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SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

FOR THE

PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE BULK
SEWERAGE LINE FROM AMY SEARLE STREET /
GREENHAVEN TO THE CRICKET FIELD
SEWERAGE PUMPSTATION, ON ERVEN 4808,
4809, 4807, 770, 733, 83, REMAINDER OF
FARM 4812, STREET PARCEL RE/131 AND
STREET PARCEL RE/4893, GROOT
BRAKRIVIER, MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

DFFE REF NO: 16/3/3/6/7/1/D6/17/0356/25**DATE:** 23 February 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sharples Environmental Services cc (SES) has been appointed by the Mossel Bay Municipality (applicant), to act as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure compliance with the regulations the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the amended Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 7 April 2017 for the proposed upgrading of the bulk sewerage line from Amy Searle Street / Greenhaven to the cricket field sewerage pump station, on Erven 4808, 4809, 4807, 770, 733, 83 and Remainder of Farm 4812, Groot Brakrivier, Mossel Bay Municipality, Western Cape Province.



Figure 1: Proposed pipeline route.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development entails the installation of a sewage pipeline from the pump station south east of Lang Street to the connection point located towards the north at the traffic circle joining Amy Searle Street. Please see the figures below for the proposed pipeline route and Site Development Plan (SDP). The pipe to be installed has a diameter of 300mm and the pipeline route will be approximately 1100m long.



Figure 2: Proposed pipeline route.

