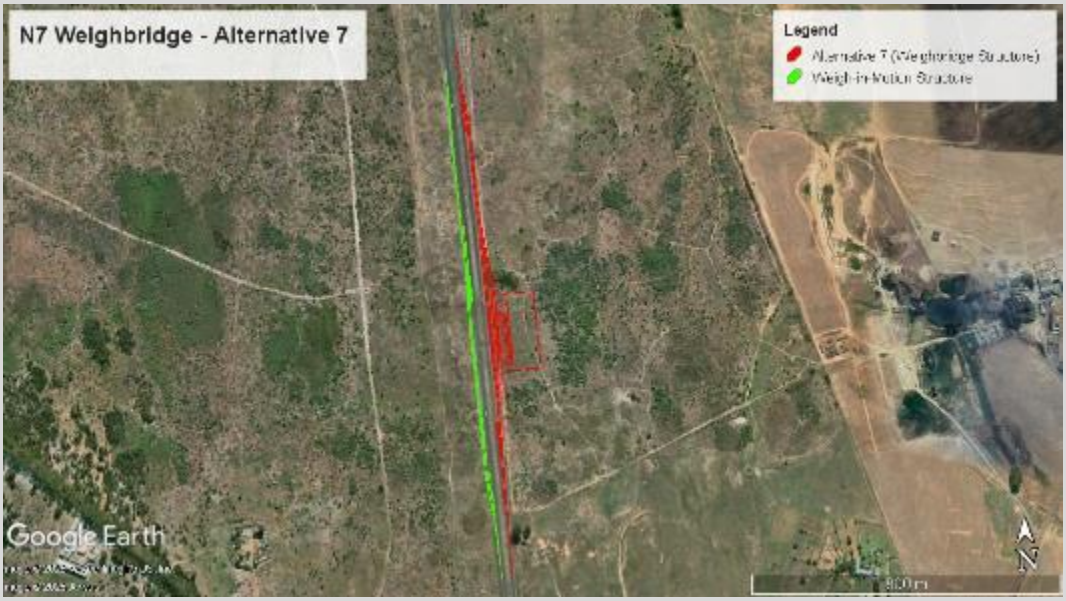

Figure 4. Alternative 7

The intention is to establish the new Vissershok Weighbridge approximately 600 m north (Alternative 5) or 1600m north (Alternative 6 and 7) approximately 1600 m north of the existing site, after the construction of the new weighbridge, existing weighbridge will be demolished and rehabilitated . This proposal aligns with a larger ongoing road works programme.to accommodate the N7 Van Schoorsdrift diamond interchange, to the south of the existing site, which was approved on 13 April 2022, DEADP Ref.: 14/3/1/1/1A1/16/0564/21. The new proposed project will help improve road safety along the route.

The proposed Vissershok weighbridge will include the main weighbridge structure, offices, parking areas, fencing and relevant service connections (water, sewer and electricity infrastructure) and connecting service roads. It will also include a weigh-in-motion station along the southbound corridor of the N7.The proposed Vissershok weighbridge will include the main weighbridge structure, offices, parking areas, fencing and relevant service connections (water, sewer and electricity infrastructure) and connecting service roads. It will also include a weigh-in-motion station along the southbound corridor of the N7.

ENGINEERING INPUT (PLANNED INFRASTRUCTURE)

Administration Block

It is envisaged that provision would be made for an administration block similar to the existing one at the existing facility. An assessment will be carried out of the current facility in the detail design stage to ascertain whether any further improvements to the layout of the office block should be included in the new facility, such as the use of solar power.

Weighbridge Holding Area

Currently there is a gravelled holding area, which has a demarcated concrete block paved area, for the transfer and or re-packing of goods for vehicles that exceed the axle weight limitations. At this stage it is not envisaged to plan for anything larger or smaller.

Weighbridge

It is proposed that a totally new weighbridge with the latest technology and electronics be installed. It is further proposed that provision be made for a 3,2m wide scale similar to the existing scale.

Weigh-in Motion Facilities

It is proposed that weigh-in-motion facilities be installed in both the southbound and northbound directions.

Weighbridge Facility Access Road Layout

The proposed layout of the roadworks for the weighbridge facility is presented in Annexure K. The weigh-in-motion facility, in the south bound direction, has been shifted further north (compared to the previous scheme) to avoid having to provide an auxiliary lane between the weigh-in-motion facility and the N7-southbound on ramp and off ramp of the Van Schoorsdrift Interchange.

The detailed design by the engineers (Hatch) has been included within Appendix M.

The demolition of the existing weighbridge is illustrated in the engineering drawing below. This drawing will also be included in Appendix M. All demolition materials will be reused whenever possible or disposed of at a licensed landfill site.

Figure 5. The Demolition plan for the existing weighbridge facility after the new weighbridge is established.

1.1. Description of the proposed activity

Table 1: Property Details of Proposed Development Location for Layout 5:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type

1	VISSERSHOK OUTSPAN	153	0	33°45'57.84S	18°32'46.61E	Farm
2	MORNING STAR	141	0	33°44'31.35S	18°32'16.54E	Farm
3	MORNING STAR	141	0	33°44'11.59S	18°32'28.25E	Farm Portion
4	MORNING STAR	141	25	33°45'4.79S	18°32'41.49E	Farm Portion
5	MORNING STAR	141	0	33°44'13.12S	18°32'27.62E	Farm Portion
6	VISSERSHOK OUTSPAN	153	0	33°45'57.84S	18°32'46.61E	Farm Portion

Department of Infrastructure proposes to construct a new weighbridge with Alternative 5, 6 and 7 that will be approximately 600 m – 1600m from the existing Vissershok weighbridge as part of larger road works planned on this section of the N7 (that has already been authorised). The proposed development, Alternative 5 will be located on a portion of Farm 153 Vissershok Outspan, Farm 141 Morning Star Portion 25 and Farm 141 Morning Star Remaining Portion, City of Cape Town (CoCT) Municipality, Western Cape, while Alternatives 6 and 7 are proposed on Morningstar Remainder Portion, City of Cape Town, Western Cape.

2. FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING TOOL

The National Sector Classification Category selected to produce the Screening Tool Report for Layout 5, dated 8 January 2025, and revised on the 22nd of August 2025, and for Alternative 6 and 7, dated the 28th of January 2026:

Infrastructure | Transport Services | Roads | Public

2.1. Wind and solar developments

Table 2 below indicates the wind and solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or Application under consideration within 30km of the proposed development area.

Table 2: Wind and Solar Developments within 30 km of the Proposed Development Areas for all Alternatives 5, 6 and 7:

No	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
Alternative 5				
1	12/12/20/2638/AM2	Wind	Approved	26.5
2	12/12/20/2109/AM1	Solar PV	Approved	21.5
3	12/12/20/2638/AM3	Wind	Approved	26.5
4	12/12/20/2109/AM2	Solar PV	Approved	21.5
5	12/12/20/2638	Wind	Approved	26.5
6	12/12/20/2109	Solar PV	Approved	21.5
7	12/12/20/2109/AM3	Solar PV	Approved	21.5
Alternative 6				
1	12/12/20/2638	Wind	Approved	24.9
2	12/12/20/2109/AM1	Solar PV	Approved	20
3	12/12/20/2109	Solar PV	Approved	20
4	12/12/20/2638/AM2	Wind	Approved	24.9
Alternative 7				
1	12/12/20/2638	Wind	Approved	25
2	12/12/20/2109/AM1	Solar PV	Approved	20
3	12/12/20/2109	Solar PV	Approved	20

4	12/12/20/2638/AM2	Wind	Approved	25
5	12/12/20/2109/AM3	Solar PV	Approved	20

2.2. Environmental Management Frameworks

No intersections with EMF areas were found.

2.3. Relevant Development Incentives, Restrictions, Exclusions or Prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions, or prohibitions apply to the proposed site and are indicated in the figure below:

- Strategic Transmission Corridors: According to the data obtained from the DFFE, the proposed developments will be located within the Central corridor.
- Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-Phase 1a & 1b: Saldanha to Ankerlig and Saldanha to Mossel Bay.
- South African Conservation Areas.

2.4. Environmental Sensitivities

The following summary of the development footprint environmental sensitivities is identified by the screening report (Table 3). Only the highest sensitivity is indicated. The environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint identified by the screening report are only indicative and must be verified on-site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Table 3: Summary of Specialist Assessments Identified for Alternative 5, 6 and 7:

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme				X
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme		X		
Defense Theme			X	
Paleontology Theme				X
Plant Species Theme		X		
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

3. SITE VERIFICATION

The site inspection and verification were conducted on March 29, 2023, by EAPs Mrs Betsy Ditcham, Ms, Ameesha Sanker and Mr John Geary. The updated proposed alternative 6 and 7 was assessed by Candidate EAP (2022/6154) Ms. Jessica Gossman on the 04th of February 2026.

As part of due diligence, the EAPs and engineers involved in the project have explored and assessed various alternative layouts. While only Layout 5 is proposed for development, the environmental attributes of previous alternative layouts were considered by specialists and are referenced where relevant to provide context and support the planning and design process.

Table 4: The names of the layouts that have been assessed by the various specialists within the specialist reports are as follows and are mentioned in the Site Sensitivity Verification Report:

Layouts	Layout 1	Layout 2	Layout 3	Layout 4	Layout 5	Layout 6	Layout 7
Specialist Name for the following layout:							
Agriculture:	No name changes to layouts.					Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Botanical	Layout 1 (May 2023 Report)	Layout 2 (Option 5a)	Layout 3 (Option 5b)	Not assessed by specialists	Study Area/ Layout 1 (March 2025 Report)	Layout 2	Layout 3
Terrestrial Faunal and Avi-Faunal	Layout 1	Layout 2 (Option 5A)	Layout 3 (Option 5B)	Not assessed by specialist	Layout 4 (Option 5C) or Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Heritage	No name changes, area assessed.					Layout 6	Layout 7

3.1. Agriculture

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the land capability is medium to high, resulting in a **High** sensitivity rating and recommends that an Agricultural Impact Assessment be conducted.

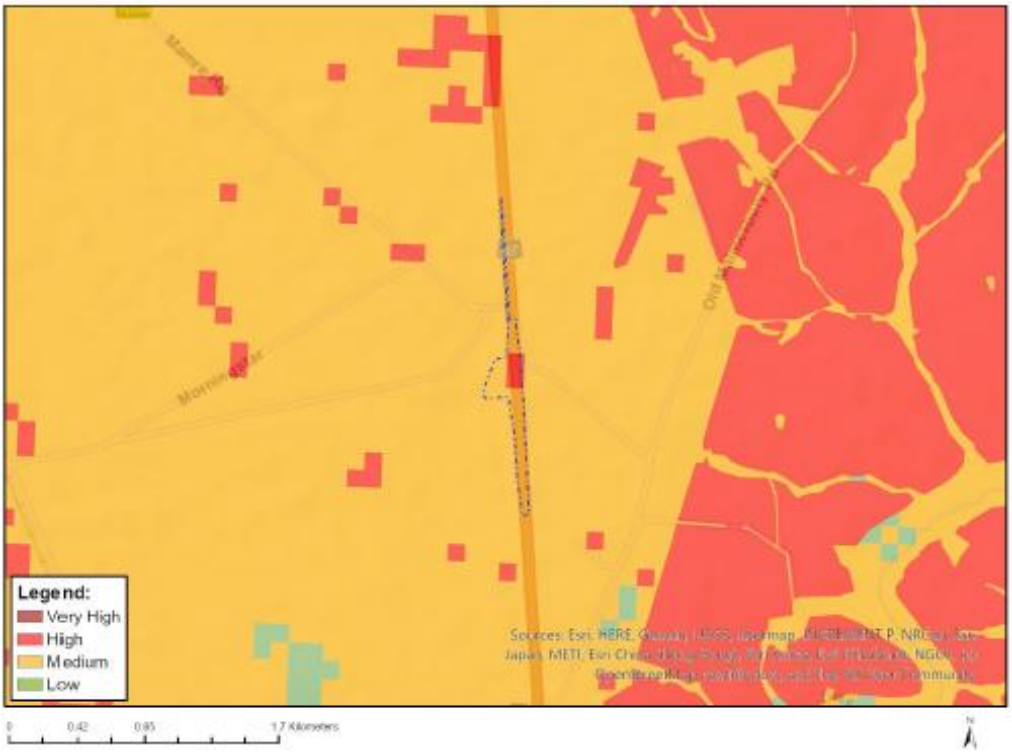

Figure 6: Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
Medium	Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

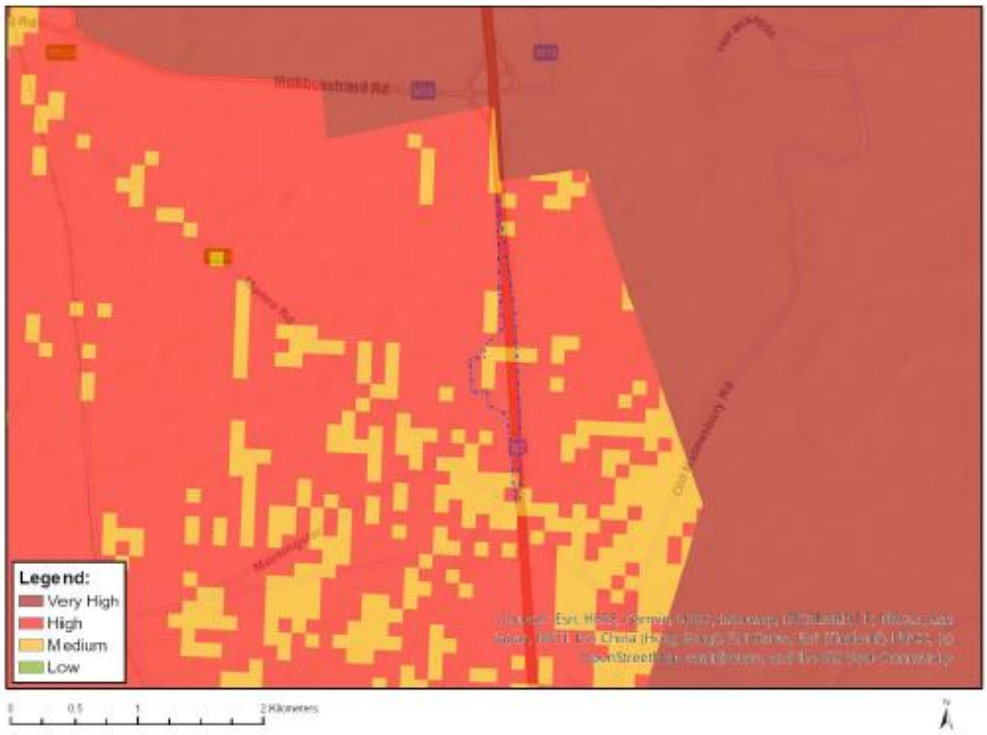

Figure 7.Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	10. Moderate-High
High	09. Moderate-High
High	08. Moderate
Medium	07. Low-Moderate

Figure 8.Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	10. Moderate-High
High	09. Moderate-High
High	08. Moderate
Medium	07. Low-Moderate

Observation by the EAP: As shown within the above agriculture screening tool themes for all layouts, there is no evidence of agricultural crops or past evidence of such a land use within the proposed site or on adjacent properties. However, some farm portions to the east of the N7 are utilised for livestock and crop cultivation. According to Cape Farm Mapper (2023), the Land Type is classified as Bb42 with Plinthic catena soils (dystrophic and/or mesotrophic; red soils not widespread, upland duplex and margalitic soils rare), with Land Capability considered as moderate (8/15) with a low-moderate Soil Capability. The land is predominantly flat – lowly undulating and contains mostly grassland with scattered shrubs and various alien invasive plant and tree species. Furthermore, the land is zoned as 'agricultural' in conjunction with 'transport'. It should be noted that only one small area is mapped as High sensitivity, and this area is found within the existing N7 road reserve.

