



**EIA REFERENCE NUMBER:** 16/3/3/1/D1/14/0026/25  
**NEAS REFERENCE:** WCP/EIA/0001753/2025  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 10 April 2026

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING ROAD AND CAUSEWAY NO.12515 INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED ALONG DIVISION ROAD 1791 AT KM 1.59, STOPPAD ROAD, CROSSING FARM 501 AND FARM 306 ON PORTION 22 WITTEDRIFT, BITOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.**

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

### A. DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ('NEMA') and the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') Regulations, 2014, the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below in respect of **the preferred alternative**, described in the Final Basic Assessment Report ('FBAR'), dated January 2026, as prepared and submitted by the appointed environmental assessment practitioner ('EAP'), Ms. Betsy Ditcham (EAPASA No: 2020/1480) and assisted by Candidate EAP, Ms. Jessica Gossman (EAPASA No: 2022/6154).

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in Section F below.

### B. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Head of Department  
WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
% The Chief Directorate: Road Programme Management  
PO Box 9185  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8000

Attention: Ms. Louise Buys  
E-mail: [Louise.Buys@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Louise.Buys@westerncape.gov.za)  
Tel: 082 730 7792

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation (hereinafter referred to as '**the Holder**').

**C. LIST OF ACTIVITY/IES AUTHORISED**

Listed Activities	Activity/Project Description
<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014,</b> Government Notice No. 983 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)</p>	
<p>Activity Number: <b>12</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The development of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</li> <li>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more,</li> </ul> <p>where such development occurs-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) within a watercourse;</li> <li>(b) in front of a development setback; or</li> <li>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse,</li> </ul> <p>excluding-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</li> <li>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</li> <li>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</li> <li>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</li> <li>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads road reserves or railway line reserves; or</li> <li>(ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of the development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</li> </ul>	<p>The footprint of the proposed temporary bypass road infrastructure, located outside of the road reserve and within the watercourse, will be <math>\leq 562 \text{ m}^2</math> downstream or <math>\leq 515 \text{ m}^2</math> upstream of the causeway (river crossing structure).</p>
<p>Activity Number: <b>19</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</p>	<p>The temporary bypass road will extend approximately 4-metres outside of the existing road reserve. Further to this, a 3-metre working corridor is required beyond the aforementioned temporary bypass road.</p>

<p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</li> <li>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</li> <li>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</li> <li>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</li> <li>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</li> </ul>	<p>According to the engineer, approximately 180 - 200 m<sup>3</sup> of earth will be moved in and around the watercourse.</p>
<p>Activity Number: <b>48</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The expansion of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or</li> <li>(ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</li> </ul> <p>where such expansion occurs-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) within a watercourse;</li> <li>(b) in front of a development setback; or</li> <li>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</li> </ul> <p>excluding-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(aa) the expansion of infrastructure or structures within</li> <li>(bb) existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</li> <li>(cc) where such expansion activities are related to the</li> <li>(dd) development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</li> <li>(ee) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 23 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</li> <li>(ff) where such expansion occurs within an urban area; or</li> </ul>	<p>The old low-level crossing will be demolished and replaced with a higher capacity reinforced concrete causeway at the same river crossing over the Leermansdrift River. The upgraded structure (plus inlet/outlet works and apron) increases the in-channel footprint over 170 m<sup>2</sup>, (i.e., a physical enlargement of road).</p>

<p>(gg) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves.</p>	
<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014,</b> Government Notice No. 985 of 4 December 2014 (as amended)</p>	
<p>Activity Number: <b>4</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.</p> <p><b>(i) Western Cape</b></p> <p>(i) Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning;</p> <p>(ii) Areas outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation;</p> <p>(bb) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined; or</p> <p>(iii) Inside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas zoned for conservation use; or</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority.</p>	<p>The proposed repair to the causeway will necessitate the development of a temporary bypass road for the construction phase.</p> <p>The proposed temporary bypass road infrastructure will require the construction of a temporary road of approximately 4-m wide (but less than 5-metres), with a 3-metre working area, located outside of the existing road reserve. This will necessitate the clearance of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>Although temporary infrastructure, the bypass road constitutes the development of a new road rather than the expansion of the existing road, as it falls outside of the current road reserve footprint.</p>
<p>Activity Number: <b>12</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p><b>(i) Western Cape</b></p> <p>(i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(iii) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur</p>	<p>The removal and replacement of the causeway and associated works will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation of an area greater than 300m<sup>2</sup> (but less than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>).</p> <p>The temporary bypass road of approximately 4-metres-wide outside of the existing road reserve will trigger this activity if more than 300 m<sup>2</sup> of indigenous vegetation will be cleared.</p>

<p>behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;</p> <p>(iv) On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</p> <p>(v) On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.</p>	
<p>Activity Number: <b>14</b> Activity Description:</p> <p>The development of—</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) World Heritage Sites;</p> <p>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Sites or areas listed in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves; or</p>	<p>The footprint of the proposed bypass road and infrastructure located outside of the road reserve, but within the watercourse and within 32-metres from the edge of the watercourse, will be greater than 10m<sup>2</sup> but less than approximately 515 m<sup>2</sup> upstream or 562 m<sup>2</sup> downstream of the causeway.</p>

<p><i>(hh) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined.</i></p>	
---	--

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

The Holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activities as it relates to the development:

The proposed project constitutes a component of the comprehensive strategy for the repair and upgrading of the impacted portions of the road network. Several roads in the Garden Route suffered flood damage during a flood event in November 2021. The development is undertaken to prevent further impairment of ecological resources and associated service infrastructure and to mitigate the road safety hazards that arise from the current state of the infrastructure. The flood damage repair work includes:

- *Repair and upgrade of Causeway No. 12515 located at KM 1.59 along DR1791, Stofpad Road*  
The proposed reinstatement and upgrading of the existing causeway, the current structure is proposed to be demolished and replaced with a new in situ reinforced concrete causeway comprising three cells, each approximately 4-metres in width and 1.5-metres in height. The design will provide a 4- metre trafficable width between the guide blocks. The road approaches on the upstream and downstream sides will be elevated by approximately 1.4-metres over lengths of roughly 100- metres to achieve the required tie-in with the new deck level. The inlet and outlet structures will consist of wing walls and an apron slab, with appropriate erosion protection measures implemented to ensure long-term structural and ecological stability.
- *Establishing of a temporary bypass road:*  
To ensure continuous traffic flow during the construction phase, a temporary bypass road will be established either on the upstream or downstream side of the existing road/causeway, depending on site conditions at the time of construction. The bypass road will be approximately 4-metres in width but less than 7.5-metres which will include an additional working corridor of roughly 3-metres between the permanent structure and the temporary alignment. Construction of the temporary bypass will necessitate the clearance of indigenous vegetation and activities within the watercourse. The total working area required outside the road reserve on the downstream side is estimated at approximately 561.71 m<sup>2</sup>, while the upstream construction area outside the road reserve will encompass approximately 514.5 m<sup>2</sup>. The latter is preferred as indicated in the Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment. Only one temporary bypass road option will be implemented during construction.

