

Postal	PO Box 26, Porterville, 6810
Physical	72 Voortrekker Street, Porterville, 6810
Website	www.capenature.co.za
Enquiries	Ismat Adams
Telephone	0870873188
Email	iadams@capenature.co.za
Reference	SSD14/2/6/1/4/N_N7 waybridge
Date	07 October 2025

Sharples Environmental Services CC (SES)

Via email: betsy@sescs.net

Attention: Betsy Ditcham

Dear Betsy

RE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE N7 VISSERSHOK WEIGHBRIDGE ON FARM 153 VISSERSHOK OUTSPAN, MORNING STAR 25/141 AND MORNING STAR RE/141 (C1038: UPGRADING OF TRI1/1), CITY OF CAPE TOWN MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA&DP ref: 16/3/3/1/A1/41/3042/25

Herewith comment on this application.

- I. Based on the botanical/terrestrial and faunal assessments provided the following is understood:
 - I.1 The botanical specialist has assessed the majority of the development footprint to be low-medium botanical sensitivity with moderate rehabilitation potential due to changes in soil chemistry from alien vegetation infestation and past soil disturbance, with one area high botanical sensitivity within the project footprint that is proposed to be avoided by considering different layout options. The botanical specialist has also assessed the area east of the N7 at the road reserve that is highly degraded and low-medium botanical sensitivity. The botanical specialist has recommended layouts that avoid the high botanical sensitivity area, which would translate to low-medium residual impact on vegetation. No botanical species of conservation concern were found within the project footprint, but outside the project footprint.
 - I.2 The faunal specialist has also noted the degraded nature of the habitat on site, apart from the high botanical sensitivity area. The degraded habitat on site has also contributed to depauperate faunal component of the site in mammals, reptiles, insects and avifauna. It is noted that faunal SCC as indicated in the DFFE screening tool is unlikely to breed on site or be present on site considering the lack of appropriate habitat as indicated by the faunal specialist. The faunal specialist has assessed all areas within the project footprint as very low SEI.
 - I.3 The project footprint encompasses CBA1c area, and based on the botanical assessment the project footprint should be CBA1c (degraded to highly degraded sand fynbos present) while the only CBA1a area should be the area of high sensitivity as groundtruthed by the botanical specialist.

2. The layout that avoids the high sensitivity botanical area as well as the high sensitivity area as per the faunal assessment is supported.
3. The botanical assessment is supported, it is understood that the low-medium residual impact as assessed by the specialist is related to the degraded to highly degraded nature of the vegetation in the project footprint. The assessed impacts are currently at a level that do not warrant a biodiversity offset. The rehabilitation via eradication of invasive alien plants on site and in the high sensitivity areas is also supported.
4. The faunal assessment is supported.
5. While the botanical specialist has assessed the area of the protected area to be encroached as low-medium sensitivity, it is strongly recommended that the protected area not be encroached, as the developed edge is then moved further into the protected area.
6. Regarding conservation of the high sensitivity area – the proposed development is avoiding these areas which has subsequently reduced residual impacts via avoidance, as assessed by the botanical specialist. If the proponent chooses they may engage CapeNature regarding stewardship of the high sensitivity areas, but it must be noted that all resource costs associated with the establishment and management of the conservation area will be for the proponent.

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

Kind regards,

Land-Use Scientist: Landscape West
Conservation Operations