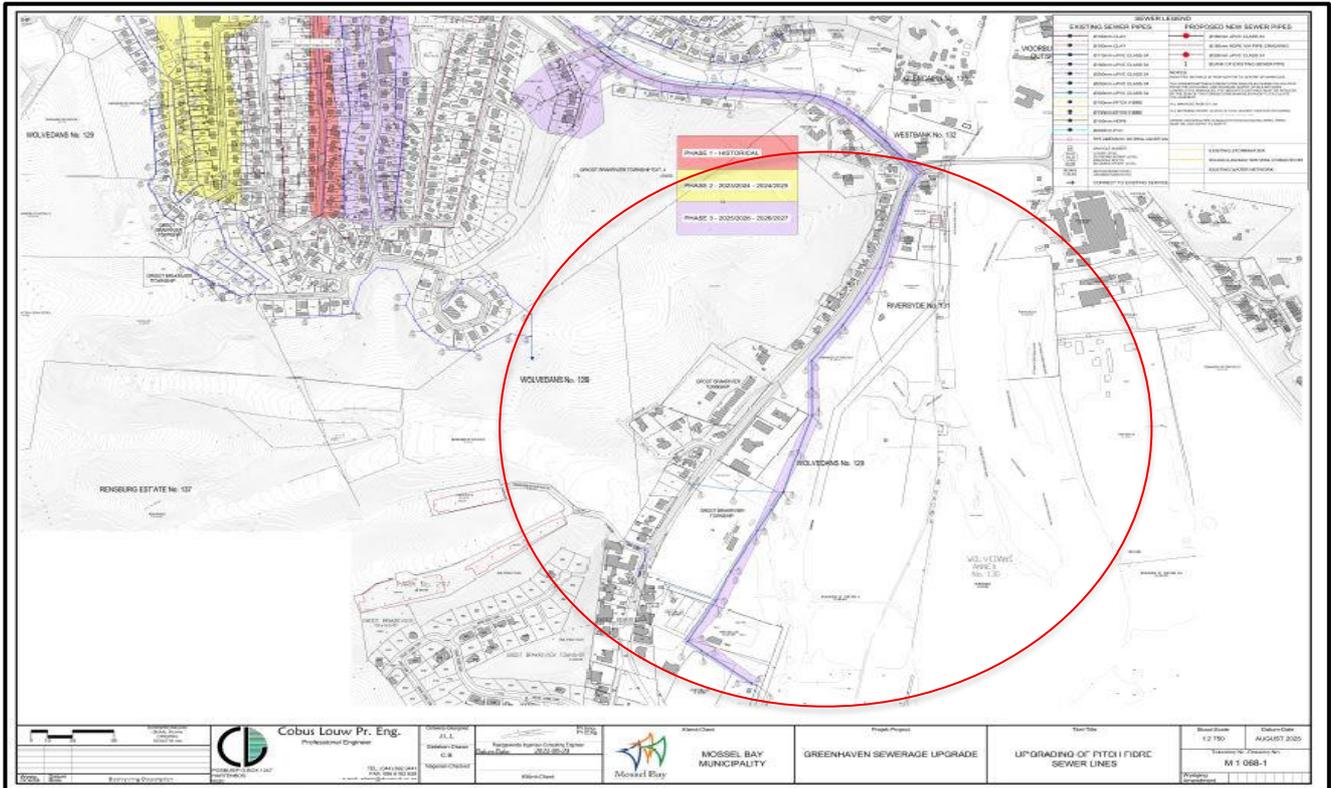


Figure 3: SDP - Total layout.