The above activities will be implemented in accordance with the site development plans appended to this environmental authorisation in Annexures No. 2A, 2B and 2C.

#### **D. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

The proposed repair work/upgrade as described in Section C above will be undertaken at KM1.59 along DR1791, Stofpad Road, and will include improvements approximately 100-metres along the road-approaches to Causeway No. 12515 on DR1791. The works will be mainly located within the road reserve, with a temporary bypass road and associated infrastructure and work area located partly outside the road reserve.

The total development footprint of the respective options has been reported to be:

- Downstream bypass road option: 4996.57 m<sup>2</sup>, or
- Upstream bypass road option: 3279.15 m<sup>2</sup>

Only one temporary bypass road option will be implemented during construction.

Coordinates of the sites:

Site	Latitude (S)			Longitude (E)		
Starting Point	34°	0'	2.51"	23°	19'	14.59"
Middle Point	34°	0'	2.87"	23°	19'	16.28"
End Point	34°	0'	3.11"	23°	19'	17.78"

SG digit code for the relevant properties:

Property	Surveyor General 21-digit Code
Farm 306 on Portion 22 Wittedrift	C03900000000030600022
Farm 501	C03900000000050100000

Refer to the Annexures of this Environmental Authorisation for:

- Locality Plan (Annexure 1); and
- the respective Site Development Plans (Annexures 2A; 2B and 2C).

The above is hereinafter referred to as '**the site**'.

## E. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP)

Ms. Betsy Ditchem  
EAPASA NO: 2020/1480  
E-mail: [betsy@sescce.net](mailto:betsy@sescce.net)

Assisted by Candidate EAP:

Ms. Jessica Gossman  
EAPASA No: 2022/6154  
E-mail: [jessica@sescce.net](mailto:jessica@sescce.net)

Sharples Environmental Services cc  
PO Box 443  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7441

Tel: 079 028 1218  
Web: [www.sescce.net](http://www.sescce.net)

## F. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

### Scope and Validity Period of authorisation

1. This Environmental Authorisation is granted for the period from date of issue until **30 April 2031** (validity period), during which period the Holder must ensure that the—
  - (a) physical implementation of all the authorised listed activities is started with and concluded;
  - (b) construction monitoring and reporting requirements are undertaken and submitted to the Competent Authority in time to allow said authority to process such documents timeously;

- (c) post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements is undertaken and completed; and
- (d) environmental auditing requirements are complied with; and that such auditing is finalised in time to allow the competent authority to be able to process the environmental audits timeously within the specified validity period.

Failing which, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse, unless the environmental authorisation is amended in accordance with the relevant process contemplated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998).

2. The Holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section C above in respect of the preferred alternative described in the FBAR, dated January 2026, on the site as described in Section D above.

The activities will be implemented in accordance with the site development plans appended to this environmental authorisation in Annexures No. 2A, 2B and 2C.

3. This Environmental Authorisation may only be implemented in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Programme ('EMPr').
4. The Holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the Holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section C above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the Holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

### **Notification and administration of appeal**

6. The Holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
  - 6.1. notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ('I&APs') of –
    - (a) the decision reached on the application;
    - (b) the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
    - (c) the date of the decision; and
    - (d) the date when the decision was issued.
  - 6.2. draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 detailed in Section H below;
  - 6.3. draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;
  - 6.4. provide the registered I&APs with the:
    - (a) name of the Holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
    - (b) name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
    - (c) postal address of the Holder,
    - (d) telephonic and fax details of the Holder,
    - (e) e-mail address, if any, of the Holder,

- (f) contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2025.

6.5. The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder notifies the registered I&APs of this decision.

6.6. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided *i.e.*, the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

### **Written notice to the Competent Authority**

7. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before the start of any activities on site.

7.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.

7.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

**Condition no.: 6, 13, 20.2 and 20.4**

8. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority on completion of the construction activities.

9. The Holder must notify the competent authority if the non-operational phase (construction activities and rehabilitation measures) has been abandoned prior to completion thereof, or if the construction activities and rehabilitation process will be placed on hold for a period of six (6) months or longer.

The competent authority must be notified in writing—

9.1. within 30-calendar days of the cessation of the activities on site; and

9.2. seven calendar days' notice, must be given prior to any activities continuing on site again.

### **Management of activity/activities**

10. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is herewith **approved**.

11. The EMPr must be updated to incorporate all the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation and all those measures for the avoidance, management, mitigation, monitoring and reporting as identified in this Environmental Authorisation additional to those contained in the approved EMPr.

The updated EMPr must be re-submitted to the Competent Authority prior to commencement of the construction activities.

12. The approved EMPr (including the additional measures for the avoidance, management, mitigation, monitoring and reporting identified in the Environmental Authorisation) must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

### **Monitoring**

13. The Holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ('ECO'), for the duration of the construction and rehabilitation phases of implementation contained herein.

14. The ECO must—

- 14.1. be appointed prior to commencement of any works (i.e., demarcation of the remaining natural area, relocation of bulbs; and disturbance, cutting and / or damage to protected trees);
  - 14.2. remain employed until all development activities are concluded, and the post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements are finalised;
  - 14.3. perform regular site monitoring inspections;
  - 14.4. ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein;
  - 14.5. keep record of all activities on the site; problems identified; transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO;
  - 14.6. compile compliance monitoring reports (ECO reports) for each Calander month of the non-operational phase;
  - 14.7. submit the respective compliance monitoring reports (ECO reports) to the competent authority on a maximum three (3) monthly frequency, or more frequently (i.e., once a month); and
  - 14.8. whenever any non-compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr is observed on site; or significant environmental degradation or incidents occur on site; notify the competent authority in writing immediately and under such circumstances submit a separate compliance monitoring report in support thereof.
15. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, any independent assessments of financial provision for rehabilitation and environmental liability, closure plans, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities and be made available to anyone on request, and where the Holder has website, such documents must be made available on such publicly accessible website.
16. Access to the site (referred to in Section D) must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

### **Environmental Auditing**

17. The Holder must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr, is audited.

#### Auditing during the non-operational phase (construction activities):

- 17.1. During the period which the activities have been commenced with on site, the Holder must ensure **annual** Environmental Audit Report(s) are undertaken and submitted to the Competent Authority.
- 17.2. A final Environmental Audit Report for the construction phase (non-operational component) must be submitted to the Competent Authority within **three (3) months** of completion of the post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements.

**Note:** The final non-operational environmental auditing requirements should be completed and submitted to the competent authority at least three months prior to expiry of the validity period of the environmental authorisation applicable to the non-operational phase, to ensure the Holder is able to comply with all the environmental auditing and reporting requirements and for the competent authority to be able to process it timeously.

