

23 October 2025

## COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF APPROVED DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT FOR FARM BUFFELSFONTEIN 204/7, HEROLDS BAY

This letter, which was requested by Sharples Environmental Services, serves as a comment on the proposed amendment to the approved development layout for Portion 7 of Farm Buffelsfontein 204, north of Herolds Bay. The project comprises a mixed-use development, which includes single residential erven, group housing, a business area, roads and infrastructure. The applicant now wishes to amend the western corner of the development plan, which includes the business area (**Figure 1**). It is proposed to consolidate Portions 106 and 112 (as indicated on the approved plan) with the intention to remove the filling station and amend the zoning to Business Zone II for the consolidated portion, with the consent uses for a restaurant, place of leisure (gymnasium), liquor store and flats (**Figure 2**).



**Figure 1:** Proposed amendment area.



In order to familiarise myself again with the site, a follow-up survey was undertaken on 20 October 2025. The previous botanical survey and report (also undertaken by the undersigned) date back to March/April 2019. Please refer to the latter report for more detail of the vegetation and flora encountered.

Attention was devoted to the 0.6–1.4 m tall scrub on the western side of the proposed amendment area. This area is highly degraded and comprises aliens and pioneer indigenous species (**Figure 3**). Indigenous species recorded here include *Nidorella ivifolia*, *Helichrysum foetidum*, *H. petiolare*, *H. cymosum*, *Metalasia trivialis*, *Osteospermum moniliferum*, *Passerina corymbosa* (dominant), *Searsia lucida* (dominant), *Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus*, *Gymnosporia* sp, *Diospyros dichrophylla* (dominant) and *Carpobrotus edulis*. The latter is a useful soil binder. These species typically populate previously disturbed regrowth areas, such as road reserves. The presence of these species also does not allocate the scrub to a specific vegetation type. Several invasive alien species were also recorded here, including *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle), *A. cyclops* (rooikrans), *Lantana camara* (lantana), *Eucalyptus* sp (blue gum), *Solanum mauritianum* (bugweed) and *Cenchrus clandestinus* (kikuyu). The rest of the site is also highly modified/transformed by past agricultural activities and completely overtaken by grasses and weeds (**Figure 4**).



**Figure 3:** Scrub on the western side of proposed amendment area.



**Figure 4:** Completely transformed eastern part of site.

The proposed amendment, therefore, does not present any new or greater impacts on terrestrial biodiversity or plant species than the previous layout. The site is significantly degraded/modified. The area of impact also remains unchanged. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Prepared by:

Handwritten signature of Mark Berry in black ink.

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