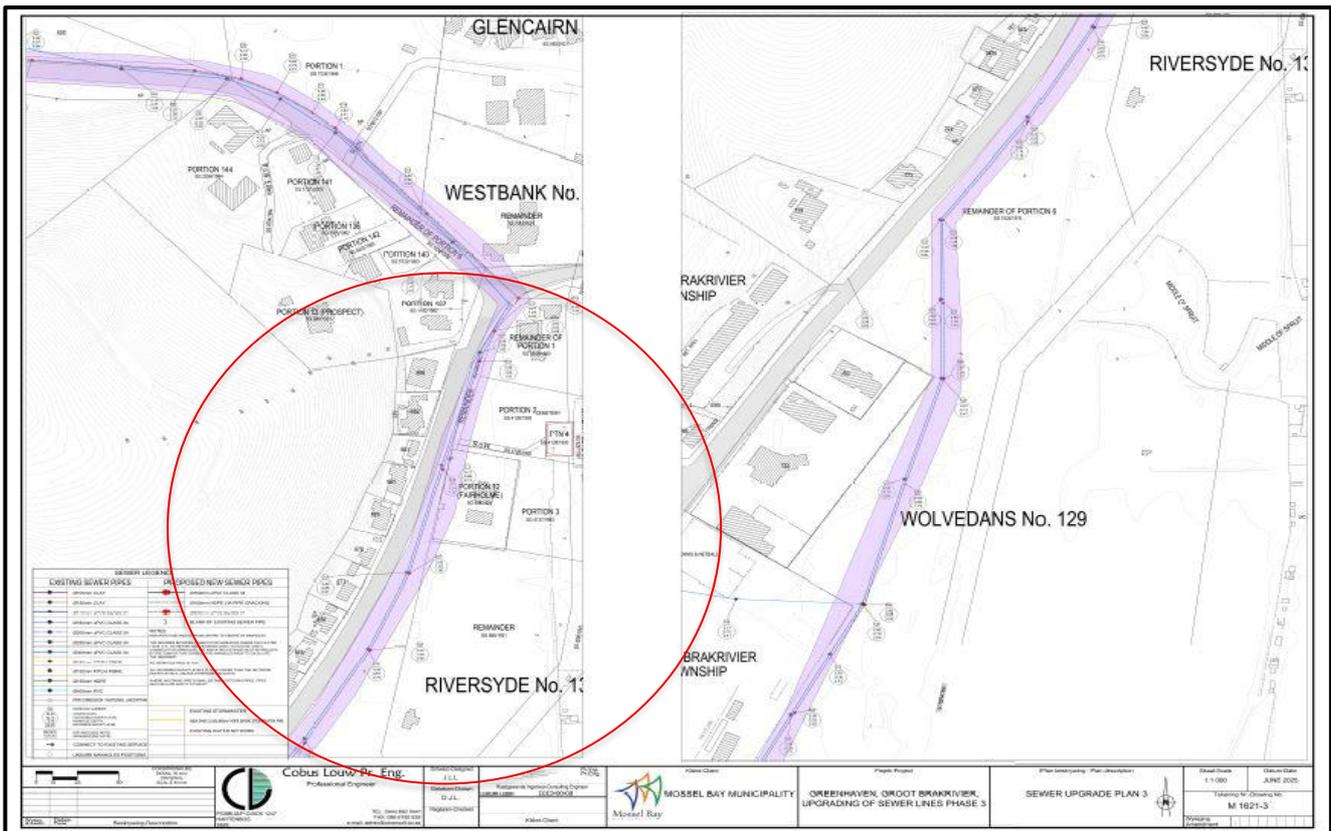


Figure 4: SDP - Cross section 1.