18. The Environmental Audit Report, must –
- 18.1. be prepared and submitted to the Competent Authority, by an independent person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise. Such person may not be the ECO or EAP who conducted the EIA process;
  - 18.2. be submitted to the Competent Authority within 30-days of either—
    - (a) the environmental audit being completed, or
    - (b) the findings and recommendations of the environmental audit report, which had been subjected to a public participation process agreed to with the competent authority, has been completed.
  - 18.3. provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on—
    - (a) the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
    - (b) the ability of the measures contained in the EMPr to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
  - 18.4. identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
  - 18.5. evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr;
  - 18.6. identify shortcomings in the EMPr;
  - 18.7. identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr;
  - 18.8. indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
  - 18.9. indicate the date on which the operational phase was commenced with and the progress of the rehabilitation;
  - 18.10. include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
  - 18.11. be informed by the ECO reports.
19. The Holder must, within 7 calendar days of the submission of the audit report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

### **Specific Conditions**

20. The Holder must adopt and implement the following measures/requirements for the avoidance, management, mitigation, monitoring and reporting of the impacts of the activity on the environment and ensure they are implemented together with the EMPr—
- 20.1. The Holder must ensure that the ecological integrity of the Leermansdrift River and Bietou River and associated riparian vegetation applicable to the project area, is maintained and to prevent any further degradation thereof as a result of the proposed construction works or maintenance activities.
  - 20.2. Prior to the commencement of construction, the holder must ensure that a walk-through search and rescue exercise is undertaken by a qualified specialist with experience in the field of practise relevant to terrestrial plants species and/or animal species.

Any protected plant or animal species or species of conservation concern, found during such an exercise must be collected and relocated to a predetermined area with suitable habitat.

**Note:** The removal or movement of such species may require a permit from CapeNature.

20.3. All construction and maintenance activities must be restricted to the approved development footprint along the section of the DR1791 road reserve.

20.4. Prior to commencing work in or near the watercourse / wetland areas, the physical construction footprint area must be clearly demarcated (i.e., with danger tape or wooden pegs), and these areas must remain demarcated for the duration of the construction and rehabilitation phase.

**Note:** The danger tape/wooden pegs must be removed after the initial construction phase.

20.5. The work area(s) must be rehabilitated immediately after construction or maintenance works have been completed.

20.6. The areas outside the demarcated work area must be managed as no-go areas. No indigenous vegetation may be cleared outside the defined work area.

20.7. Where possible, the initial construction activities should be scheduled for the drier months to limit the risk of erosion.

20.8. The removal of all alien invasive plant species within the site on conclusion of the non-operational phase, and to maintain the site clear of all invasive plant species thereafter.

**Note:** The Holder must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA") regarding the implementation of such a plan, which may need to also be approved by the relevant competent authority responsible for the NEMBA.

21. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains may only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or paleontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artefacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

## **G. GENERAL MATTERS**

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the Holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activity.

### ***Amendment of Environmental Authorisation and EMPr***

2. If the Holder does not start with the listed activities and exceed the thresholds of the listed activities within the period referred to in Section F, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for those activities, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the relevant Competent Authority.

If the Holder wishes to extend a validity period specified in the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the relevant Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of such a period.

**Note:**

- (a) Failure to lodge an application for amendment prior to the expiry of the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation will result in the lapsing of the Environmental Authorisation.
  - (b) It is an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(a) of NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity if the competent authority has not granted an Environmental Authorisation for the undertaking of the activity.
3. The Holder is required to notify the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated.

In assessing whether to amend or correct the EA, the Competent Authority may request information to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the Holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

The onus is on the Holder to verify whether such changes to the environmental authorisation must be approved in writing by the relevant competent authority prior to the implementation thereof.

**Note:** An environmental authorisation may be amended or replaced without following a procedural requirement contained in the Regulations if the purpose is to correct an error and the correction does not change the rights and duties of any person materially

4. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
- (a) Any further amendments to the EMPr, other than those mentioned above, must be approved in writing by the relevant competent authority.
  - (b) An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the Competent Authority if any amendments are to be made to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr. Such amendment(s) may only be implemented once the amended EMPr has been approved by the competent authority.

The onus is however on the Holder to confirm the legislative process requirements for the above scenarios at that time.

5. Where an amendment to the impact management outcomes of an EMPr is required before an environmental audit is required in terms of the environmental authorisation, an EMPr may be amended on application by the Holder of the environmental authorisation.

**Compliance with Environmental Authorisation and EMPr**

6. Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation or EMPr is an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(c) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998, as amended).
7. This Environmental Authorisation is subject to compliance with all the peremptory conditions (6 and 13). Failure to comply with all the peremptory conditions prior to the physical implementation of the activities (including site preparation) will render the entire EA null and void. Such physical activities shall be regarded to fall outside the scope of the Environmental Authorisation and shall be viewed as an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(a) of NEMA.
8. In the event that the Environmental Authorisation should lapse, it is an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(a) of NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity, unless the competent authority has granted an Environmental Authorisation for the undertaking of the activity.

9. Offences in terms of the NEMA and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, will render the offender liable for criminal prosecution.

## **H. APPEALS**

1. Appeals must comply the *National Appeal Regulations, 2025* (Government Notice No. R. 5985 in Government Gazette No. 52269 of 13 March 2025). Please note the provisions of Regulations 1(2) & (3) of the *National Appeal Regulations, 2025* when calculating the period of days.
  2. The holder (applicant) of this decision must submit an appeal to the Appeal Administrator, any registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) and the decision maker (Competent Authority who issued the decision) within 20 calendar days from the date this decision was sent by the decision maker.
  3. The I&AP's (not the holder of this decision) must submit an appeal to the Appeal Administrator, the holder (applicant) of the decision and the decision maker within 20 calendar days from the date this decision was sent to the registered I&AP's by the holder (applicant) of the decision.
  4. All appeals submitted must:
    - 4.1. be in writing in the appeal form obtainable from the Departmental website;
    - 4.2. include supporting documents referred to in the appeal; and
    - 4.3. include proof of payment of the prescribed non-refundable appeal fee, if prescribed.
  5. The holder (applicant) of the decision must:
    - 5.1. notify registered I&AP's and affected organs of state of any appeal received, and make the appeal available to them, within 5 calendar days after the 20-day appeal period ends.
    - 5.2. Submit proof of this notification to the Appeal Administrator within 5 calendar days after sending the last notification.
  6. The applicant, where applicable, the decision-maker, or any person notified under regulation 4 of the *National Appeal Regulations, 2025* may submit a Responding Statement within 20 calendar days from the date they received the appeal, in the form obtainable from the Department website to the Appeal Administrator and to the appellant, where the appellant is not the applicant.
  7. Appeals, Responding Statements and supporting documents must be submitted to the Appeal Administrator by means of one of the following methods:
    - 7.1. **By e-mail:** [DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za) or
    - 7.2. **By hand** where that person submitting does not hold an electronic mail account:  
Attention: Mr Marius Venter  
Room 809, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Utilitas Building,  
1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001
- Note:** You are also requested to submit an electronic copy (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Administrator via email or to the address listed above.