Alternative 6:

The Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map for Alternative 6 indicates that the route traverse's areas of medium to high agricultural sensitivity. High sensitivity is associated with Features 10 and 09, both classified as Moderate–High, as well as Feature 08, classified as Moderate, suggesting the presence of agriculturally valuable land where development could

result in notable impacts on agricultural activities and land capability. A Medium sensitivity area is identified at Feature 07 (Low–Moderate), which, while less sensitive, still retains some agricultural value. Overall, Alternative 6 is considered to have a moderate to high agricultural sensitivity, and careful planning and mitigation would be required to minimise potential impacts on agricultural resources.**Alternative 7:**

The Relative Agricultural Theme Sensitivity Map for Alternative 7 similarly reflects a medium to high agricultural sensitivity along the route. High sensitivity areas correspond to Features 10 and 09 (Moderate–High) and Feature 08 (Moderate), indicating land of significant agricultural importance that may be vulnerable to disturbance and loss of productivity if development occurs. Feature 07 is classified as medium sensitivity (Low–Moderate), representing areas with comparatively lower, but still present, agricultural value. As such, Alternative 7 also presents a moderate to high level of agricultural sensitivity, and agricultural considerations should form an important part of impact avoidance and mitigation measures.

Considering these factors, an appropriately registered SACNASP Professional - agricultural specialist, was appointed to undertake a site verification and **Compliance Statement**.

Figure 9: Proposed site landscape status quo

Figure 10: Photo depicting the natural landscape

Specialist recommendation: In June 2023, agriculture specialist Johan Lanz conducted a Site Sensitivity Verification and Compliance statement. The findings indicated that the development area is located within an agricultural production zone, and will lead to minimal loss of both current production and of future agricultural production potential. The specialist did not make any recommendations and concluded that the proposed development should be approved.

On January 29, 2025, Johan Lanz of Soil ZA updated the report, confirming that there were no changes. It has been concluded that the proposed development would result in the loss of approximately 3 hectares of grazing land, which would represent a **minimal loss** of agricultural production potential within the proposed farm area.

The agricultural sensitivity assessment for Alternative 6 and 7 was updated and verified through a site-specific specialist study undertaken by Johann Lanz (SoilZA), with contributions by David Lakey, and finalised on 20 January 2026 as part of the Agricultural Compliance Statement for the proposed N7 Vissershok Weighbridge. The specialist assessment reviewed and interrogated the agricultural sensitivity classifications generated by the DFFE screening tool and found that the screening tool's high and very high sensitivity ratings were not representative of on-site conditions.

Alternative 6:

The area includes land partially located within a Protected Agricultural Area and is flagged by the screening tool as having moderate to high land capability. Detailed soil, terrain, and climatic analyses confirmed that the soils are deep, sandy, and severely limited by low water and nutrient holding capacity. As a result, the area is not viable for sustainable rain-fed crop production and is suitable only for low-intensity grazing. Based on these findings, the agricultural sensitivity for Alternative 6 was verified as **medium**, with the overall agricultural

impact associated with this alternative assessed as very low and acceptable, given the limited production potential of the land and the absence of high-value arable soils.**Alternative 7:**

While the screening tool initially classified portions of the area as medium to high agricultural sensitivity, primarily due to Protected Agricultural Area status and modelled land capability data, the specialist findings demonstrate that the actual agricultural production potential across the area is uniformly limited. The soils are characterised by very low water and nutrient retention, and the climatic conditions do not support economically viable crop production. Consequently, agricultural land use is restricted to extensive grazing, with no evidence of current or historical arable cultivation. On this basis, the specialist assessment reclassified the overall agricultural sensitivity of Alternative 7 as **medium,** concluding that the loss of grazing land associated with this alternative would result in minimal loss of future agricultural production potential. The agricultural impact of Alternative 7 is therefore assessed as very low and acceptable, with no material difference in sensitivity or impact relative to other layout alternatives.

Conclusion: Based on the comments from the EAP and specialist the proposed project may be considered from an agricultural perspective. The EAP recommends that the sensitivity from the Screening Tool be changed from high to **Medium sensitivity** and that no further action be taken. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture was included as an I&AP during the Public Participation process for all Alternatives assessed.

3.2. Landscape & Visual Impact

Observation by the EAP: This protocol is not relevant to the proposed project as it is anticipated that the proposed weighbridge will be located immediately adjacent to and between the N7 national road, and it is expected to replace the established weighbridge located 600 -1600 m south of the proposed site. It is anticipated that the established weighbridge will be demolished, and the site rehabilitated; therefore, the landscape and visual impact of the proposed weighbridge will be negligible.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature of the proposed development, a Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment is **not** planned at present.

3.3. Animal Species

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the animal sensitivity rating is **High** and recommends that an Animal Species Assessment be conducted.

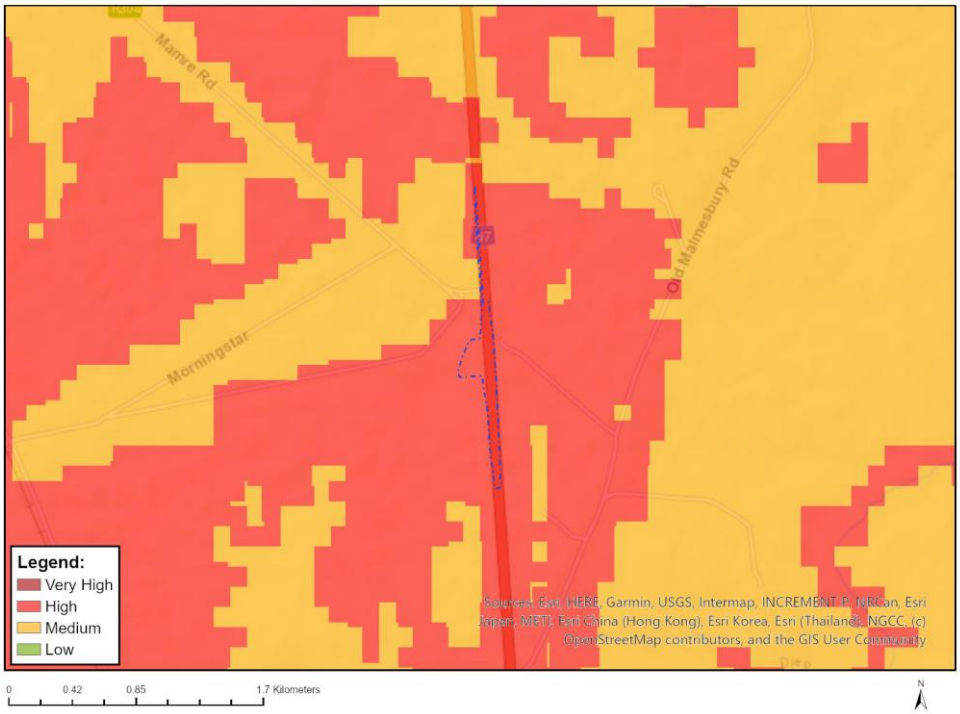

Figure 11. Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

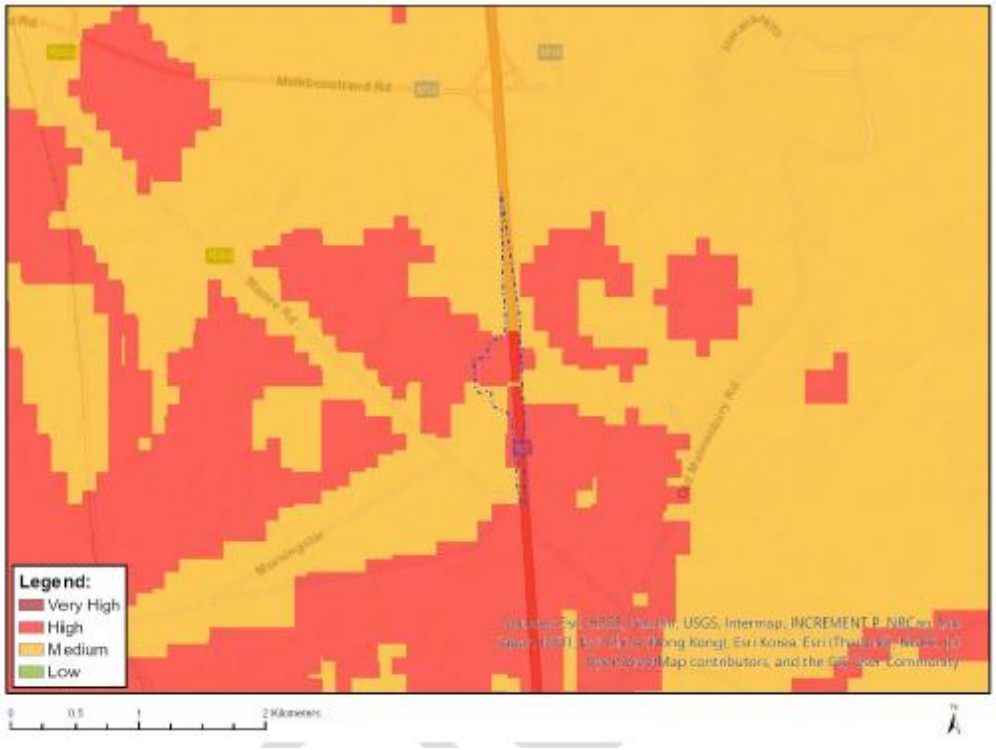

Figure 12.Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY

Figure 13. Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence by specialist
Alternative 5			
High	*Aves-Circus ranivorus*	The species within the study area(s) are not identified in the INaturalist database.	Low
High	*Aves-Circus maurus*		Low
High	*Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus*		Low
Medium	*Aves-Afrotis afra*		Low
Medium	*Invertebrate-Pachysoma aesculapius*		Low
Medium	Invertebrate-*Bullacris obliqua*		Low
Inaturalist data in the study area			
-	*Family Lycosidae*	The species within the study area(s) identified in the INaturalist database.	Not found by the specialist
-	*Aves-Ciconia ciconia*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2023)
-	*Aves-Buteo buteo*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2023)
-	*Aves-Pelecanus onocrotalus*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2022)
-	*Aves-Larus dominicanus*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2022)
-	*Aves-Milvus migrans*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2020)
-	*Tomopterna delalandii*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Typhlosaurus caecus*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Bathyergus suillus*		Identified by the specialist
-	*Family Gnaphosidae*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Family Gryllidae*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Vandijkophrynus angusticeps*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Genus Dorylus*		Not found by the specialist
-	*Aves-Bubo africanus*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2021)
-	*Genus Melanterius*		Not found by the specialist

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence by specialist
Alternative 6			
High	*Aves-Circus ranivorus*	The species within the study area(s) are not identified in the INaturalist database.	Low
High	*Aves-Circus maurus*		Low
High	*Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus*		Low
High	*Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius*		Low
Medium	*Aves-Afrotis afra*		Low
Medium	*Invertebrate-Pachysoma aesculapius*		
Medium	Invertebrate-Bullacris obliqua		Low
Sensitivity	Feature(s)	**iNaturalist**	**Likelihood of occurrence by specialist**
Alternative 7			
High	*Aves-Circus ranivorus*	The species within the study area(s) are not identified in the iNaturalist database.	Low
High	*Aves-Circus maurus*		Low
High	*Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius*		Low
Medium	*Invertebrate-Pachysoma aesculapius*		
Medium	Invertebrate-Bullacris obliqua		Low
Found on the INaturalist Data Base for Alternative 6 and 7:			
-	*Lycosidae*		Not recorded by the specialist
-	*Buteo buteo*		South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (2023)
-	*Tomopterna delalandii*		Recorded by the specialist during field surveys
-	*Gnaphosidae*		Not recorded by the specialist
-	*Gryllidae*		Not recorded by the specialist
-	*Vandijkophrynus angusticeps*		Recorded by the specialist during field surveys
-	*Haliotis midae*		Not recorded by the specialist

The following descriptions provide insight into the habitat and distribution of faunal species with High sensitivity, indicated by the DFFE screening tool report for all Layouts:

High – Aves – *Circus ranivorus*

- Common Name: African Marsh-Harrier
- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Habitat: It is generally found in marshes or reedbeds in and hunts over open grasslands and cultivation near wetlands (Brown, Urban, & Newman, 1982)
- Distribution: The African Marsh harrier is mainly resident in the moister regions of southern and eastern Africa, from the Western Cape northwards through eastern South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, eastern Zimbabwe, south and western

Mozambique, Malawi, southwestern Tanzania, western and central Zambia, south eastern Angola into northern Botswana, especially in the Okavango Delta, and north eastern Namibia (Brown, Urban, & Newman, 1982)

High – Aves – *Circus maurus*

- Common Name: Black Harrier
- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Habitat: It's habitat is mainly montane fynbos, renosterveld and strandveld habitats of the Western Cape and many individuals disperse into the karoo and grassland habitats during the autumn and winter months (Curtis, Robert , & Jenkins, 2004)
- Distribution: The distribution of the black harrier is distinctly polarised in both the Western and Southern coastal plains. Nests are concentrated either along the coastal strip or inland in a more montane habitat. Black harriers are migratory birds, and their annual movements cover the southern half of the land surface of South Africa (including Lesotho). Most of these birds undertake an unusual west–east migration (Curtis, Robert , & Jenkins, 2004)

High – Aves – *Polemaetus bellicosus (Not Alternative 7)*

- Common Name: Martial Eagle
- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Habitat: It prefers open woods and woodland edges, wooded savannah and thornbush habitats. It has been recorded at elevations of up to 3,000 m but is not a true mountain dwelling species and resident eagles do not usually exceed an elevation of 1,500 m. These eagles also avoid closed-canopy forests and hyper-arid desert (Boshoff, 1997)

Distribution: The martial eagle can be found in most of sub-Saharan Africa, wherever food is abundant and the environment favourable. Although never common, greater population densities do exist in southern Africa and in some parts of east Africa. Martial eagles tend to be rare and irregular in west Africa but are known to reside in Senegal, The Gambia and northern Guinea-Bissau, southern Mali and the northern portions of Ivory Coast and Ghana. Generally, these birds are more abundant in protected areas such as Kruger National Park and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in South Africa, or Etosha National Park in Namibia (Boshoff, 1997).

High – Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius

o Common Name: Secretarybird
o IUCN Status: Endangered
o Habitat: Secretarybirds are found in sub-Saharan Africa and are generally non-migratory, though they may be locally nomadic as they follow rainfall and the resulting abundance of prey. Their range extends from Senegal to Somalia and south to Cape Province, South Africa. Secretarybirds prefer open grasslands, savannas, and shrubland (Karoo) rather than forests and dense shrubbery, which may impede their cursorial existence. They can be found at a variety of elevations, from the coastal plains to the highlands. They also occur in agricultural areas and avoid deserts.

The EAP confirms the sighting of some animal species on the day of the site visit, including an *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Angulate Tortoise) (Figure 14) and evidence of an unidentified burrower (Figure 15). No avifauna were observed on the site during the site visit.

Figure 14: Tortoise observed near the proposed site

Figure 15: Unidentified burrower evidence within the proposed site

An appropriately registered SACNASP Professional - Fauna specialist will be appointed to undertake a site verification and confirm the way forward for this theme.

Specialist Recommendation: Dr. Jacobus H. Visser, from Blue Skies Research formulated a Terrestrial Faunal and Avifaunal Species Compliance Statement in May 2023. Dr Visser conducted a field study on the 23rd of May 2023. During the field study, 6 mammal species, 2 reptile species and 14 bird species were identified within the study area for all layouts, all are of 'Least Concern' in accordance with the IUCN. No evidence of Dungbeetle species and Grasshoppers were evident within the study area during the field survey.

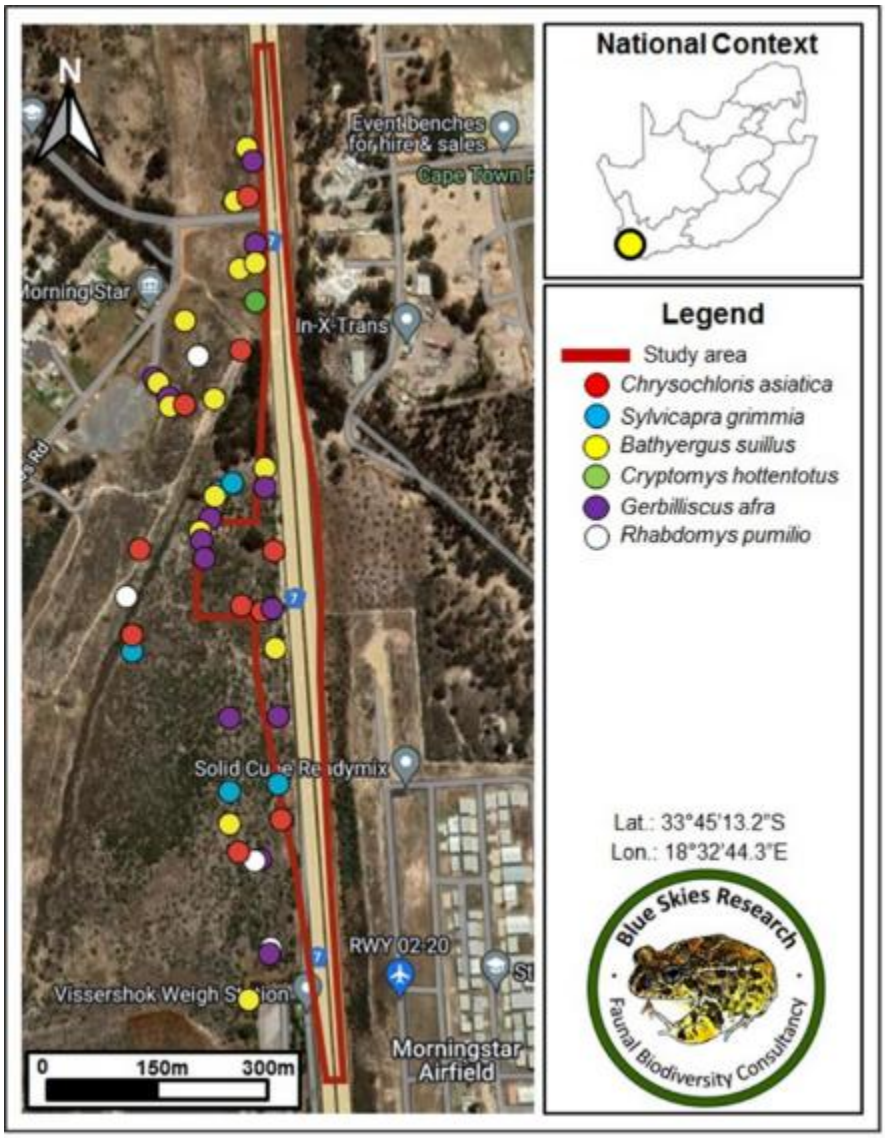

Figure 16.Spatial locations of the different mammal species recorded within the study area (Alternative 5), (Dr Visser, 2023).

The specialist highlighted that the faunal habitat within the study area is largely degraded, and accounts for the common species that are of 'Least Concern' within the study area. Additionally, there were no records of mammalian or avifaunal predatory species, indicating an altered ecosystem dynamics. Therefore, the habitat is not conducive to any of the SCCs considered, and it is highly unlikely for these species to occur in the study area. The Specialist assessed the ecological status of habitats within the study area and rated it as having a "Very Low" SEI. This rating indicates that for development activities with medium to high impacts, minimising mitigation measures is acceptable, and restoration activities are not required.

The Restio habitat which is located to the west of the project footprint, exists in a natural and intact state, this habitat is regarded as having a "High" SEI, indicating that avoidance mitigation is advocated.

The study area has been identified as being of a "High Sensitivity" under the "Relative Animal Species Sensitivity Theme" DFFE Screening Tool Report, however, considering the results from the current report, the site may be considered as of "**Low Sensitivity**". This follows from the

degraded habitat structure that harbours a highly impaired faunal diversity and does not constitute a suitable habitat for any of the
s considered.

The specialist comments regarding the Layout explored:

Layout 5: The proposed layout design is to be placed further north. This will avoid highly sensitive vegetation, as well as being located within areas of very low SEI. The specialist noted that the proposed layout will be adjacent to the 'high SEI', which may cause disturbances to the habitat during the construction and operational phase as the proposed layout design is directly adjacent.

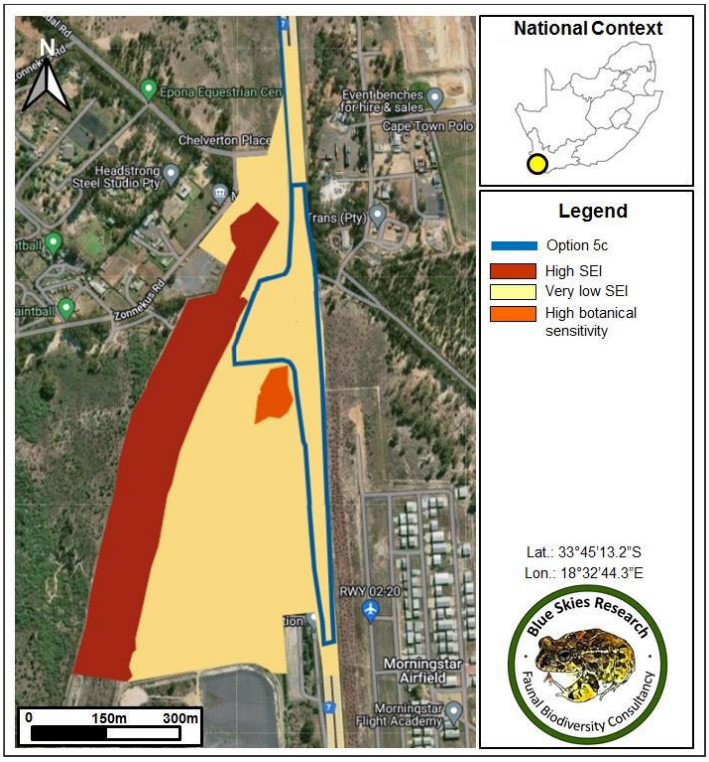

Figure 17. Spatial Representation of the SEI for layout 5.

Alternatives 6 and 7 :

Following the presentation of the additional layouts, the specialist, Dr Jacobus Visser of Blue Skies Research, conducted a site visit and compiled a Terrestrial Faunal and Avifaunal Species Compliance Statement Report in February 2026.

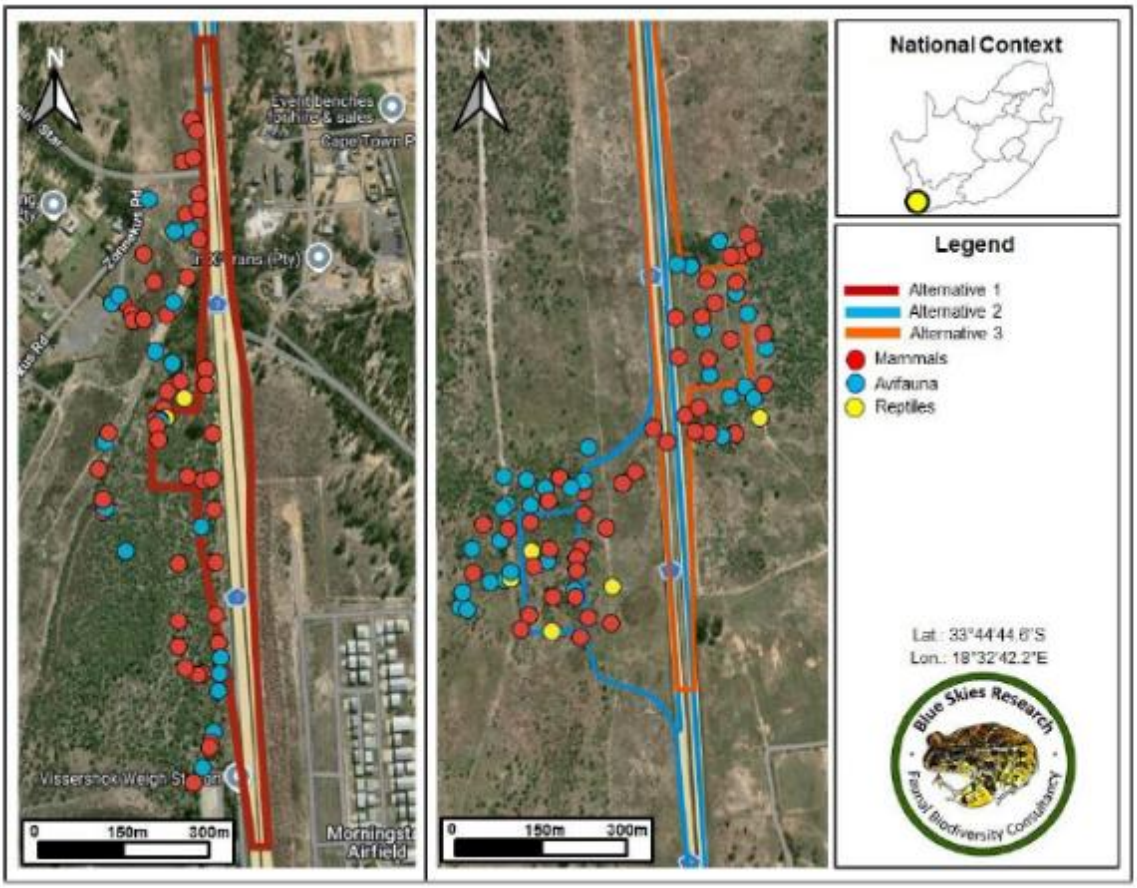

Figure 18. Recorded species within all three study areas, noted by the Specialist. (Alternatives 5, 6 and 7), (Visser, 2026).

All of the alternative site locations occur within a predominantly transformed and degraded landscape; however, differences in habitat condition and ecological value were identified between the alternatives.

Alternative 5 contains limited remnant Cape Flats Sand Fynbos and areas of higher alien invasive plant density, with some connectivity to more intact habitat to the west. This alternative supports slightly higher faunal activity, particularly for common burrowing mammals and transient larger mammals, although overall species diversity remains low and dominated by disturbance-tolerant species.

Alternatives 6 and 7 are located almost entirely within highly transformed fallow land, road verges, and open pioneer grassland with sparse natural vegetation elements, resulting in lower habitat heterogeneity and reduced faunal use beyond opportunistic and transient occurrences.

Across all alternatives, field surveys recorded eight mammal species, two reptile species, and 27 avifaunal species, all classified as Least Concern, with no Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) confirmed during fieldwork. One avifaunal SCC, the African Marsh Harrier (*Circus*

ranivorus), was assessed as having a high likelihood of occurrence at a landscape level due to recent regional records and prey availability; however, the absence of wetland and reedbed habitat across all alternatives limits site use to occasional overflight or transient foraging only. Two additional SCC, namely the Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) and Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), were assigned a medium likelihood of occurrence, with potential for ephemeral foraging over open areas, particularly within Alternatives 2 and 3. All remaining SCC were assessed as having a low likelihood of occurrence across all alternatives due to unsuitable habitat, low recording frequency, and the degraded ecological condition of the sites.

Site Ecological Importance (SEI), assessed in accordance with SANBI guidelines, was rated as Low across all alternatives, although Alternative 1 displays locally marginally higher SEI due to the presence of remnant vegetation and slightly increased faunal activity.

Alternatives 6 and 7 were consistently rated as Low SEI due to minimal biodiversity importance and high receptor resilience associated with long-term disturbance and transformation. Consequently, while the DFFE Screening Tool identifies the broader area as High Sensitivity, the site-specific terrestrial faunal and avifaunal sensitivity of all alternatives is considered **Low**, with Alternative 5 representing a marginally higher ecological value relative to Alternatives 6 and 7, though not to a degree that alters the overall sensitivity conclusion.

Conclusion: The specialist concluded that the habitats and faunal components on the proposed weighbridge layout designs do not hold significance towards the ecology and biodiversity within the area's landscape and would not negatively impact the local, regional or national biodiversity targets. The specialist has, therefore, concluded that the proposed development be considered under any of the proposed development layouts.

Based on the comments from the EAP and specialist, the proposed project may be considered from an animal and avian species theme perspective. The EAP recommends that the sensitivity from the Screening Tool be changed **from high to low sensitivity**, and no further action be taken. Furthermore, CapeNature has been included as an I&AP during public participation.

3.4. Aquatic Biodiversity

Screening Tool: The report indicates that the site's Aquatic Biodiversity is of **Low** sensitivity and that an Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment is not required.