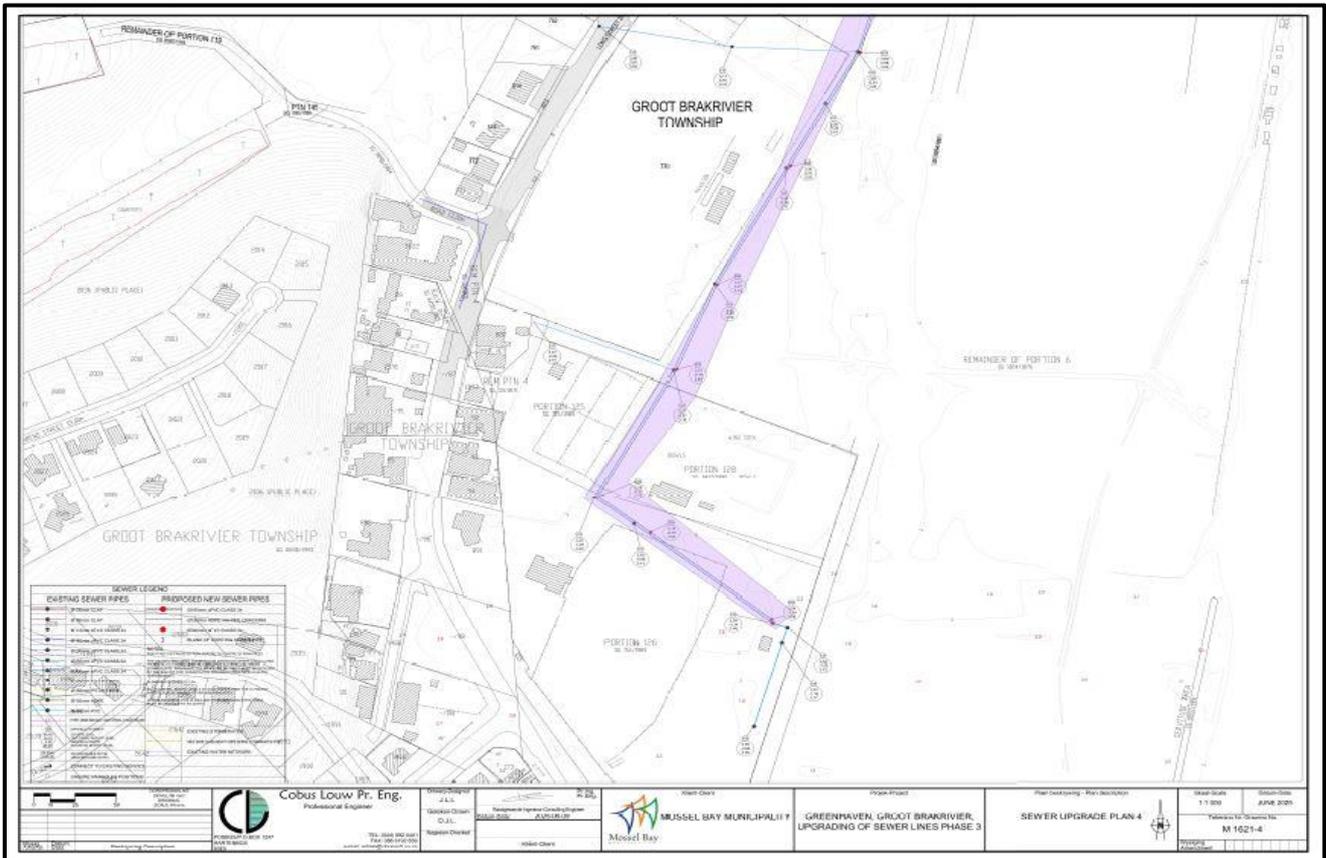


Figure 5: SDP - Cross section 2.

The northern section of the pipeline, from Amy Searle Street (below Botha Street) to the Stasie Way intersection (from manhole D2-D14) does not trigger any Listed Activities in terms of NEMA, this section of the pipeline can also function on its own and does not require the other sections of the pipeline to be developed for it to be functional. There are also no National Water Act triggers for this section of the pipeline as confirmed by BOCMA. The upper section of the pipeline (Manhole D1) will however require a Water Use Licence Application, and this process is underway. The middle and southern section of the pipeline (from manhole D15 onwards) will trigger Listed Activities in terms of NEMA, and therefore this section will be applied for in this application.

3. FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING TOOL

The National Sector Classification Category selected to produce the Screening Tool Report, dated 25 July 2025 and 28 July 2025 attached to this report:

1. **Utilities Infrastructure – Pipelines – Water – Waste Water**
2. **Any activities within or close to a watercourse**
3. **Any activity in an estuary on the seashore in the littoral active zone or in the sea**

3.1 Wind and Solar Developments

No	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
1	12/12/20/2536	Wind	Approved	20.5
2	14/12/16/3/3/1/1292/AM1	Solar PV	Approved	19
3	12/12/20/2536/AM3	Wind	Approved	20.5
4	12/12/20/2536/AM4	Wind	Approved	20.5
5	14/12/16/3/3/1/1292	Solar PV	Approved	19

3.2 Environmental Management Frameworks

No intersections with EMF areas found.

3.3 Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions, or prohibitions

- South African Conservation Areas

The site is located within the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), figure 4.