A prescribed appeal form, responding statement form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the relevant website of the appeal authority: <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp> or the office of the Minister at: Tel. (021) 483 3721 or email [DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za)

Documents to be submitted to the decision-maker (i.e., the Competent Authority that issued the decision) at: [Gavin.Benjamin@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Gavin.Benjamin@westerncape.gov.za); and copied to [DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za)

## I. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the Holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

---

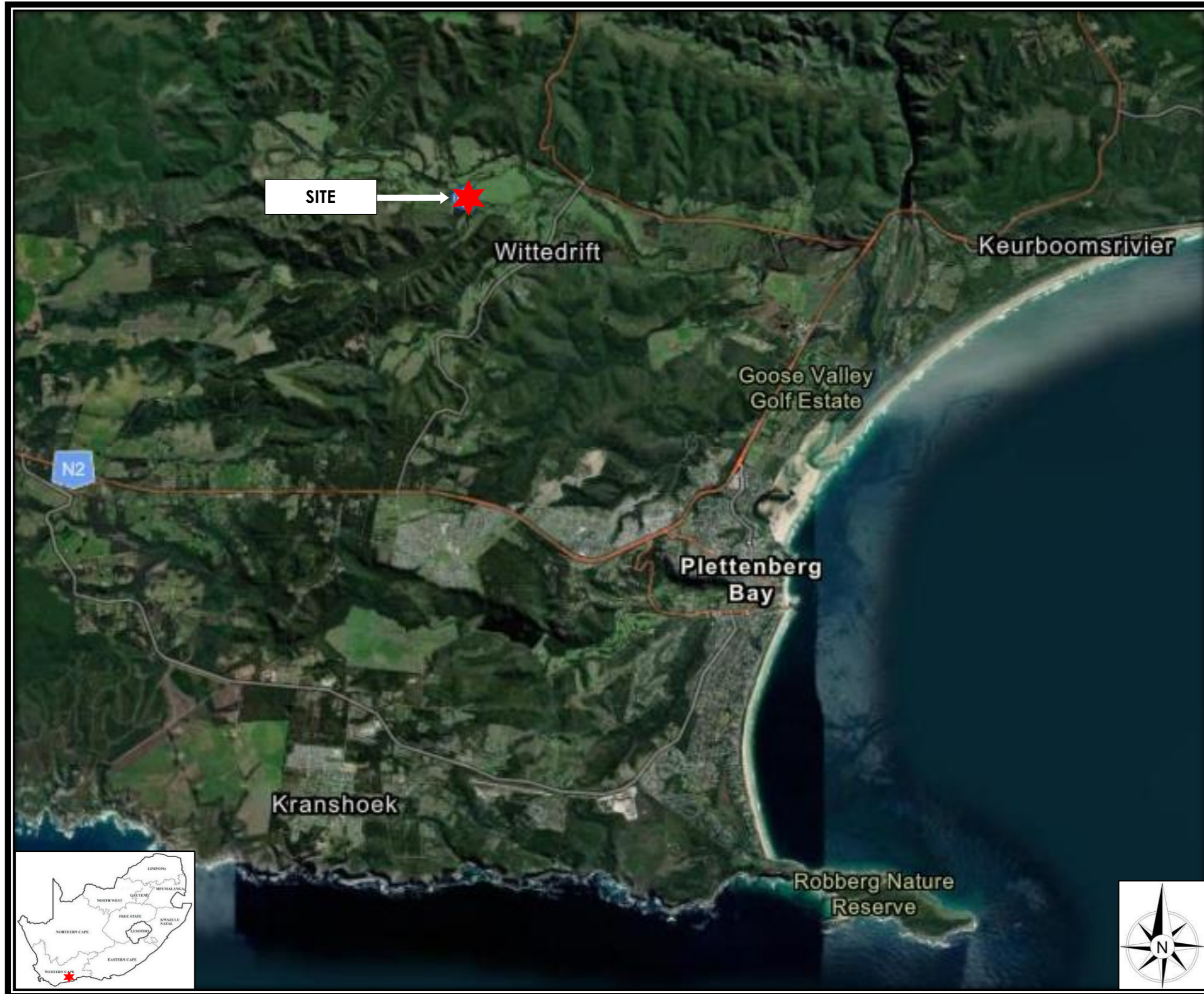
**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 3)**  
**WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

DATE OF DECISION: **10 APRIL 2026**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

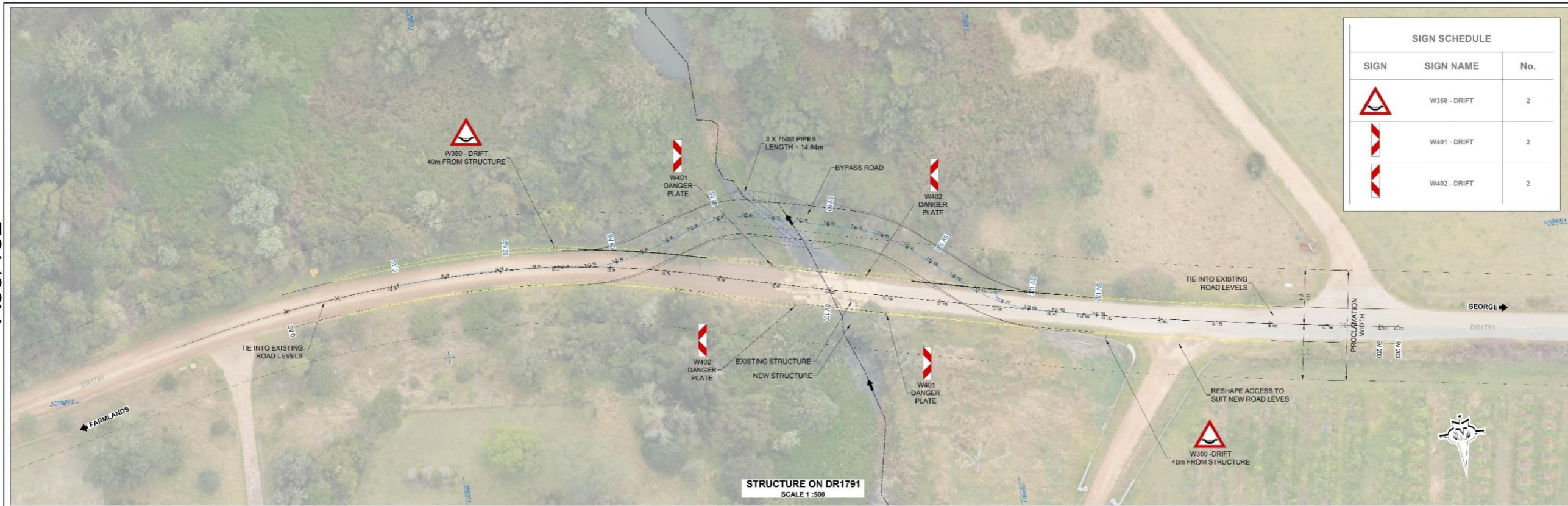
**EIA REFERENCE NUMBER:** 16/3/3/1/D1/14/0026/25