Figure 19. Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

Figure 20.Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

Figure 21.Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features for all Alternatives:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

Observation by the EAP: The EAP did not observe any evidence of areas experiencing seasonally wet conditions, drainage areas or other aquatic features (dams, rivers & streams) seen on site, nor are there any watercourses within 500 meters of the proposed weighbridge site. It should be evident that the sensitivity be regarded as **negligible** as opposed to low sensitivity. Therefore, based on the evidence provided **no specialist appointment was required.**

The proposed development area is assessed as having negligible aquatic biodiversity sensitivity. The terrestrial faunal and avifaunal specialist confirmed that no natural freshwater features (including rivers, wetlands, or drainage lines) occur within or directly overlap the proposed development footprint, and that the site does not form part of any aquatic ecological corridor. The only water-related feature identified is a small artificial dam, located outside of the development footprint and not functioning as a natural aquatic system

Given the absence of natural aquatic habitats, aquatic Species of Conservation Concern, or dependence on surface water systems within the affected area, the proposed development is not expected to result in any direct or indirect impacts on aquatic biodiversity. No aquatic specialist assessment is therefore required, and the project may be considered acceptable from an aquatic biodiversity perspective, subject to standard construction best-practice measures to prevent pollution or accidental runoff.

Conclusion: An aquatic specialist will **not** be appointed as relevant aquatic features are not present on or near the site. However, the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) will be included as an I&AP during public participation.

3.5. Geotechnical Assessment

For this current environmental process a geotechnical assessment is not anticipated to be required as the planned weighbridge construction should not have significant geological impacts due to the surface level nature of the project. Additionally, the screening tool did not identify any geologically or geotechnically relevant sensitive features.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development, a Geotechnical Assessment is not planned at present.

3.6. Socio-Economic Assessment

It is not expected that this environmental process related to the proposed weighbridge construction will have a detrimental effect on the socio-economics of the area as it is anticipated that the project (upon completion) will greatly increase the safety and efficiency of the road system and will contribute to increased economic activity in the area by maintaining efficiency and continued operation of the weighbridge. Furthermore, the construction activities are expected to provide additional employment, and a continuation of the weighbridge operation will ensure employment for weighbridge personnel. Additionally, the screening tool did not identify any socio-economically relevant sensitive features.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development, a Socio-Economic Assessment is not planned at present.

3.7. Ambient Air Quality

At this stage of the project, it is not anticipated that the proposed project will have a major impact on ambient air quality (apart from construction) as an established weighbridge is currently present 600 – 1600 m south of the proposed site which constitutes existing infrastructure with an existing impact. This existing weighbridge will be demolished and rehabilitated and is expected to be replaced by the proposed weighbridge, therefore the operational impact can be considered as negligible. There is however the potential that construction and demolition activities will have an impact on ambient air quality. Additionally, the screening tool did not identify any socio-economically relevant sensitive features.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development, an Ambient Air Quality Assessment is not planned at present.

3.8. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Screening Tool: The report indicates the site's Archaeological and Cultural Heritage significance is of **Low** Sensitivity. The screening tool does not suggest an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment be completed; however the possibility exists that heritage features are located in close proximity to the proposed site.

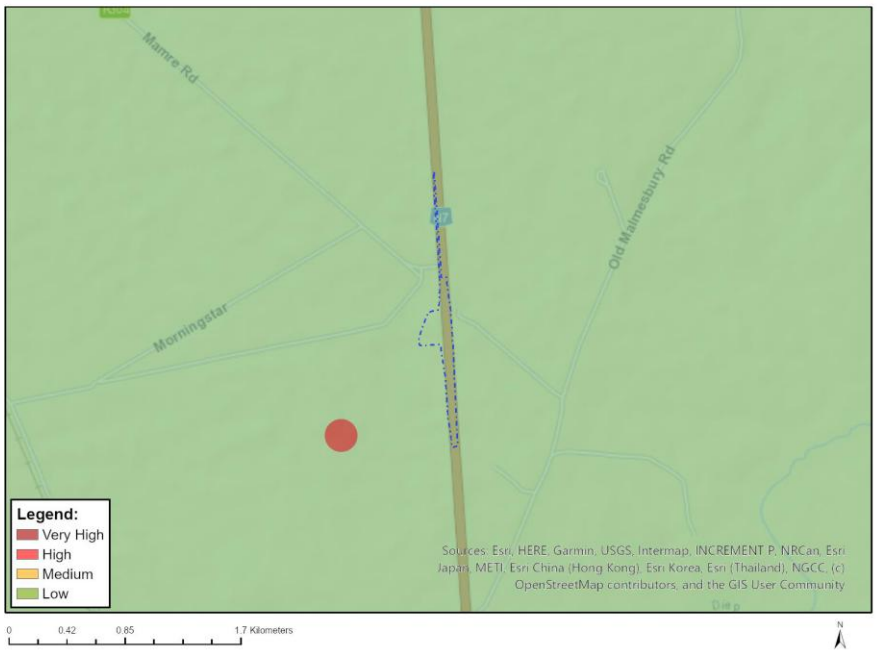

Figure 22: Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Figure 23.Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

Figure 24.Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Observation by the EAP:

The EAP did not note any evidence of heritage resources on site. However, the EAP's past experience of working in this area, indicates that to the north of the site, is a historical *Eucalyptus* sp. tree line, that will need to be taken into consideration.

An appropriately registered heritage and archaeological specialist will be appointed to undertake a site verification and confirm the way forward in terms of this theme.

Specialist Recommendation: Jayson Orton, the heritage specialist from ASHA Consulting, conducted a site inspection and provided a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) for Heritage Western Cape. Based on the NID information, the proposed project site falls under an application in accordance with Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA).

Alternative 5: One of the historic structures of the Koeberg Hotel still exists on the farm but has been renovated to serve as part of the landfill facility near the study area for all layouts. There are no other structures in close proximity to the study area. Additionally, the Battle of Blouberg site is situated to the west of the Vissershok area, around 5-7 km west of the study area.

According to the specialist, archaeological materials have been seen in the wider area, but none were seen on the day of the site visit. Isolated artefacts of **very low** cultural significance may still be present. Trees may need to be removed on the east side of the N7 to accommodate the offramp, and part of the grove of gum trees on the northern side of the weighbridge platform will also require removal. However, these are **minor impacts** and not a major concern, as the primary historical tree lines will mostly remain intact, except for the eastern edge of the N7.

According to the specialist findings overall, **no heritage impacts are anticipated**, with the exception to the few trees located within the study area that will need to be removed. Option 5 as proposed is acceptable in terms of heritage.

The archaeological sensitivity of the study area is assessed as **low**. Historical maps and aerial imagery indicate that a small farmstead developed in the area after approximately 1927, expanded modestly during the mid-20th century, and was subsequently removed by the early 2000s. One outbuilding associated with this farmstead still survives in the broader area, while another historic structure located approximately 390 m west of the proposed development footprint will not be affected by Alternatives 6 or 7.

A pedestrian archaeological survey recorded a scattered distribution of early 20th-century material remains, including ceramic fragments, glass, metal and shell. These artefacts are associated with the former farmstead and related domestic activities. Although a small number of ceramic fragments may be over 100 years old, the material is widely dispersed, lacks stratigraphic integrity, and has been disturbed by historical agricultural practices and infrastructure development. No intact or clearly defined archaeological sites were identified.

The archaeological remains are therefore considered to be of very low heritage significance, and potential impacts associated with Alternatives 6 and 7 are limited to the disturbance of low-value, dispersed artefacts. No further archaeological investigation is required. However, there is always a low possibility of encountering unmarked precolonial graves; should any human remains be uncovered during construction, these would be managed in accordance with the applicable chance-find procedures and heritage legislation

Conclusion: Based on the EAP and specialist findings, the Archaeological and Cultural heritage significance is verified as being of **low sensitivity** in accordance with the Screening Tool findings. It is maintained that the Heritage Western Cape (HWC) will be included as an I&AP during public participation, and the proposed project has approval from HWC, and the NID will be included in the BAR.

3.9. Palaeontology

The **Screening Tool** indicated that the site has a **Low** sensitivity rating, and no specific Palaeontology Impact Assessment will be conducted. Palaeontology will however be considered by the heritage and archaeological specialist during their assessment.

Figure 25: Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity – Layout 5

Figure 26.Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity – Layout 6

Figure 27.Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features for all layouts:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Features with a Low paleontological sensitivity

In conjunction with the above, the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRIS) PalaeoSensitivity Map for the proposed weighbridge site is included below as Figure 28 (with a key for the map in Table 4).

According to the PalaeoSensitivity the sites and larger area surrounding the site is **Blue** which is classified as **Low** - *no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required.*

Figure 28: SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map for the proposed weighbridge

Table 4: SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map key

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Observation by the EAP:

No heritage resources were identified, particularly resources of palaeontological importance. No outcrops were noted on site. It is noted that to the north of the site is row of *Eucalyptus* sp. trees, which indicated a key historical route (noted in the previous Basic Assessment undertaken for the Proposed Upgrade of Trunk Road 11/1 To Freeway Standards, from the Potsdam Interchange to the Melkbos Interchange (N7/1), Cape Town (DEADP Ref: 16/3/1/1/A1/37/3002/14).

An appropriately registered heritage and archaeological specialist (who will also consider palaeontological features) will be appointed to undertake a site verification and confirm the way forward in terms of this theme.

Specialist recommendation: Specialist Dr Jayson Orton conducted a NID and concluded that the proposed new weighbridge site location has historical structures of the historic Koeberg Hotel that still exists on the farm but has been renovated to form part of the landfill facility. There are no structures in close proximity to the study area. The Vissershok Farm is a very

important local heritage site but lies across the N7 and Diep River, some 3 km south-southeast of the study area. **No impacts are expected.**

The socio-economic benefits of the project outweigh its negligible impact on heritage, supporting full approval without the need for a Heritage Impact Assessment.

The paleontological sensitivity of the study area is assessed as very **low**. The underlying geology and depositional context indicate an extremely low likelihood of fossil preservation. No paleontological resources were identified during the field survey, and there is no evidence to suggest the presence of fossil-bearing deposits within the development footprint of Alternatives 6 or 7.

As a result, the probability of encountering paleontological material during construction is considered negligible. No further paleontological studies, mitigation measures or monitoring are required for either alternative

Conclusion: A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) has been submitted to the Heritage Western Cape for consideration.

Due to the evidence provided, it is proposed that the project may be considered from a paleontological perspective as the EAP recommends that the sensitivity from the Screening Tool be maintained as **low sensitivity**, and no further action to be taken.

Alternative 5: On the 21st of May 2025, Heritage Western Cape provided their final comment in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Western Cape Provincial Gazette 6061, Notice 298 of 2003. Their comment stated that the proposed project has approval from a heritage resources perspective and no further action under Section 28 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required. Heritage Western Cape (HWC) will be included as an I&AP during public participation.

3.10. Alternative 6 and 7: A NID has been submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC), and the application is currently under review, with the outcome still pending.Noise Impact

It is not anticipated that there will be an additional noise impact in the vicinity of the proposed site as it is located directly adjacent to the existing N7 national road and 600 - 1600 m north of the established Vissershok weighbridge. The likelihood does exist that there will be an increase in noise during the construction phase of the project, however no urban residences or noise sensitive features are located in close proximity to the site and no noise sensitive features will be triggered according to the Screening Tool, therefore this protocol is not relevant to the proposed project and it is expected that the noise impact will be negligible.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development, a Noise Impact Assessment is not planned at present.

3.11. Traffic Impact

The proposed weighbridge is expected to be constructed in order to cater for planned improvements to the N7 national road which will require the established weighbridge to move approximately 600 -1600 m north. These roadworks do not form part of this current SSVR environmental process, which only applies to the proposed new weighbridge, associated slipways and demolition and rehabilitation of the existing weighbridge. The planned road upgrades are expected to improve road safety and will streamline access to the N7 national road and can be seen as a major improvement to the current road system. It is accepted that the traffic impact was assessed as part of the larger roadworks programme for this section of the N7 national road.

Planned construction of the new weighbridge is not expected to have any major impact on traffic as the site is located next to the main N7 national road and should only affect traffic when the associated slipways are constructed and an increase in noise is not expected during the operational phase of the proposed weighbridge.

Conclusion: Due to the lack of relevant sensitive features and the nature if the proposed development, a Traffic Impact Assessment is not planned at present.

3.12. Civil Aviation

The **Screening Tool** indicates that the civil aviation impact is of **High** Sensitivity. This is due to the proximity of the Morningstar Airfield; however the proposed weighbridge does not obstruct the flight path of the airfield.

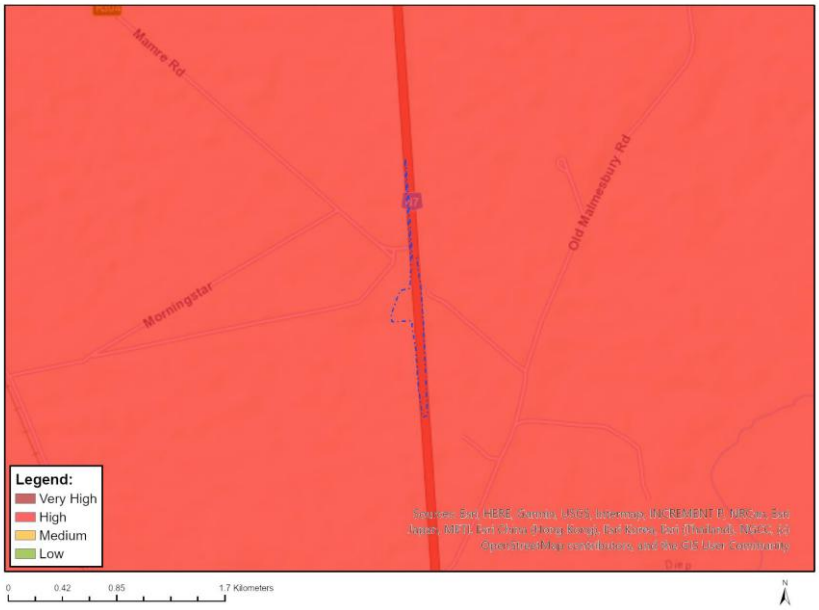

Figure 29: Civil Aviation Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Figure 30.Civil Aviation Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

Figure 31.Civil Aviation Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features for all layouts:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome
Medium	Between 15 and 35 km from a civil aviation radar
Medium	Between 15 and 35 km from a major civil aviation aerodrome

Note that neither weighbridge obstructs the airfield flight path and that the proposed weighbridge site is located approximately 600 – 1600

m north of the existing weighbridge.

Figure 32: Proposed weighbridge to Morningstar Airfield – All proposed layouts.

Observation by the EAP:

The Morningstar Airfield/aerodrome is located directly east of the N7 national road for Alternative 5, and Alternative 6 . For these Alternatives, the proposed weighbridge is located across the N7 and is not within the flight path of the airfield, nor will the proposed affect the airfield and therefore the proposed sensitivity should be regarded as negligible. Alternative 7 is north of the airstrip, within the flightpath. Comment on height restrictions will be sought from the airfield during PP.