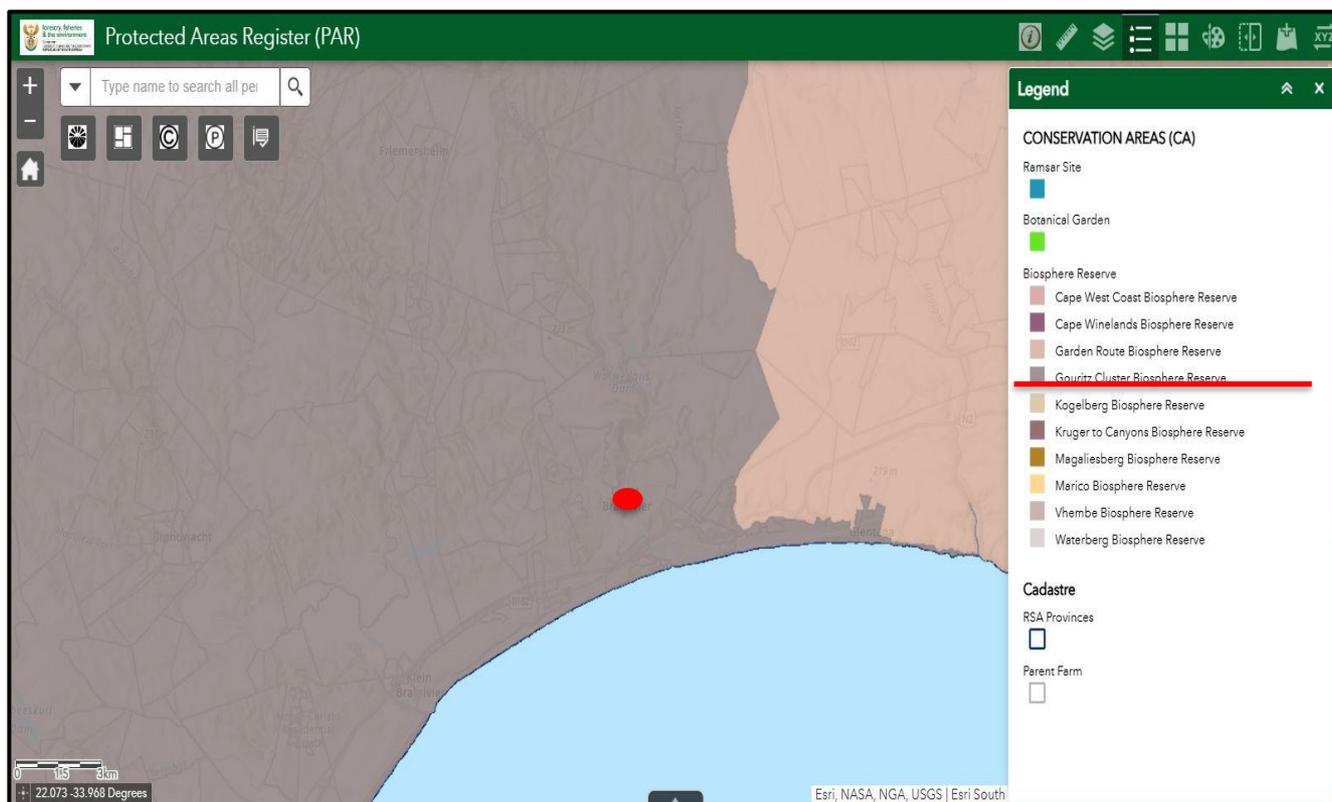


Figure 6: The site location within the GCBR.

- Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-

The site is located within the Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-Phase 2: Mossel Bay to Coega. The proposed sewerage pipeline will not impact on the gas pipeline corridor.