**NEAS REFERENCE NUMBER:**



ANNEXURE 2A: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN : PROPOSED REPAIRS TO CAUSEWAY NO. 12515 AT KM 1.59 OF DR1791

A99/132

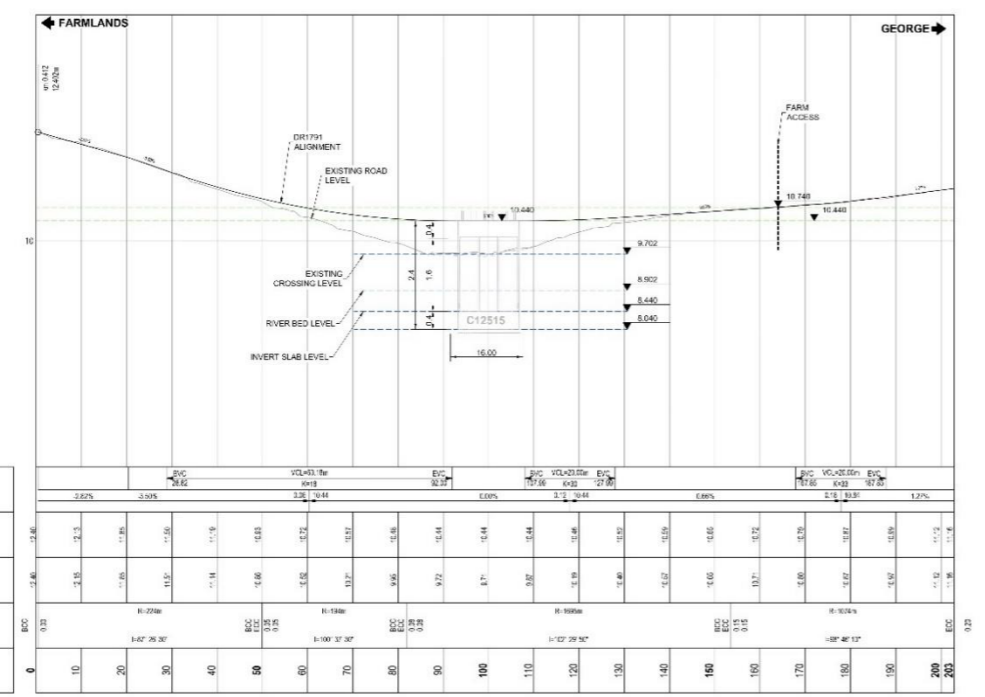


SIGN SCHEDULE		
SIGN	SIGN NAME	No.
	W350 - DRIFT	2
	W401 - DANGER PLATE	2
	W402 - DANGER PLATE	2

POINT	X	Y	LEVEL
CL.20	3 765 785.521	29 51 36	11.600
CL.30	3 765 785.498	29 51 46	11.500
CL.40	3 765 785.400	29 51 44	11.588
CL.50	3 765 785.032	29 52 33	11.608
CL.60	3 765 787.222	29 53 46	11.722
CL.70	3 765 786.022	29 54 54	11.674
CL.80	3 765 781.528	29 55 14	11.400
CL.90	3 765 783.720	29 56 32	11.411
CL.100	3 765 786.014	29 57 05	11.440
CL.110	3 765 785.542	29 58 24	11.411
CL.120	3 765 800.510	29 58 54	11.400
CL.130	3 765 802.638	29 59 37	11.522
CL.140	3 765 804.688	29 59 52	11.598
CL.150	3 765 800.730	29 59 39	11.655
CL.160	3 765 804.032	29 59 36	11.711
CL.170	3 765 810.114	29 59 10	11.709
CL.180	3 765 811.600	29 59 06	11.679
CL.190	3 765 813.158	29 58 59	11.647
CL.200	3 765 814.527	29 58 07	11.534
CL.210	3 765 814.939	29 57 43	11.517

SCALES  
HOR 1 : 500  
VERT 1 : 50

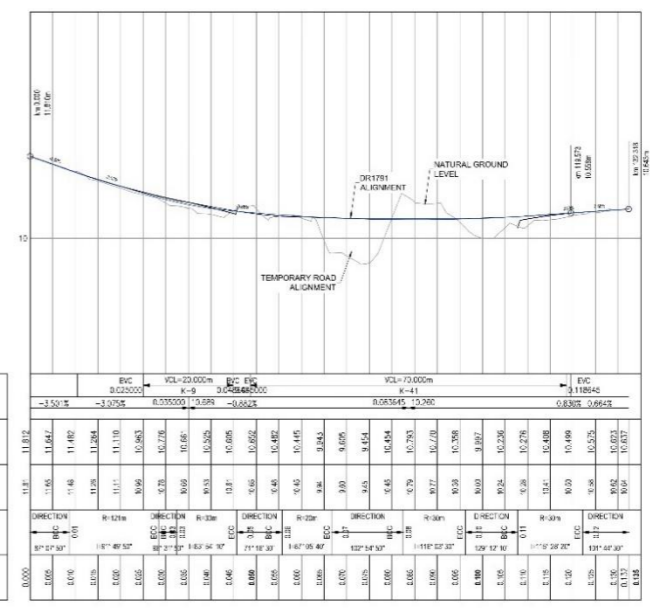
DATUM 5.000



POINT	X	Y	LEVEL
TCL.25	3 765 783.730	29 57 36	11.668
TCL.35	3 765 785.411	29 58 32	11.665
TCL.45	3 765 786.073	29 59 30	11.642
TCL.55	3 765 786.435	29 59 28	11.477
TCL.65	3 765 783.511	29 59 30	11.334
TCL.75	3 765 783.730	29 59 30	11.152
TCL.85	3 765 783.141	29 59 43	11.630
TCL.95	3 765 783.075	29 59 43	11.605
TCL.105	3 765 787.031	29 59 47	11.607
TCL.115	3 765 783.071	29 59 58	11.741
TCL.125	3 765 783.193	29 59 58	11.759
TCL.135	3 765 784.035	29 59 58	11.699
TCL.145	3 765 783.028	29 59 58	11.718
TCL.155	3 765 787.438	29 59 57	11.763
TCL.165	3 765 786.008	29 59 58	11.610
TCL.175	3 765 786.218	29 59 57	11.625
TCL.185	3 765 786.288	29 59 58	11.610
TCL.195	3 765 786.480	29 59 58	11.599
TCL.205	3 765 800.882	29 59 58	11.534
TCL.215	3 765 803.756	29 59 58	11.537
TCL.225	3 765 804.972	29 59 58	11.684
TCL.235	3 765 806.888	29 59 58	11.658
TCL.245	3 765 806.338	29 59 58	11.643