Conclusion: It is the opinion of the EAP that no impacts on civil aviation areas were noted on the site, as such, no further action will be undertaken. A dedicated civil aviation assessment will **not be conducted** as the proposed development will not be located within the Morningstar Airfield flight path the proposed weighbridge will be located further north than the established weighbridge.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority and Morning Star Aeroclub will be included as I&APs and we will await their response with regards to requiring further specialist input.

3.13. Defence

The **Screening Tool** suggest that the defence theme is of **Medium** Sensitivity.

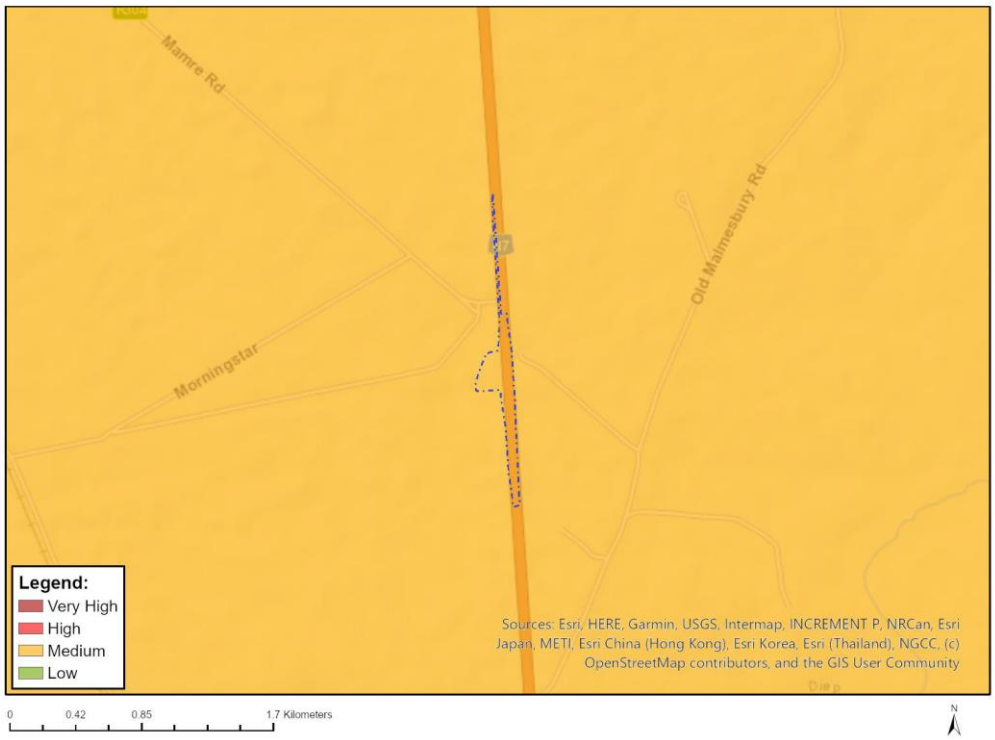

Figure 33: Defence Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Observation by the EAP: The proposed project is located within approximately 15.3 km of the Ikapa Military Base and 17.16 km of the Ysterplaat Air Force base.

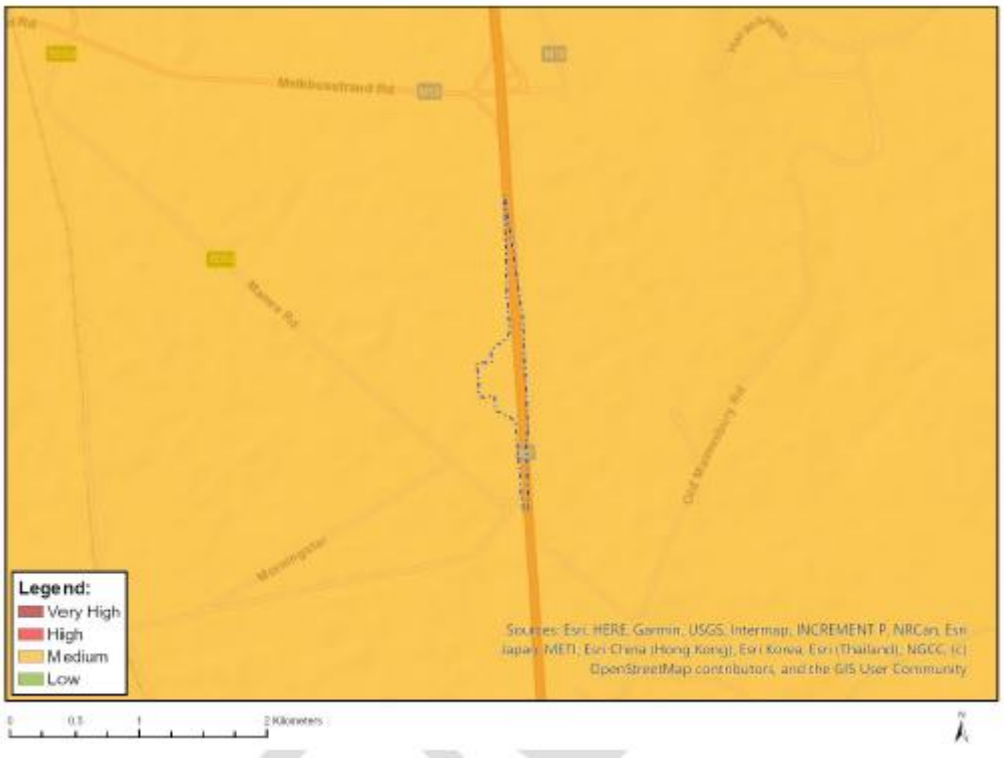

Figure 34.Defence Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

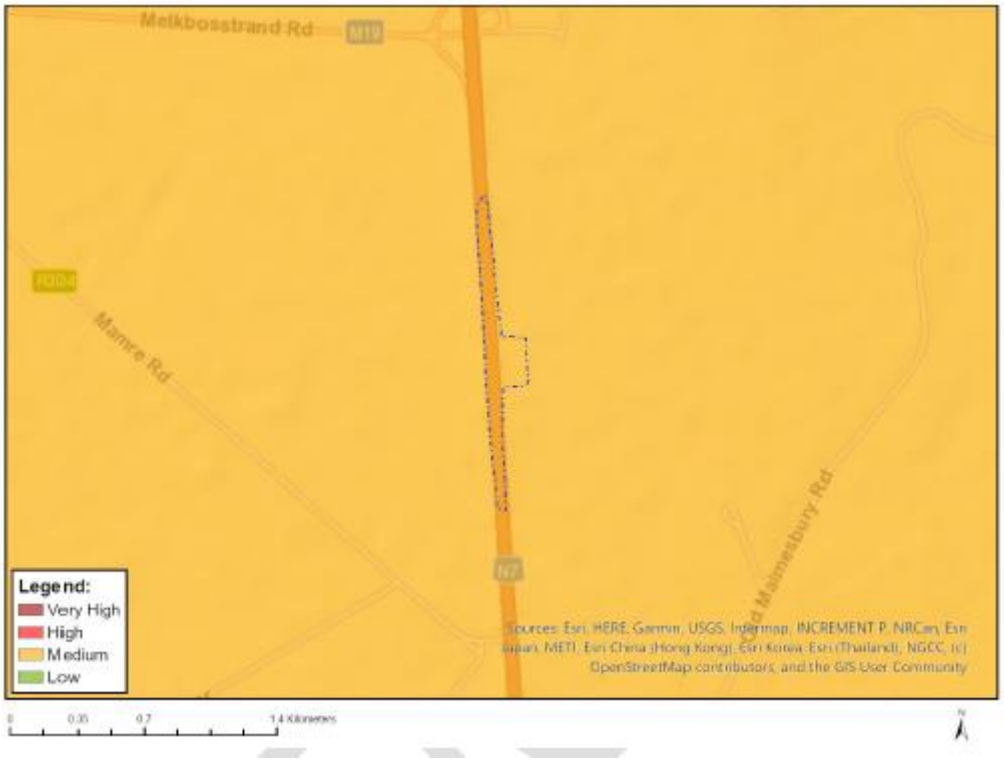

Figure 35.Defence Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features for all layouts:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Military and Defense Site

Alternative 6 and 7: The proposed project is located within approximately 17.12 km of the Ikapa Military Base and 19.3 km of the Ysterplaat Air Force base

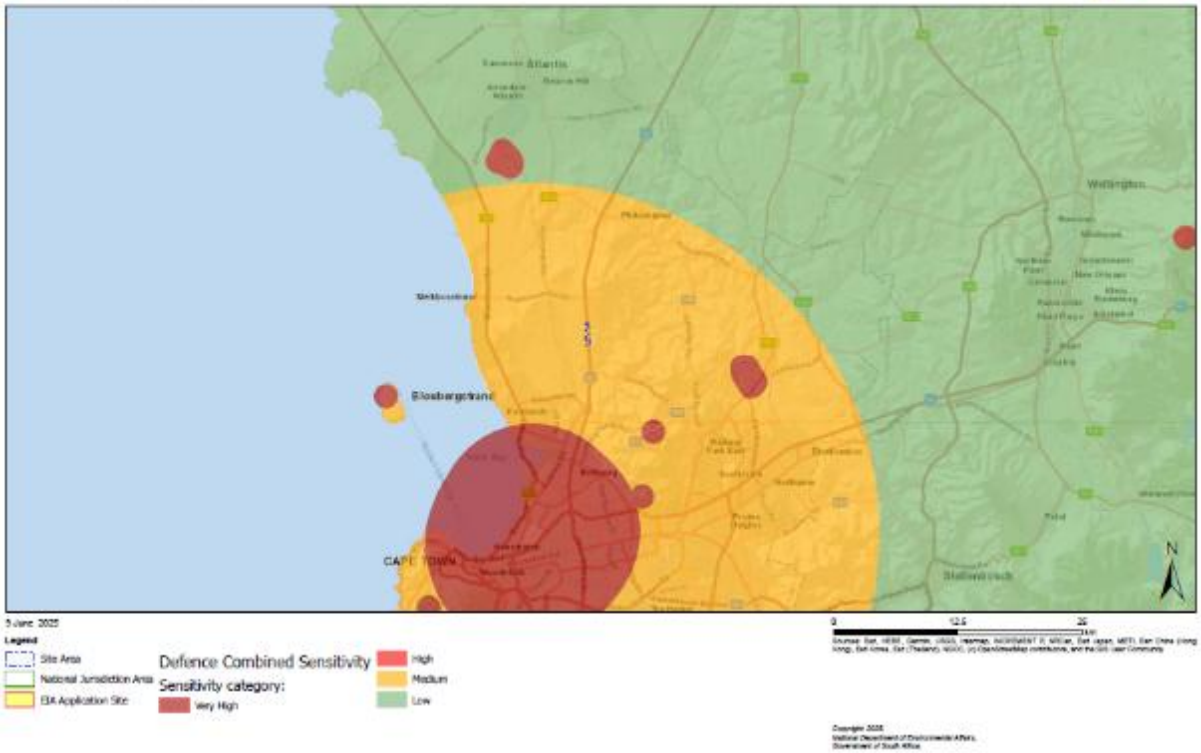

Figure 36. DFFE Screening Tool Map of the study area within Medium Sensitivity for Defence Theme (DFFE, 2025).

Due to the nature of the project, it involves a weighbridge infrastructure as part of a larger road development initiative. No anticipated impacts are expected in accordance with the medium defence theme in the area, and should be regarded as negligible.

Conclusion: No impacts on existing Defence areas were noted on the site; as such, no further action will be undertaken.

3.14. Plant Species

The **Screening Tool** indicated that the plant species theme is of **High** Sensitivity. The tool suggests that a Plant Species Assessment should be conducted.