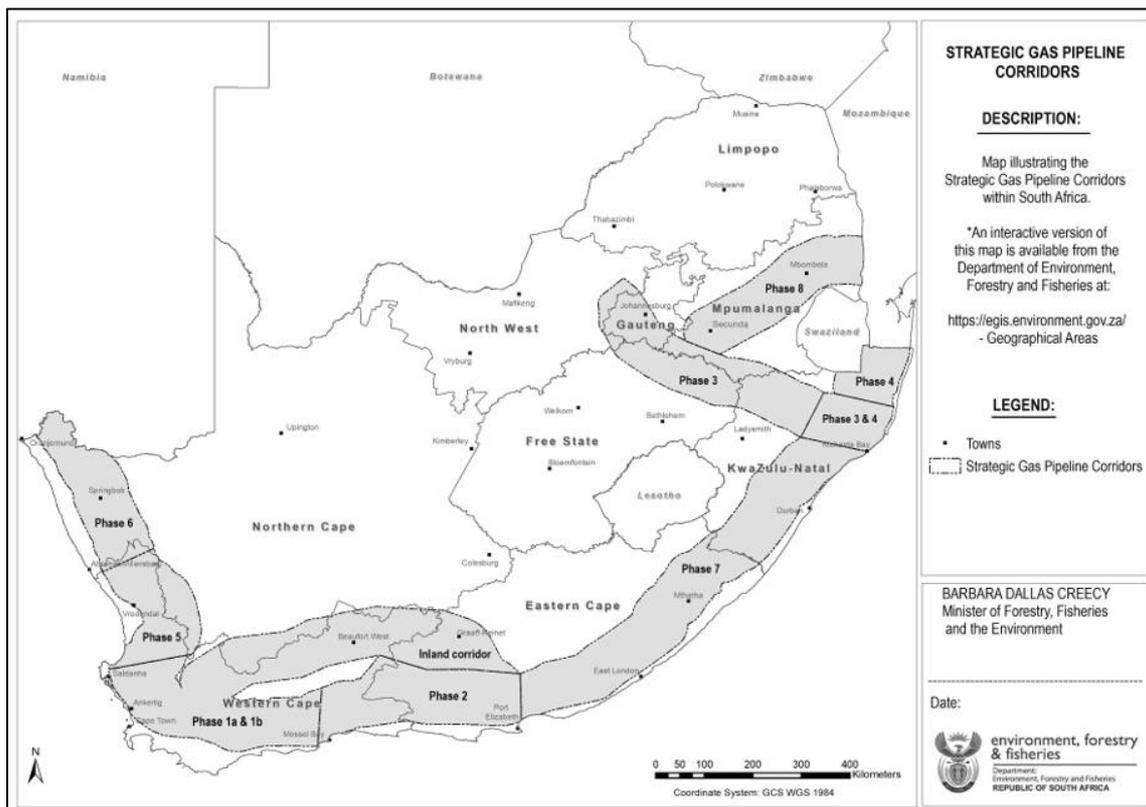


Figure 7: Strategic Gas Corridors of South Africa.

3.4 Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development footprint environmental sensitivities is identified by the three screening tool reports. All three reports indicate the same site sensitivity features. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified by the screening tool report, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Table 1: Site sensitivity and features

Theme	Sensitivity				Features
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	
Agriculture		X			<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfed Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures • 08. Moderate • 09. Moderate-High
Animal Species		X			<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus</i> • <i>Aves-Circus ranivorus</i> • <i>Aves-Hydroprogne caspia</i> • <i>Aves-Neotis denhami</i> • <i>Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus</i> • <i>Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus</i>

Aquatic Biodiversity	X				Very High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBA: Estuary • Estuary • Estuary_Groot Brak
Archaeological, Cultural Heritage				X	Low sensitivity
Civil Aviation		X			High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 8 and 15 km from a major civil aviation aerodrome
Defence				X	Low sensitivity
Palaeontology	X				Very High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity
Plant Species			X		Medium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lampranthus pauciflorus</i> • <i>Lebeckia gracilis</i> • <i>Erica unicolor subsp. mutica</i> • <i>Erica glandulosa subsp. fourcadei</i> • <i>Hermannia lavandulifolia</i> • Sensitive species 633 • Sensitive species 268 • Sensitive species 1024 • <i>Cotula myriophylloides</i> • <i>Euchaetis albertiniana</i> • Sensitive species 516 • Sensitive species 800 • Sensitive species 500 • <i>Diosma passerinoides</i> • <i>Agathosma macrocarpa</i> • <i>Zostera capensis</i>
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X				Very High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBA2: Terrestrial • CR_Garden Route Granite Fynbos • CR_Groot Brak Dune Strandveld

3.5 Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the footprint situation.

Table 2: Screening Tool Recommended Specialist Studies - Utilities Infrastructure – Pipelines – Water – Waste Water

No.	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1.	Agricultural Impact Assessment	General
2.	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	General
3.	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
4.	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Terrestrial

5.	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Aquatic
6.	Hydrology Assessment	General
7.	Geotechnical Assessment	General
8.	Socio-Economic Assessment	General
9.	Seismicity Assessment	General
10.	Plant Species Assessment	Terrestrial Plant Species
11.	Animal Species Assessment	Animal

Table 3: Screening Tool Recommended Specialist Studies – Any activity in an estuary on the seashore in the littoral active zone or in the sea

No.	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1.	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	General
2.	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	General
3.	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
4.	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Terrestrial
5.	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Aquatic
6.	Marine Impact Assessment	General
7.	Hydrology Assessment	General
8.	Socio-Economic Assessment	General
9.	Plant Species Assessment	Terrestrial Plant Species
10.	Animal Species Assessment	Animal