SCALES  
HOR 1 : 500  
VERT 1 : 50

DATUM 7.000



NO.	DATE	ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS
VB	04/2025	FOR TENDER

PROVINCIAL CHIEF ENG.	CONSULT. ENG.	DESIGNED BY:	DETAILED BY:
M.F. SIBANDA	D. MALAN	J. SANDR	J. SANDR
		CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY:
		A. HEARVE	D. MALAN

**HATCH**  
 477 21 91 15003  
 www.hatch.co.za

CONSULTANT'S APPROVAL  
 DATE: APRIL 2025

**Western Cape Government**  
 FOR YOU  
 Infrastructure

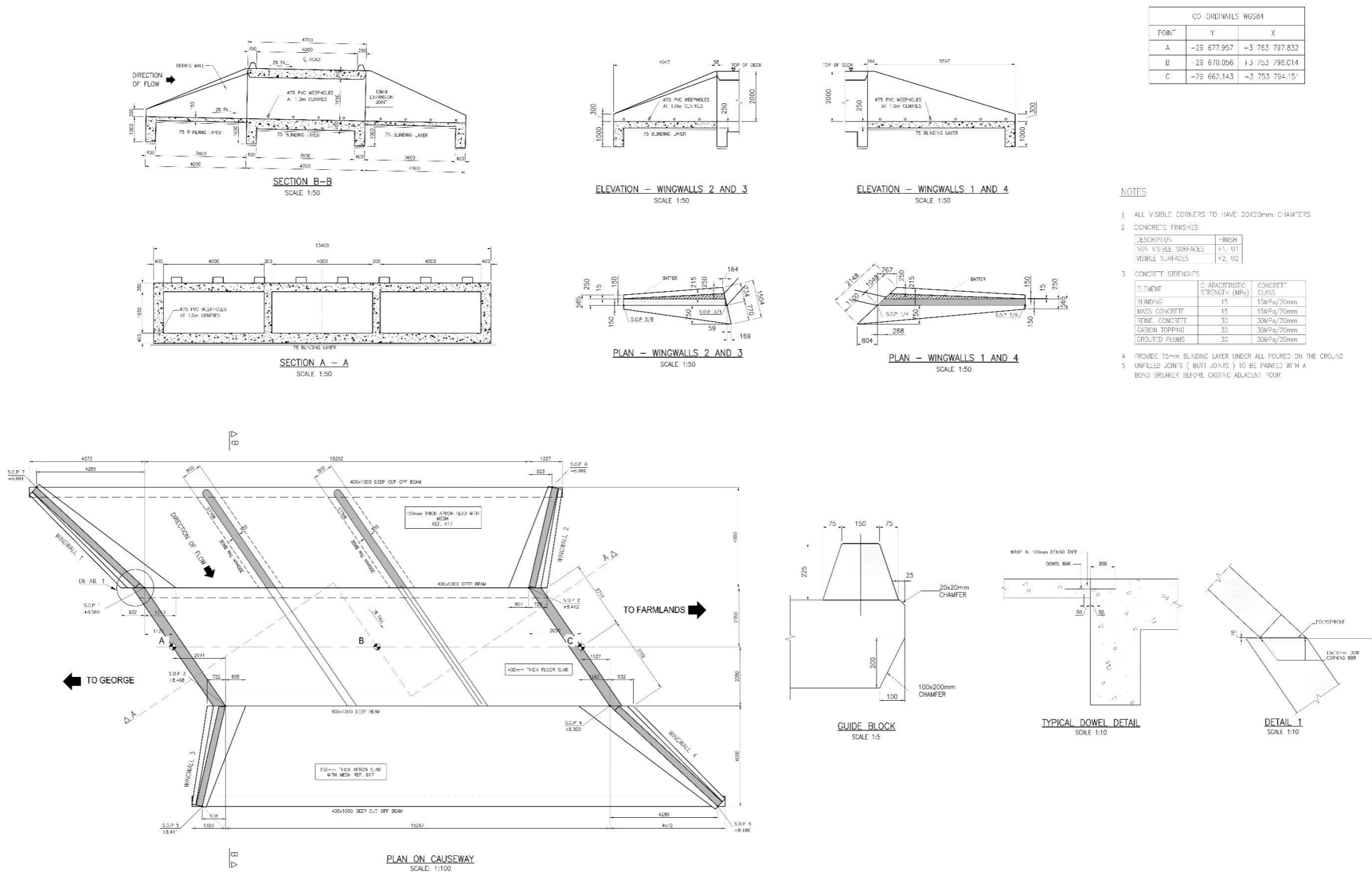
ACCEPTANCE  
 THIS APPROVAL IS FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT ATTRACT LEGAL LIABILITY OF ANY KIND FROM WHATSOEVER OR HOWSOEVER ARISING  
 PROVINCIAL ROADS ENGINEER  
 DATE:

CAUSEWAY No 12515 on DR1791 at Km 1.59 over BITOU RIVER NEAR STOPPAD  
 LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS

P.R.E.'s FILE NO.	SCALE
DOI166/41/4/C1157.02	SHEETS OF A0
CONTRACT NO.	WCG STRUCTURE PLAN
C1157.02	C12515/02
CONSULTANTS DWG NO.	WCG INDEX NO.
H361596-00000-223-272-1791-0001	A99/132
	VER
	VB

ANNEXURE 2B: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN: CONCRETE DETAILS OF PROPOSED CAUSEWAY NO. 12515 ON DR1791 AT KM1.59 OVER THE LEEREMANSDRIFT RIVER NEAR STOPPAD ROAD

