



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PER E-MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT 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

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the following direct and indirect ecological impacts will result from 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).

1. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation:

- The proposed site is likely to lead to significant habitat loss, which may negatively impact local flora and fauna. It is essential to conduct a detailed ecological assessment to identify the specific habitats present, their ecological significance, and any potential fragmentation effects on wildlife.

2. Impact on Flora and Fauna:

- The area may contain protected or sensitive species. A comprehensive species inventory must be conducted to evaluate potential impacts on these species and their habitats. Special attention must be given to any endangered or endemic species that may be present.



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3. Invasive Species Concerns:

- Construction activities could facilitate the introduction of invasive species, which pose a significant threat to local biodiversity. A proactive Invasive management plan must be developed to monitor and control invasive species during and after construction to minimize their impact.

4. Water Quality and Hydrology:

- The project may alter local water drainage patterns and increase runoff, potentially leading to sedimentation and pollution in nearby water bodies. An assessment of the hydrological impacts must be included in the report, along with measures to mitigate any adverse effects on water quality.

5. Pollution and Disturbance:

- The anticipated noise and dust from construction activities could disrupt local wildlife behavior and health. Specific mitigation measures must be outlined to minimize disturbances, particularly during critical breeding or migration periods.

6. Cumulative Impacts:

- The cumulative effects of this project alongside other nearby developments must be considered. A landscape-level assessment is needed to understand the broader ecological impacts and to identify potential synergistic effects on local biodiversity.

7. Ecological Corridors:

- Disruption of ecological corridors could impede wildlife movement and gene flow. The report must explore options for maintaining or enhancing these corridors to promote connectivity for species.

8. Mitigation Measures:

- Effective mitigation strategies must be proposed to address identified biodiversity impacts. This must include habitat restoration plans, creation of buffer zones, and ongoing monitoring of affected species post-construction.

In conclusion, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation request that the above biodiversity issues be addressed in the final assessment report for the proposed project. Ensuring the protection of local ecosystems is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecological integrity in the area.

All the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dfre.gov.za for the attention of **Mr. Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 07/10/2025