Table 4: Screening Tool Recommended Specialist Studies - Any activities within or close to a watercourse

No.	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1.	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	General
2.	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	General
3.	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
4.	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Terrestrial
5.	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Aquatic
7.	Hydrology Assessment	Hydrology
8.	Socio-Economic Assessment	General
9.	Plant Species Assessment	Terrestrial Plant Species
10.	Animal Species Assessment	Animal

4. SITE VERIFICATION

A site inspection was undertaken on the 16th of July 2025 by Mr. Michael Bennett (EAP) and Mr. Christiaan Smit (Candidate EAP). The existing pipeline route was inspected and photographed from the pump station to the traffic circle at the Lang Street and Amy Searle Street intersection.



Figure 8: Middle section of the proposed pipeline at the Amy Searle Street and Lang Street intersection.



Figure 9: Section of pipeline heading down Lang Street from the traffic circle towards the south.



Figure 10: Section of pipeline heading towards the south of Lang Street.



Figure 11: Middle section of pipeline heading towards the south of Lang Street.



Figure 12: Middle section of pipeline showing route and vegetation on site.



Figure 13: Middle section of pipeline showing vegetation on site.



Figure 14: Lower section of pipeline showing route and vegetation on site.



Figure 15: Lower section of pipeline route showing manhole and vegetation on site.



Figure 16: Lower southern section of pipeline route.



Figure 17: Southern section of pipeline route.



Figure 18: Southern end of pipeline route at the cricket field sewerage pump station.

The identified specialist assessments are discussed with the observations made during the site visit.

4.1 Agricultural Impact Assessment

The agricultural theme was rated as High by the screening tool report since the site has mapped agricultural features. An agricultural specialist has been appointed to compile a report.

4.2 Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment

We disagree that a landscape/visual impact assessment is needed. The proposal is install a pipeline, a large section of the pipeline will occur within the road, and the rest will occur in an area that has previously been disturbed (also for the installation of a pipeline) therefore, the visual character of the site will not change.

4.3 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

A HWC NID will be compiled and submitted by an appointed specialist.

4.4 Palaeontology Impact Assessment

The palaeontology theme was rates as Very High by the screening tool report since the site has mapped palaeontology features. A specialist has been appointed.

4.5 Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment

The screening tool rated this sensitivity as Very High due to the ecological threat status and the vegetation types in which the site is located. The site is mapped as Garden Route Granite Fynbos which has an Ecological Threat Status of Critically Endangered; and Grootbrak Dune Strandveld which also has an Ecological Threat Status of Critically Endangered. A specialist has been appointed to compile a report.

4.5 Aquatic Biodiversity

The aquatic biodiversity theme was rated as Very High by the screening tool report since the property has mapped aquatic features and forms part of the Estuarine functional zone. A specialist has been appointed to compile a report (Estuarine Assessment).

4.6 Marine Impact Assessment

The aquatic biodiversity theme was rated as Very High by the screening tool report since the property has mapped aquatic features and forms part of the Estuarine functional zone. An aquatic specialist has been appointed to compile a report (Estuarine Assessment).

4.7 Hydrology Impact Assessment

The screening tool report recommended that a Hydrology Assessment be conducted. We do not believe that it is required or that it will add any value to the Basic Assessment Report as most of the activities will be undertaken in the Estuarine Functional Zone and an Aquatic Specialist has been appointed to compile a report (Estuarine Assessment).

4.8 Socio-Economic Assessment

The socio-economic aspects are known and not complicated, the proposal is for the upgrading of sewerage infrastructure for the greater Grootbrak community, in addition to wages for the builders and labourers undertaking the construction phase. Additionally, it will

accommodate more sewerage and prevent any future capacity related incidents for the Grootbrak community, therefore no study is needed.

4.9 Traffic Impact Assessment

The proposed pipeline will not affect the traffic along Amy Searle Street and Long Street, no changes to current roads are proposed as part of the project, therefore no study is needed.