A99/133



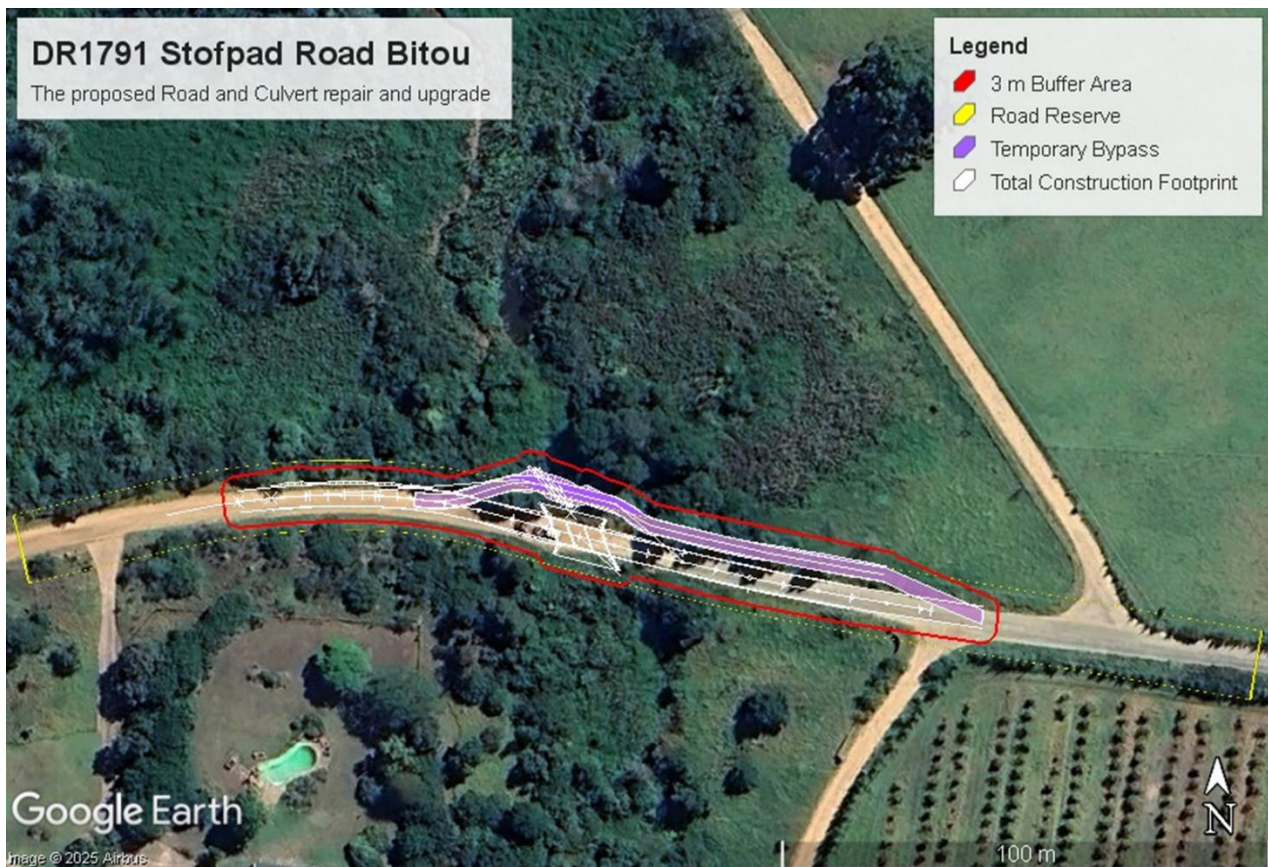
NO.	DATE	ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS	PROVINCIAL CHIEF ENG.	CONSULT. ENG.	DESIGNED BY:	DETAILED BY:	CONSULTANT'S APPROVAL	ACCEPTANCE	P.R.E.'S FILE NO.	SCALE	SHEETS	OF	VER
VB	04/20/22	FOR TENDER	M. PETERSEN	D. MALAN	A. HIFARIN	B. MEYER		THIS APPROVAL IS FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT ATTRACT LEGAL LIABILITY OF ANY KIND FROM WHATSOEVER OR HOWSOEVER ARISING	CAUSEWAY No 12515 on DR1791 at Km 1.59 over BITOU RIVER NEAR STOPPAD	A016/04/14/01197.02	1	1	VB
					DAWIE MALAN	A. HIFARIN		PROVINCIAL ROADS ENGINEER					

# ANNEXURE 2C: SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN: ALTERNATIVES TEMPORARY BYPASS LAYOUTS

## UPSTREAM ALTERNATIVE [PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE]



## DOWNSTREAM ALTERNATIVE



## ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form, received on 24 October 2025, the Basic Assessment Report (FBAR) and EMPr submitted together with the FBAR on 20 January 2026;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation, Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the FBAR submitted on 20 January 2026;
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures; and
- f) Appropriate information was made available in the report to understand the environmental and spatial context.
- g) No site visits were conducted during the course of this application process. The Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

### 1. Other relevant legislative considerations

#### 1.1 National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998

The proposed repairs to DR1791 will be undertaken within the regulated area of a watercourse. Therefore, Water Use Authorisation ('WUA') in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 ('NWA') is required from the relevant authority i.e. Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency ('BOCMA') on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation ('DWS').

The National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Act, Act 2 of 2022 (NEMLAA), came into effect on 30 June 2023. This Act added sub-section 24C(11) to the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended (NEMA) which requires that "a person who requires an environmental authorisation which also involves an activity that requires a licence or permit in terms of any of the specific environmental management Acts (i.e., NWA), must simultaneously submit those applications to the relevant competent authority or licensing authority, as the case may be, indicating in each application all other licences, authorisations and permits applied for".

In this regard, the BOCMA confirmed that the proposed repairs fall within the ambit of the General Authorisations in terms of Section 39 of the NWA for water uses as defined in Section 21(c) and Section 21(i) (Government Notice No. 4167 of 8 December 2023). The FBAR includes proof that the registration was submitted on the online Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System ('e-WULAAS') on 28 March 2025.

In light of the above the decision-maker is satisfied that the applicant has adequately complied with the prescripts of the relevant legislation.

## 2. Public Participation

2.1 The public participation process included:

- 2.1.1 identification of and engagement with interested and affected parties (I&APs) including organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates;
- 2.1.2 fixing two notice boards (in English and Afrikaans) at the sites for the commenting on the Draft BAR from 15 August to 19 September 2025;
- 2.1.3 giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site and any alternative site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 14 and 15 August 2025 regarding the availability of the DBAR for comment and a reminder on 11 September 2025;
- 2.1.4 the placing of newspaper advertisements in the "Knysna-Plett Herald" on 30 October 2025 for the availability of the Draft BAR; and
- 2.1.5 making the Draft Basic Assessment Report available to I&APs for public review and comment from 4 November 2025 to 3 December 2025. The report was made available on the EAP's company website at URL: <https://www.gnec.co.za>.

All the comments and issues raised by the respective *Organs of State and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)* that were captured in the Basic Assessment Report were responded to by the EAP. The Competent Authority is satisfied with the responses provided by the EAP to the organs of state and I&APs.

## 3. Alternatives

3.1 *Location Alternative:*

No location alternatives were considered. The motivation provided for not considering other location alternatives was deemed acceptable.

3.2 *Design and Layout Alternative (Preferred Alternative - Herewith approved):*

The proposed project constitutes a component of the comprehensive strategy for the repair and upgrading of the impacted portions of the road network. Several roads in the Garden Route suffered flood damage during a flood event in November 2021. The development is undertaken to prevent further impairment of ecological resources and associated service infrastructure and to mitigate the road safety hazards that arise from the current state of the infrastructure. The flood damage repair work includes:

- *Proposed causeway repairs at KM 1.59 along DR1791 Stofpad Road*

The proposed reinstatement and upgrading of the existing causeway, the current structure is proposed to be demolished and replaced with a new *in situ* reinforced concrete causeway comprising three cells, each approximately 4 m in width and 1.5 m in height. The design will provide a 4 m trafficable width between the guide blocks. The road approaches on the upstream and downstream sides will be elevated by approximately 1.4 m over lengths of roughly 100 m to achieve the required tie-in with the new deck level. The inlet and outlet structures will consist of wing walls and an apron slab, with appropriate erosion protection measures implemented to ensure long-term structural and ecological stability.