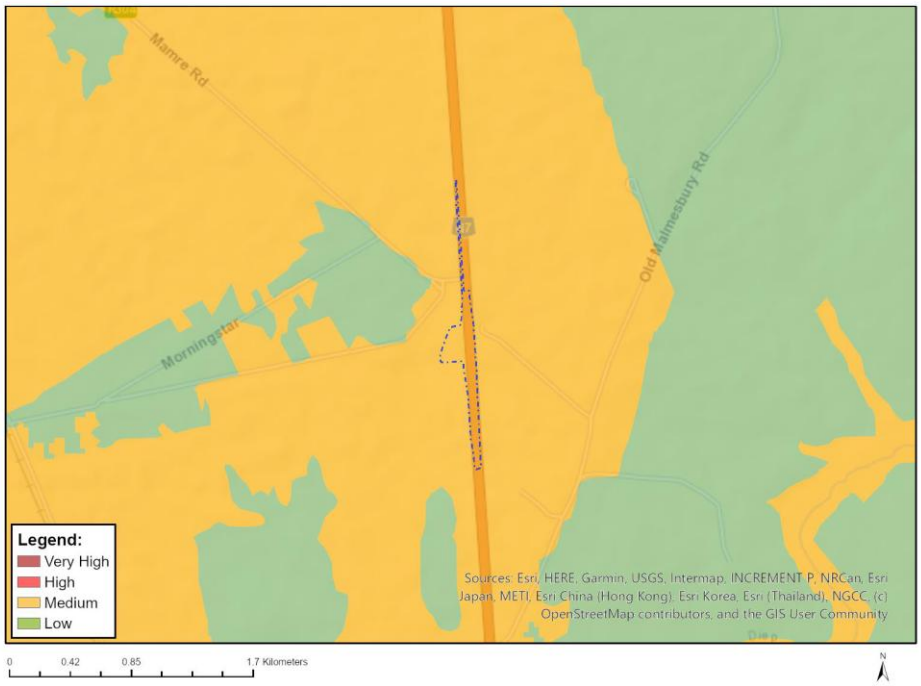

Figure 37: Plant Species Theme Map – Layout 5

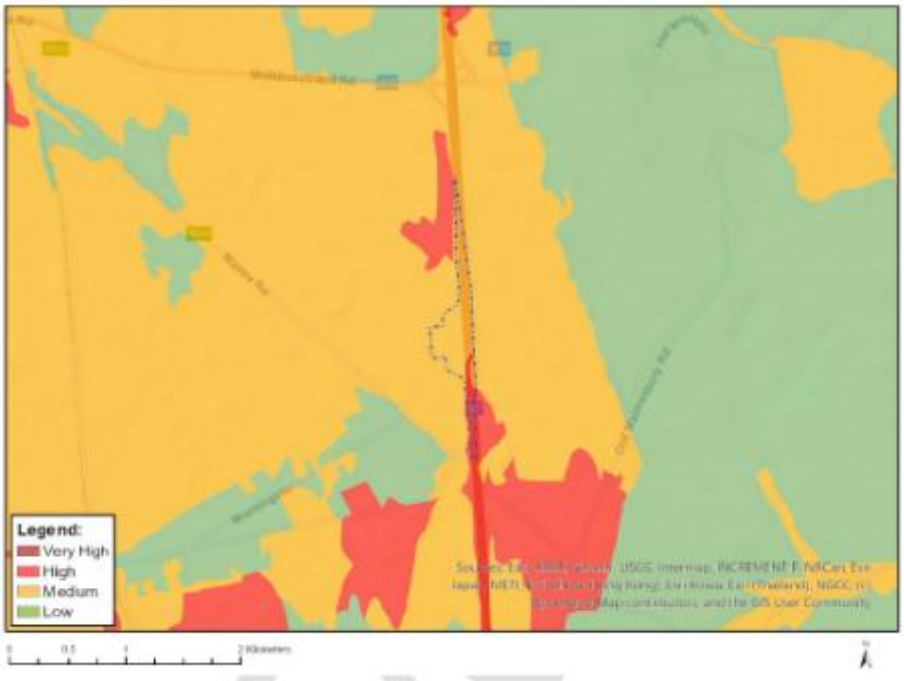

Figure 38. Plant Species Theme Map – Layout 6

Figure 39. Plant Species Theme Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features for all alternatives:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Screening Tool Plant Species Identified			
High	*Leucadendron thymifolium*	Identified within the footprint	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus amoenus*	*Not identified in the INaturalist database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus dilutus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus filicaulis*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus leptaleon*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus peacockiae*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus scaber*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus sociorum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus spiniformis*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus stenopetalus*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus stenus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus*	*Not identified in the*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
	tenuifolius	*database*	
Medium	*Antimima mucronata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Antimima aristulata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Erepsia patula*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Erepsia ramosa*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cleretum clavatum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Ruschia diversifolia*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Ruschia geminiflora*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Ruschia tecta*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Drosanthemum hispifolium*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cephalophyllum parviflorum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lessertia argentea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Amphithalea ericifolia subsp. erecta*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Xiphotheca lanceolata*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Psoralea glaucina*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Indigofera psoraloides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus acanthophylla*	Identified within the footprint	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus aculeata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus araneosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus lotoides subsp. lotoides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus muraltioides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus retroflexa subsp. bicolor*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Medium	*Aspalathus varians*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Rafnia lancea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Rafnia angulata subsp. humilis*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Rafnia angulata subsp. ericifolia*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lebeckia plukenetiana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Podalyria argentea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Podalyria microphylla*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Podalyria sericea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Thesium ecklonianum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucadendron cinereum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucadendron lanigerum var. lanigerum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucadendron levisanus*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucadendron stellare*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucadendron thymifolium*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucospermum hypophyllocarpodendron subsp. canaliculatum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucospermum hypophyllocarpodendron subsp. hypophyllocarpodendron*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Protea burchellii*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Diastella proteoides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Serruria aemula*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Serruria brownii*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Medium	*Serruria trilopha*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Microdon capitatus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Manulea corymbosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pentameris bachmannii*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pentameris pholiuroides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Anthospermum ericifolium*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lobostemon capitatus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Echiostachys incanus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Echiostachys spicatus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Hesperantha spicata subsp. spicata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 14*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 267*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 631*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 533*	Identified within the footprint	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 878*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Geissorhiza brehmii*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza furva*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza humilis*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza monanthos*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza radians*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza setacea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Geissorhiza erosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Ixia*	*Not identified in the*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
	monadelpha	*database*	
Medium	*Sensitive species 881*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 683*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 560*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 816*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 1*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 830*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 1140*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 995*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 863*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Pauridia alba*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pauridia canaliculata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pauridia pygmaea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pseudalthenia aschersoniana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Oxalis falcatula*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Oxalis natans*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Erica bolusiae var. bolusiae*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Stylapterus fruticulosus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Hermannia procumbens subsp. procumbens*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Hermannia rugosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 769*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 222*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sebaea rara*	*Not identified in the*	Not identified by the specialist

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
		database	
Medium	*Sensitive species 444*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 493*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 478*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 756*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Adenogramma rigida*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Identified within Inaturalist*
Medium	*Wachendorfia brachyandra*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Hessea cinnamomea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 133*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Isolepis inconspicua*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Isolepis venustula*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Trianoptiles solitaria*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cannomois arenicola*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Elegia prominens*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Hypodiscus rugosus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Restio duthieae*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Restio micans*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Restio impolitus*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Identified within the project footprint*
Medium	*Restio papillosus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Anisodontea biflora*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cynanchum zeyheri*	*Not identified in the database*	
Medium	*Sensitive species 985*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 120*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Medium	*Sensitive species 266*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Pterygodium cruciferum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pterygodium inversum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Pterygodium microglossum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Gnidia spicata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Passerina paludosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lachnaea uniflora*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Metalasia capitata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Metalasia octoflora*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Marasmodes fasciculata*	Identified within the footprint	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Steirodiscus tagetes*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Senecio foeniculoides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Senecio cadiscus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cotula eckloniana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Athanasia capitata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Athanasia rugulosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Arctotis angustifolia*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 1042*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Arctotheca forbesiana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Heterorhachis aculeata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Diosma dichotoma*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Agathosma corymbosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Agathosma glabrata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Medium	*Adenandra villosa subsp. biseriata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Macrostylis cassiopoides subsp. dregeana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Macrostylis villosa subsp. villosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cliffortia ericifolia*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cliffortia hirta*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Limonium depauperatum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Limonium purpuratum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Muraltia brevicornu*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Muraltia decipiens*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Muraltia macropetala*	*Identified within the footprint*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Muraltia mitior*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 262*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 1135*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 158*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 1265*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 616*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Wurmbea hiemalis*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Wurmbea inusta*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Phylica harveyi*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Phylica plumosa var. squarrosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Phylica stenopetala var.*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
	stenopetala		
Medium	*Phylica strigulosa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Phylica thunbergiana*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Ezoloba macrocarpa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Codonorhiza azurea*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Skiatophytum skiatophytoides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus debilis*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lampranthus glaucus*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Drosanthemum striatum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Argyrolobium velutinum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Xiphotheca reflexa*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Psoralea alata*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus lebeckioides*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus recurva*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aspalathus tylodes*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Aponogeton fugax*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Leucospermum rodolentum*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Protea scolymocephala*	*Not identified in the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 593*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 335*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 599*	Not identified in the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Elegia squamosa*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Elegia verreauxii*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
Medium	*Restio paludosus*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Restio rigoratus*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 500*	Not identified within the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Sensitive species 654*	Not identified within the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Lachnaea capitata*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Lachnaea grandiflora*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cotula pusilla*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Sensitive species 1225*	Not identified within the database	Not identified by the specialist
Medium	*Caesia sabulosa*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Cliffortia acockii*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specialist*
Medium	*Perdicium capense*	*Not identified within the database*	*Not identified by the specilaist*
Identified within the iNaturalist database			
-	*Acacia Saligna*		*Identified within the development footprint.*
-	*Carpobrotus Edulis*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Aspalathus Ternata*		*Identified within the development footprint*
-	*Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis*		*Identified within the development footprint*
-	*Seriphium Plumosum*		*Identified within the development footprint*
-	*Phylica Cephalantha*		*Identified within the development footprint.*
-	*Oxalis Luteola*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Wachendorfia Paniculata*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*metalasia densa*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Gaudium Laevigatum*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Acacia Cyclops*		*Identified within the development footprint*
-	*Echium Plantagineum*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Trichocephalus*		*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
	Stipularis		
-	*Pelargonium Myrrhifolium*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Wachendorfia Multiflora*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Serruria Fasciflora*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Passerina Corymbosa*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Cliffortia Juniperina*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Erica mammosa*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Gladiolus Carinatus*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Struthiola Ciliata*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Senecio Pterophorus*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Searsia Laevigata*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Drosera trinervia*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Senecio Burchellii*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Tritoniopsis Antholyza*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Lampranthus Explanatus*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Genus Helichrysum*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Watsonia Meriana*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Genus Ficinia*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Crossyne Guttata*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Sparaxis Bulbifera*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Asparagus Rubicundus*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Agathosma Imbricata*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Geissorhiza Tenella*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Monopsis Debilis*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Aristea Dichotoma*		*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
-	*Erica Ferrea*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Eriospermum Capense*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Euphorbia genistoides*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Micranthus Tubulosus*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Muraltia Ericoides*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Moraea fugax*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Genus Tetragonia*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Genus Lachenalia*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Genus Trachyandra*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Diosma Oppositifolia*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Staberoha Distachyos*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Senecio Erosus*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Othonna Gymnodiscus*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Ixia Dubia*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Haemanthus Pubescens*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Moraea neglecta*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Lampranthus densifolius*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Manulea Rubra*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Othonna Undulosa*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Pharnaceum Elongatum*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Phylica imberbis*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Senecio Arenarius*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Ifloga Ambigua*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Genus Thamnochortus*		*Identified within the project footprint.*
-	*Centella tridentata*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Cenchrus caudatus*		*Not identified by the specialist*

Sensitivity	Feature(s)	iNaturalist	Likelihood of occurrence (Specialist)
-	*Genus Carissa*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Genus Roella*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Babiana Fragrans*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Restio Sieberi*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Staberoha Cernua*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Thamnochortus Obtusus*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Thamnochortus Punctatus*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Willdenowia Arescens*		*Not identified by the specialist*
-	*Salvia lanceolata*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Uromycladium Morrisii*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Serruria decipiens*		*Not identified by specialist*
-	*Cynodon dactylon*		*Identified by the specialist*
-	*Genus Anthospermum*		*Not identified by specialist*

The following descriptions provide insight into the habitat and distribution of floral species with High sensitivity, indicated by the DFFE screening tool report:

High – Aves – *Leucadendron thymifolium*

- Common Name: Malmesbury conebush
- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Habitat: This species has already lost more than 80% of its habitat to crop cultivation, and only small fragments remain mainly in Lowland shale and alluvial renosterveld (Manning & Goldblatt, 2012)
- Distribution: The population of this formerly widespread species has been fragmented by extensive habitat loss. It is endemic to South African, with main provincial distribution in the Western Cape, ranging from Piketberg to Tygerberg and Worcester (Manning & Goldblatt, 2012)

Furthermore, according to the South African National Biodiversity Institute Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, and from Figure 40 it is evident that the site is located within the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos vegetation type.

This vegetation type is a critically endangered vegetation type that occurs only within the city of Cape Town.

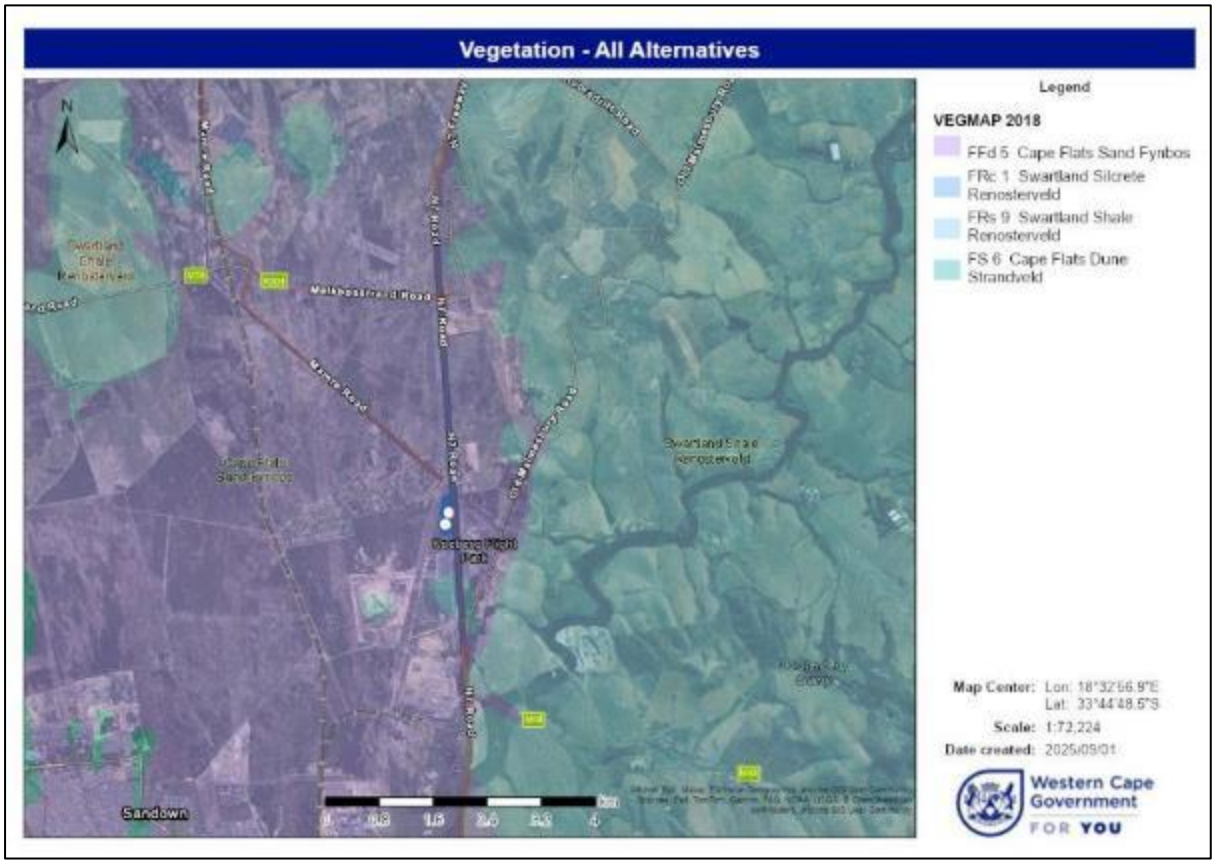

Figure 40: Vegetation map for all layoutts, (SANBI VegMap, 2018)

Observation by the EAP:

Multiple plant species were seen on the day of the site visit, with the majority of the proposed site being covered by Alien Invasive Vegetation (AIV). Walking in a northerly direction from the existing weighbridge towards the proposed site it could be seen that the land behind the fence line was infested with AIV (Figure 41), and upon entering the proposed site it was further evident that various patches of AIV are present within the site but that some Indigenous vegetation is also present in between patches of AIV (Figure 42 and Figure 43).

Figure 41: AIV coverage on the fence line and within the anticipated weighbridge area

Figure 42: Vegetation coverage within the anticipated weighbridge area.

Figure 43: Shrubs observed on the day of site assessment.

Due to the fact that some indigenous vegetation is present in between larger patches of AIV, and the fact that the site sensitivity is high and contains a critically endangered vegetation type, an appropriately registered SACNASP Professional - botanical specialist will be appointed to undertake a site verification and confirm the way forward in terms of this theme.

Specialist Recommendation: Nick Heleme, a botanical specialist from Nick Heleme Botanical Surveys, prepared a botanical assessment report on May 29, 2023, which was updated on March 26, 2025. The original designs (Layouts 1 and 2 were located in an area of high botanical sensitivity within the proposed project footprint.

However, Layouts 3, 4, and the 5 layout have been designed to avoid the high-sensitivity areas. Thelayout has been assessed to have a low to medium negative impact on botanical aspects, both before and after mitigation measures. No specific botanical mitigation is required for Layouts 3 and 5 layouts, and the rehabilitation should emphasise the removal of woody and alien vegetation in the adjacent highly sensitive areas, as seen in the image below (Figure 44).