4.10 Civil Aviation Assessment

The screening tool report indicated a high sensitivity rating for the site. However, the proposal is for the installation of a pipeline, therefore no study will be conducted.

4.11 Defence

The rating for this theme was low – no study will be conducted.

4.12 Plant Species

The plant species theme has a Medium sensitivity rating for the site. A specialist has been appointed to undertake a site visit and compile a report.

4.13 Animal Species

The animal species theme has a High sensitivity rating for the site. A specialist has been appointed to undertake a site visit and compile a report.

4.14 Geotechnical Assessment

The consulting engineers will undertake a geotechnical assessment if deemed necessary.

5. CONCLUSION

Sensitivity Verification:

Theme	Screening Tool Sensitivity	Actual Sensitivity	Verification
Agriculture	High	Low	According to the Site Sensitivity Verification and Compliance Statement compiled by SoilZA, the actual sensitivity of the site is verified as being Low (refer to Appendix G5)
Animal Species	High	Low	According to the Site Verification and Compliance Statement Report for the Proposed Upgrade of a Sewerage Pipeline in Great Brak, Western Cape: Animal Species, compiled by JA van der Walt from Advanced Environmental Corporation, the actual sensitivity of the site is verified as being Low (Refer to Appendix G4 of the BAR).
Aquatic Biodiversity	Very High	Very High	The screening tool identified the site as being of Very High sensitivity for aquatic biodiversity based on the fact that the pipeline will intersect with the Great Brak Estuary which has also been mapped as an aquatic critical biodiversity area (CBA). Dr James Darbowski from Confluent was appointed to conduct an Estuarine Impact Assessment, please refer to Appendix G1 for the Estuarine Impact Assessment.
Archaeological, Cultural Heritage	Low	Low	A heritage specialist, Jonathan Kaplan, was appointed to compile a NID. ROD from HWC indicates that no further action is required (Refer to Appendix G7 for the NID and Appendix E1 for the ROD from HWC).

Civil Aviation	High	Low	The Civil Aviation has been verified by the EAP (Michael Bennett EAPASA: 2021/3163) as Low sensitivity. This is because no tall structures, masts, cranes, or aviation-obstructive infrastructure will be introduced and no civil aviation impacts are expected. The proposal is also for the replacement of an existing sewerage pipeline which occurs underground. The SACAA Authority was informed of the project, and it was determined that the SACAA has no comments on the proposal (Refer to Appendix F2 of the BAR).
Defence	Low	Low	No further action required.
Palaeontology	Very High	Low	A Notice of Intent to Develop (NID) was submitted to the Heritage Western Cape for consideration. The Palaeontologist deduced that the "Very High" sensitivity of the screening tool is inaccurate, and the site is verified as being of Low sensitivity. Please refer to Appendix G6 for the Palaeontological Impact Statement.
Plant Species	Medium	Medium	According to the Site Verification and Compliance Statement Report for the Proposed Upgrade of a Sewerage Pipeline in Great Brak, Western Cape: Plant Species, compiled by JA van der Walt from Advanced Environmental Corporation, the actual sensitivity of the site is verified as being Low (Refer to Appendix G3 of the BAR).
Terrestrial Biodiversity	Very High	Low	According to the Site Verification and Compliance Statement Report for the Proposed Upgrade of a Sewerage

			Pipeline in Great Brak, Western Cape: Terrestrial Biodiversity, compiled by JA van der Walt from Advanced Environmental Corporation, the actual sensitivity of the site is verified as being Low (Refer to Appendix G2 of the BAR).
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From the findings of this report, SES proposes to only undertake the following assessments:

No.	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1.	Agricultural Impact Assessment	Agriculture
2.	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	General
3.	HWC NID	General
4.	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Terrestrial
5.	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Aquatic
6.	Plant Species Assessment	Terrestrial Plant Species
7.	Animal Species Assessment	Terrestrial Animal Species