● *Establishing of a temporary bypass road:*

To ensure continuous traffic flow during the construction phase, a temporary bypass road will be established either on the upstream or downstream side of the existing road, depending on site conditions at the time of construction. The bypass road will be approximately 4- metres in width, with an additional working corridor of roughly 3-metres between the permanent structure and the temporary alignment. Construction of the temporary bypass road will necessitate the clearance of indigenous vegetation and activities within the watercourse. The total working area required outside the road reserve on the downstream side is estimated at approximately 561.71 m<sup>2</sup>, while the upstream construction area outside the road reserve will encompass approximately 514.5 m<sup>2</sup>, to which the latter has been preferred as indicated in the Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment. Only one deviation/bypass road option will be implemented during construction.

The engineering designs and solutions are site specific to minimise damage; therefore, no alternatives have been identified by the applicant.

Except for the layout of the temporary bypass road, no other design or layout alternatives were considered. The preferred alternative has been described as the best practicable environmental option.

### 3.3 No-Go Alternative

The No-Go alternative for the proposed development would entail leaving the existing road and culvert in their current condition, with no upgrades, repairs, or improvements undertaken. As a result, the existing safety risks would persist, continuing to increase the likelihood of accidents along this route. Additionally, the currently disturbed ecological conditions would remain unresolved, and the area would remain vulnerable to future flooding events.

## 4. **Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures**

### 4.1 *Activity need and desirability*

According to the applicant, during the month of November 2021, severe storms and resultant floods caused damage to the infrastructure and structures along DR1791. Therefore, the proposed works are required to prevent further deterioration along DR1791 to repair the infrastructure and structures and to minimise the risk of further damage during future flood events. Furthermore, the proposed repairs aim to ensure long term road integrity and safety for users.

### 4.2 *Aquatic Biodiversity aspects*

A description of the aquatic related issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process, as well as an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change have been considered. In this regard, the impact Basic Assessment Report was informed by an Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment.

According to the assessment two watercourses, namely the Leermansdrift River wetland and Bietou River and were identified and mapped within a 500m radius study area will be affected by the proposed repair works. It has been determined that the Leermansdrift River wetland has a Present Ecological State ('PES') of Category C: Moderately Modified and an Ecological Importance and Sensitivity of High / Very High. It has been reported that the riparian zone associated with the crossings has undergone a degree of modification as a result of encroachment of agricultural activities over the course of many decades, predominantly the removal of natural vegetation to increase availability of arable land. This has led to

circumstances conducive to the establishment of pioneer and alien and invasive (AIP) plant species, although encroachment of these at the time of assessment was deemed minimal.

It is reported that the required road repairs are site specific and therefore not expected to result in extensive spatial modification of the river. The consulting engineers have also confirmed that the proposed repairs, as well as any management measures to mitigate the impact on the aquatic environment, will be restricted to the proclaimed road reserve.

The assessment indicates that the potential direct impacts to the assessed reaches include increased sediment availability, temporary alteration of the pattern and timing of instream flows during the anticipated diversion of flows. Furthermore, the temporary loss of riparian vegetation is anticipated due to either outright removal or further encroachment of exotic and/or pioneer species due to disturbances.

The assessment concludes that the proposed repairs work may proceed with the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. Furthermore, it is reported that the deteriorating integrity of the road crossings may continue to impact the freshwater ecosystems through continued erosion of the road surface.

In light of the above and with due consideration that the proposed repair and erosion protection works related to existing structures and infrastructure, the Department is satisfied that the applicant has adequately demonstrated that the proposed activities will not have significant impacts on the aquatic features subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and the implementation of the recommendations identified during the process.

#### 4.3 Terrestrial Biodiversity aspects

Descriptions of the terrestrial biodiversity issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process, as well as an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change have been considered.

The BAR was informed by a Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement. The impact assessment indicates that the vegetation consists of numerous indigenous plant species with some invasive plant species at KM 1.59. According to the assessment although the site is mapped within the *Garden Route Shale Fynbos* and lies within the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve, the specific portion is degraded, and development is unlikely to compromise broader biosphere functions. It has been confirmed that the sites KM 1.59 does not fall within an Critical Biodiversity Area ('CBA') and that the areas surrounding the proposed repairs vary in condition from highly degraded to semi-intact. The direct impacts have been identified as loss of vegetation type and ecological processes and loss of Species of Conservation Concern ("SCC"). Based on the findings, the assessment concludes that the impact will be low if the recommended mitigation measures are implemented.

In respect of the Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement, the Screening Tool Report ('STR') identified several SCC which may occur at the site. According to the compliance statement, the DFFE Screening Tool identified several SCCs, however none were observed during the site visit, likely due to the low ecological value of the area. The fauna present is limited to common and non-threatened species, including small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Species are expected to be able to temporarily seek refuge during construction disturbances. It is, however, improbable that the proposed development will have any impact on the population of the identified species, given the limited development footprint of the proposed development.

In conclusion the compliance statement indicates that the current land use and level of modification of the habitats on site, as well as the nature of the proposed development, it is

unlikely that the proposed project will have an impact on terrestrial animal populations (including SCCs). Therefore, the development may proceed subject to the implementation of all the mitigation identified in the compliance statement.

With due consideration of the above, this Department is satisfied that the applicant has adequately demonstrated that the proposed activities will not have significant impacts on terrestrial biodiversity subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and the implementation of the recommendations identified during the process.

#### 4.4 Heritage / Archaeological Aspects

No significant impacts on heritage / archaeological resources are expected as a result of the proposed repair and erosion protection works along DR1791. This was confirmed in the response to the Notice of Intent to Develop issued by Heritage Western Cape, dated 19 February 2024 and revised on 27 February 2025.

In light of the above the competent authority is satisfied that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 and the comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to the proposed development have been taken into account.

#### 4.5 Other impacts

No other significant visual dust, noise and odour impacts have been identified.

### 5. Scope and Validity of the Environmental Authorisation

This environmental authorisation does not define specific operational aspects. The environmental authorisation's validity period has been granted for a period of ca. five (5) years, during which period the construction activities must commence and be concluded, including the post-construction rehabilitation and monitoring and submission of the final environmental audit reports for the construction phase. In light of the proposed implementation programme, the monitoring and post-construction rehabilitation can be adequately incorporated in the construction phase.

Where the activity has been commenced with, the EIA Regulations, 2014 allow that (upon application) the period for which the environmental authorisation is granted may be extended for a further period of 5-years.

### 6. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable;
- disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied;

- pollution and degradation of the environment are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied

## 7. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with an approved EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that, the proposed listed activities, will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

----- **END** -----