The specialist concluded that the study site consists of areas that are moderately to fairly degraded, specifically within the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos ecosystem. Three Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) were identified near, but not within, the proposed study area.

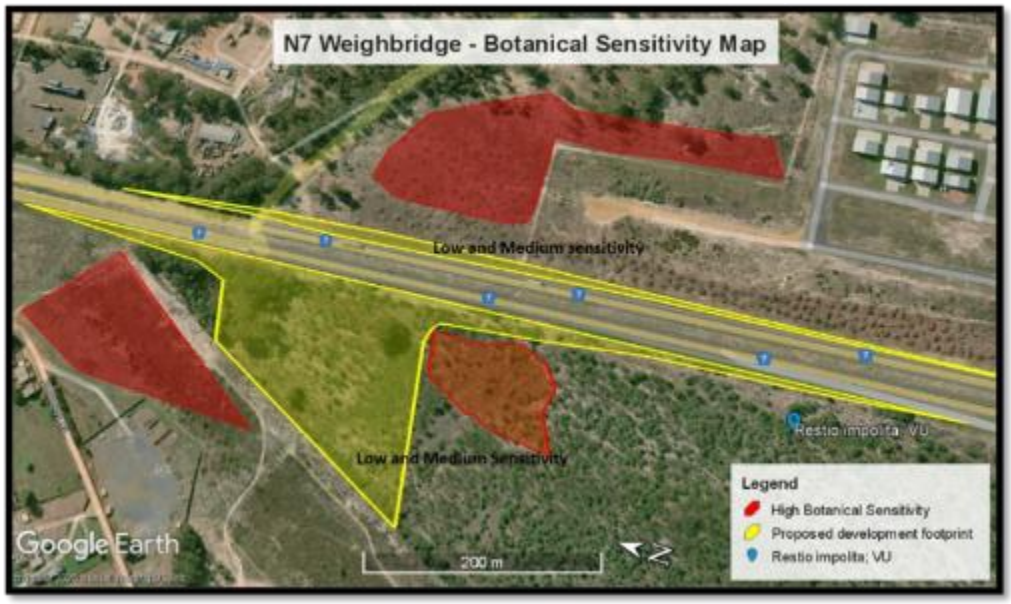

Figure 44. The proposed development footprint avoiding high botanical sensitivity.

The two new layout alternatives (Alternative 6 and Alternative 7) were assessed by the botanical specialist during a site visit undertaken in December 2025. Both sites were found to be heavily disturbed and degraded, with very low indigenous plant diversity and poor ecological functioning.

Alternative 6 is located within a previously disturbed area that includes an Eskom servitude which is regularly brush-cut and maintained. Indigenous vegetation cover is low (less than 20%) and the site is dominated by alien invasive species and ruderal grasses. Only common, disturbance-tolerant indigenous species were recorded. No plant Species of Conservation Concern were observed, and none are considered likely to occur within the proposed development footprint.

Alternative 7 has also been extensively disturbed and is currently used for grazing. Indigenous vegetation cover is very low (less than 10%), with alien invasive species strongly dominant across the site. The few indigenous species present are widespread, disturbance-associated taxa. No Species of Conservation Concern were recorded or are expected to occur within this area.

Based on the extent of historical disturbance, low indigenous species richness, dominance of alien invasive vegetation, and absence of Species of Conservation Concern, both Alternative 6 and Alternative 7 are assessed as having a **low** overall botanical sensitivity.

Conclusion: Based on the EAPs' outcomes and the specialist findings, Layout 3 was the development layout from a Low to Medium negative botanical impact, based on the botanical assessment report on May 29, 2023. From the updated report on March 26, 2025, Layout 5 is proposed to be Neutral to low negative impact and would be a preferable Layout from a botanical perspective.

Based on the updated botanical assessment undertaken in late 2025, Alternatives 6 and 7 were assessed by the botanical specialist and found to be located entirely within heavily disturbed and degraded areas of low botanical sensitivity. Both alternatives are dominated by alien invasive and disturbance-tolerant species, with very low indigenous plant diversity, poor ecological functioning, and no Species of Conservation Concern recorded or considered likely to occur. As a result, the specialist concluded that Alternatives 6 and 7 would

result in low negative botanical impacts, both before and after mitigation, and are therefore considered acceptable from a botanical perspective.

Additionally, CapeNature has been included as an I&AP during the public participation process.

3.15. Terrestrial Biodiversity

The **Screening Tool** suggest that the Terrestrial Biodiversity theme is of a **Very High** sensitivity and that a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment should be conducted.

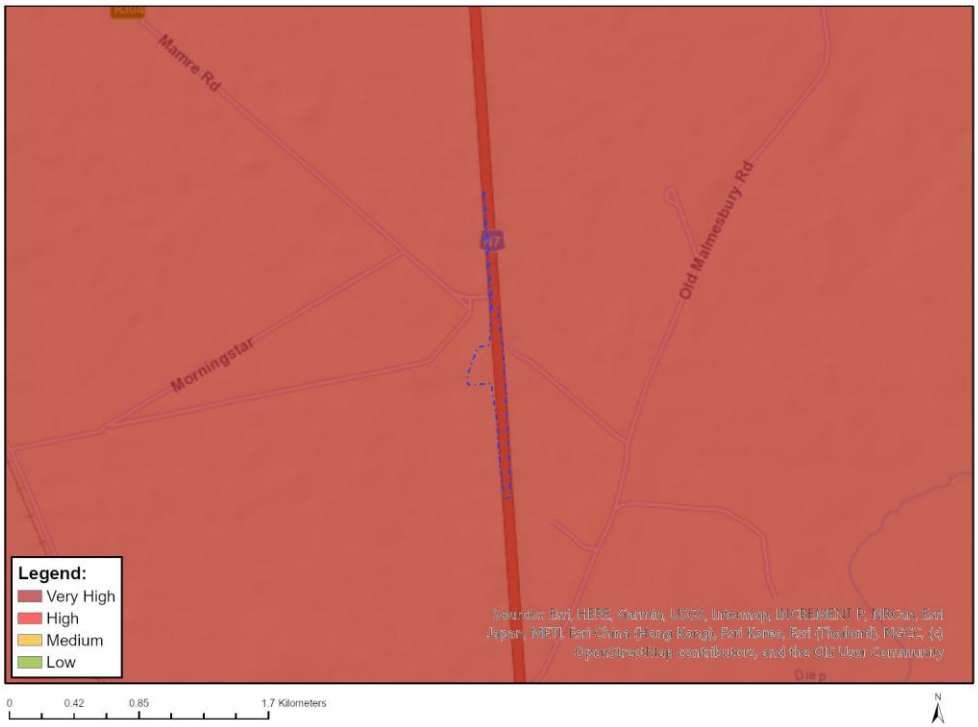

Figure 45: Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 5

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA 2: Restore from plantation or high density IAP
Very High	CBA 2: Terrestrial (see CT data)
Very High	CBA 1: Terrestrial (see CT data)
Very High	CR_Cape Flats Sand Fynbos
Very High	ESA 2: Restore from plantation or high density IAP

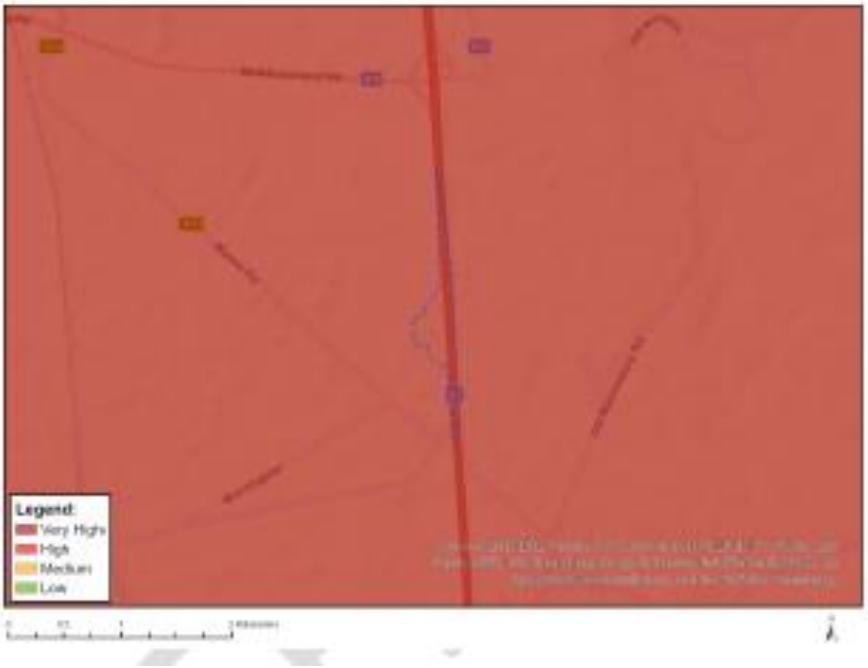

Figure 46.Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 6

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	CBA 1b
Very High	CBA 1c
Very High	ESA 2
Very High	CR_Cape Flats Sand Fynbos

Figure 47. Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity Map – Layout 7

Sensitivity Features

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	CBA 1a
Very High	CBA 1c
Very High	ESA 2
Very High	CR_Cape Flats Sand Fynbos

The following data pertains to all site layouts that have been considered:

All examined layouts are located within the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos vegetation, where layout 4 also intercepts Swartlands Shale Renosterveld vegetation. (**Figure 40**).

Both vegetation types are regarded as Critically Endangered vegetation types. Most of the surrounding properties have been developed, and very little natural vegetation remains in the vicinity of the sites.

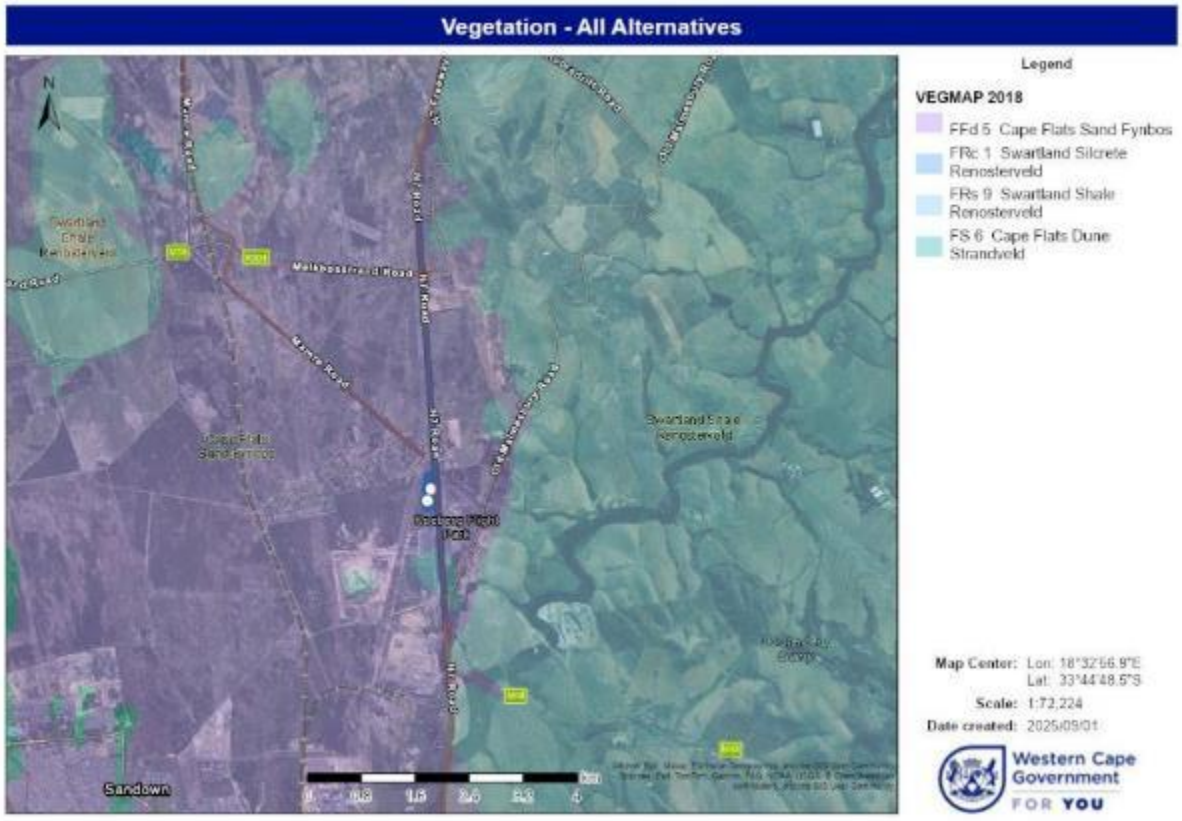

Figure 48: National Vegetation Map 2024, featuring all layouts examined (Cape Farm Mapper, 2025).

Multiple plant species were seen on the day of the site visit, with most of the proposed site being covered by Alien Invasive Vegetation (AIV). Walking in a northerly direction from the existing weighbridge towards the proposed site it could be seen that the land behind the fence line was infested with AIV (**Figure 41**), and upon entering the proposed site it was further evident that various patches of AIV are present within the site but that some indigenous vegetation is also present in between patches of AIV).

Figure 49: AIV coverage on the fence line and within the anticipated weighbridge area.

Figure 50: Vegetation coverage within the anticipated weighbridge area.

Figure 51: Shrubs were observed on the day of the site assessment.

Based on the desktop study conducted on 20/08/202410/01/2025, the site layout intercepts ESA 2, CBA 1 & 2: Aquatic and Terrestrial. However, the site layout 5 does exclude highly sensitive botanical value delineated by the botanical specialist Nick Helmes' original Botanical Report dated 29/05/2023 and updated on the 26/03/2025.

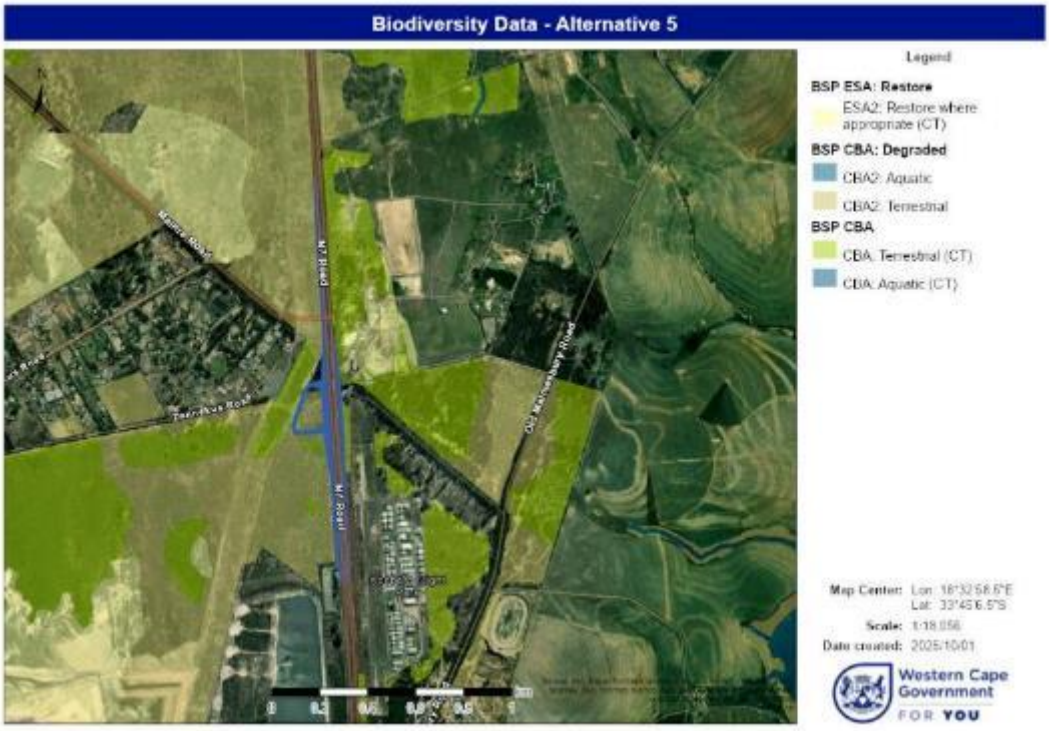

Figure 52. The proposed Layout 5 layout - Critical Biodiversity and Ecological Support Areas. (Cape Farm Mapper, 2025).

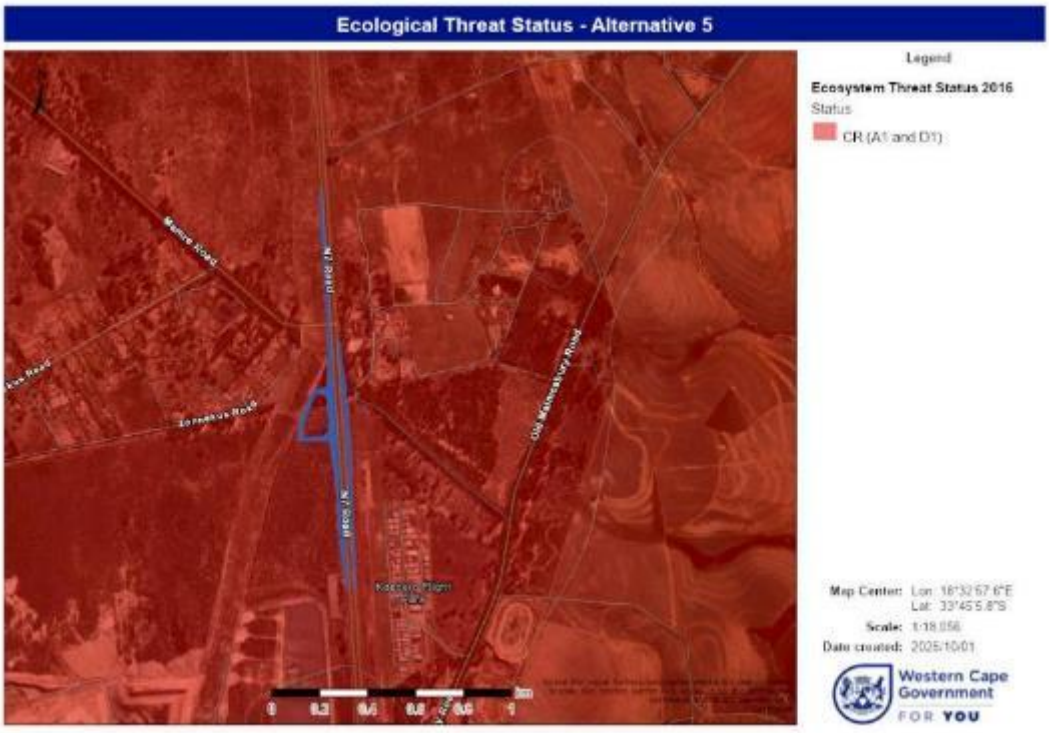

Figure 53. The proposedlayout, Layout 5 Ecological Threat Status. (Cape Farm Mapper, 2025).

The proposed layout 5 is located within Cape Flats Sand Fynbos that is regarded as Critically Endangered.

Alternatives 6 and 7: Due to the recently mapped ecological corridor that City of Cape Town has identified, alternative layouts 6 and 7 were designed. These layouts are placed further north and are located on RE/141 Morningstar. Based on the desktop information, Alternatives 6 and 7 are both located on mapped Critically Endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos.

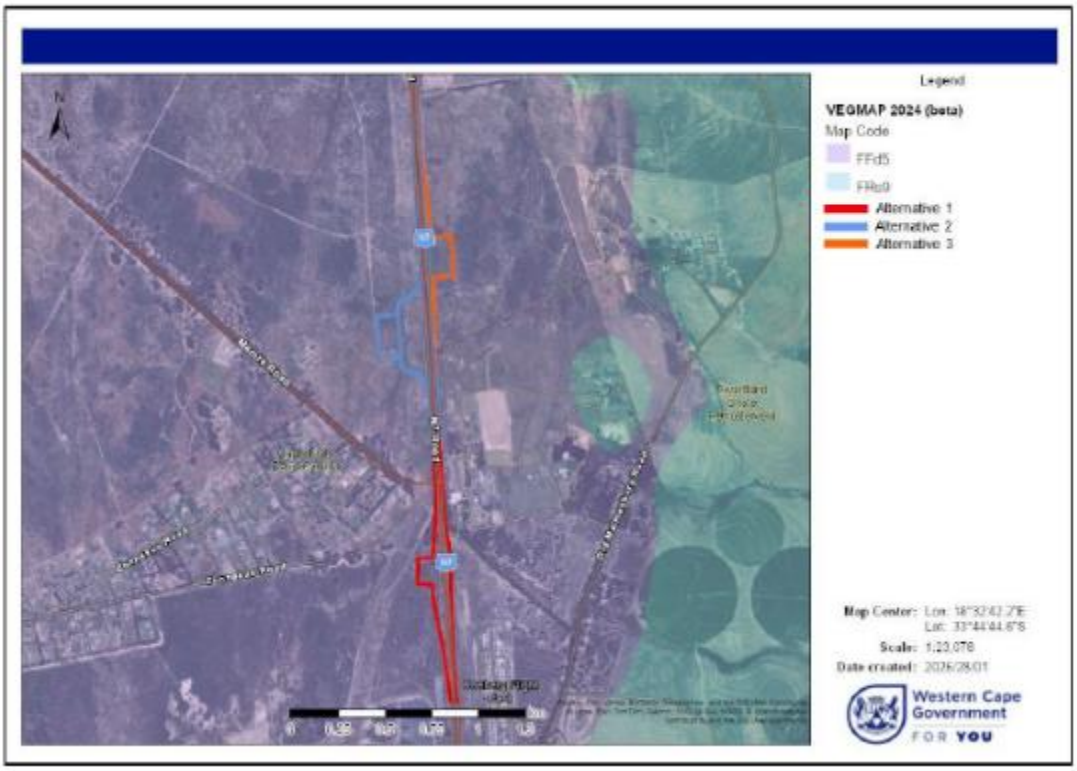

Figure 54. Mapped vegetation types based on Alternative 5, 6 and 7 and the locality orientation of all alternatives (Visser, 2026).

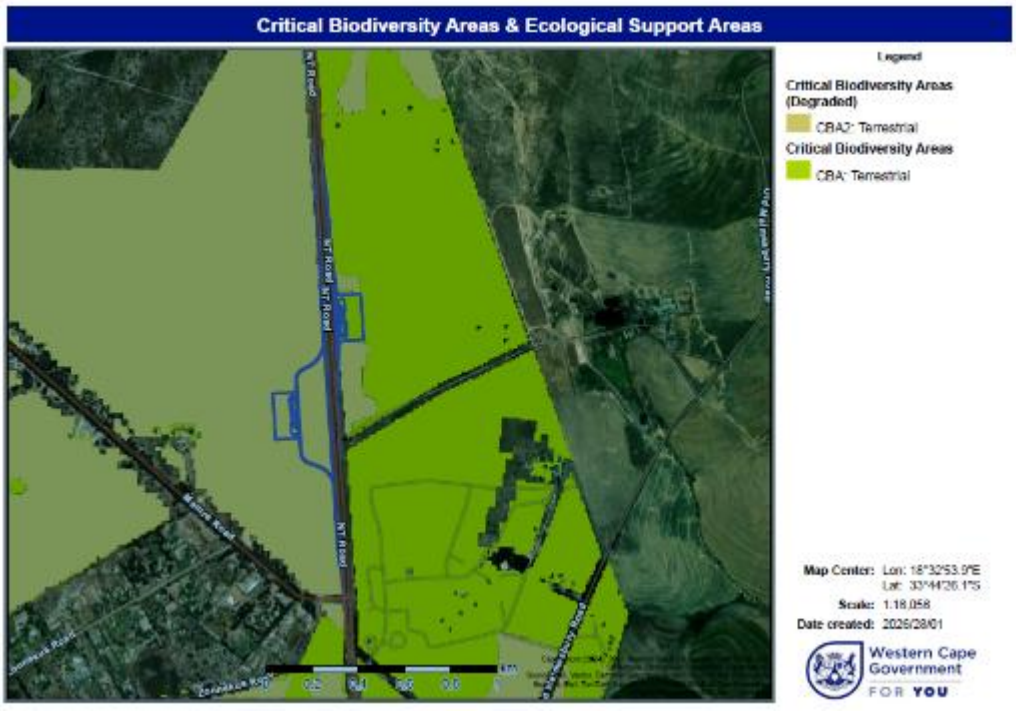

Figure 55. The proposed layouts 6 and 7 - Critical Biodiversity and Ecological Support Areas. (Cape Farm Mapper, 2026).

Alternatives 6 and 7: The proposed layout 6 is located within mapped CBA 2: terrestrial, while alternative 7 is located within mapped CBA 1: Terrestrial/.

Observation on Site - by the EAP:
Alternative layout 5 was assessed and some animal species (listed under the Animal Species Theme) and various plant species (listed under the Plant Species Theme) were seen on site, however the majority of the site is covered by AIV and only a few patches of indigenous vegetation (which provides suitable habitat to indigenous animal species) is present on site with the existing N7 national road located directly east of the site.

During the EAP site visit, it was noted that Alternative 6 is situated within a 400kV Eskom servitude and is regularly maintained. However, the vegetation further into the proposed weighbridge site, as well as that of Alternative 7, is heavily infested with alien invasive species, such as Port Jackson.

It is not anticipated that endangered ecosystem features are relevant to the proposed site, however due to the presence of some indigenous vegetation and the desktop background information presented above, a registered SACNASP terrestrial ecologist was appointed for all proposed sites.

Specialist Recommendation: Botanical specialist Nick Helme, of Nick Helme Surveys assessed the terrestrial biodiversity of the proposed study area and all the layouts proposed in a botanical assessment report dated 29 May 2023. The specialist has concluded that Layout 3 was the development layout from a Low to Medium negative botanical impact, based on the botanical assessment report on May 29, 2023. From the updated report on March 26, 2025, Layout 5 is proposed to be Neutral to low negative impact.

All of the proposed Layouts are located within a mapped Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve that forms part of the protected and Conservation Areas Database.

Figure 56. Mapped Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve. (Cape Farm Mapper, 2025).

In accordance with the specialist Nick Helme, a formally Protected Area has been demarcated by the City of Cape Town as seen in the image below.

Figure 57. The City of Cape Town BioNet data, layout 5 (Helme, 2023).

A portion of the proposed weighbridge road infrastructure will be located east of the N7, just north of the Morningstar airfield. This development will encroach approximately 10 meters into the designated Protected Area known as the Van Schoorsdrift Conservation. The project requires this encroachment to facilitate the widening and lengthening of the road, allowing

for better traffic accommodation in conjunction with the new weighbridge. The protected area forms part of the CoCT Terrestrial Biodiversity Network, with an SDF category Core 1: Protected and Conserved.

Nick Helme compiled his Botanical Assessment Report on December 1, 2025, that includes evaluations of Alternatives 6 and 7. According to Nick's findings, both Alternatives 6 and 7 are more favourable regarding botanical assessments, as the proposed sites show no evidence of SCCs. Additionally, both sites are considered disturbed and infested with alien plant species.

Overall, the proposed layouts for Alternatives 6 and 7 would result in **low** negative botanical impacts, both before and after mitigation. Therefore, these alternatives are slightly preferred for development.

From the terrestrial biodiversity perspective from Dr Visser of Blue Skies Research concluded that overall, none of the habitats on the site currently harbour any populations of faunal SCC, and furthermore exist in a degraded state. As such, the entire site is retrieved as having a "Very low" Site Ecological Importance where minimisation mitigation is acceptable and allowing for development activities of medium to high impact without restoration activities being required. The habitats and animal species present on the site do not play a significant role in the biodiversity or ecological patterns and processes within the surrounding area. Therefore, the loss of these habitats and species is unlikely to negatively impact local, regional, or national biodiversity goals. From a biodiversity standpoint, there is no reason to prevent the proposed development from moving forward under any of the suggested layouts.

According to the Terrestrial Faunal and Avifaunal Specialist Study conducted in February 2026, Dr. Jacobus Visser, the specialist, confirmed that the vegetation types at Alternatives 6 and 7 are situated in areas devoid of natural vegetation elements. Both sites are in open and degraded conditions due to historical land use in the region. Although the impact is expected to be of "**Low**".
Conclusion: Based on the specialists' outcomes and the EAP's perspective, the proposed development should be approved. SANBI and CapeNature are included as I&AP's as part of the Public Participation processes.

4. SUMMARY OF APPLICABLE SPECIALIST STUDIES

Approximately 4 specialist studies will be undertaken.

Specialist assessment	Applicability	Assessment Protocol
Agricultural Compliance Statement	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

Specialist assessment	Applicability	Assessment Protocol
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	A NID has been submitted for Alternatives 6 and 7 and ROD received for the project area for Alternative 5, and HWC has also been included in the Public Participation process	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Palaeontology Impact Assessment		https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Noise Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf
Traffic Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Geotechnical Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Socio-Economic Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Ambient Air Quality Impact Assessment	No	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Plant Species Assessment	Yes	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
Animal Species Assessment	Yes (as part of Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment Compliance Statement)	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

5. CONCLUSION

From the findings of this report, SES proposes that the below recommended specialist inputs, will be sufficient to address the site sensitivities:

- Agricultural Compliance Statement
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage (and Palaeontological) Statement and NID
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statment
- Animal & Plant Species Compliance Statement

The aforementioned relevant specialist assessments will be undertaken and will contribute to the environmental assessment. Following consultation with the competent authority, additional assessments may be advised and undertaken.

All assessments will be undertaken in line with the protocols as promulgated for the respective themes. The requirements of the protocols have been incorporated into the Terms of References of the various specialists.