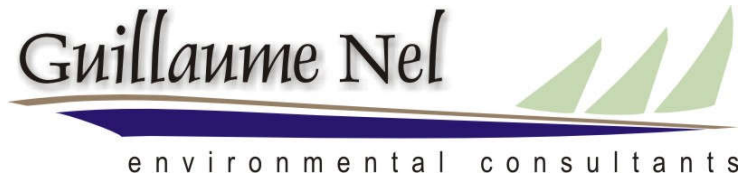


PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.



ANNEXURE D - COMMENT AND RESPONSE REPORT

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Issues / comment raised by:	Date	Means of communication	Issue / comment	Response
«Name»	«Date_of_Comms»	«Means_of_Comms»	«Comment»	«Response»
Andrew September	27 October 2017	Email	<p>CASE NUMBER: 17100313AS1006E</p> <p>The matter above has reference.</p> <p>Heritage Western Cape is in receipt of your application for the above matter received on 06 October 2017.</p> <p>You are herewith notified that, since there is no reason to believe that the proposed development will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.</p> <p>However, should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and palaeontological material be discovered during the execution of the activities above, all works must be stopped immediately and Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay.</p>	This is noted.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>This letter does not exonerate the application from obtaining any necessary approval from any other applicable statutory authority.</p> <p>HWC reserves the right to request additional information as required.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the official above and quote the case number.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	
Jessica Christie	06 February 2018	Email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The abovementioned document dated 14 December 2017 and received by this Department on 19 December 2017 refers. 2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned document. 3. This Directorate has reviewed the information contained within the Pre-App BAR and provides the following comment. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") format <p>Please note that any report, plan or document submitted as part of an application must inter alia be prepared in a format that may be determined by the competent authority.</p> <p>Kindly take note that the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") form utilised for the Pre-Application BAR is based on an outdated BAR form. This Department has determined the format of the new form in October 2017. It is advised that your Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) utilise the new BAR form for the</p>	<p>This is noted.</p> <p>This has been carried out. The 2nd Draft Post-App Basic Assessment Report has been completed on the latest Departmental form dated October 2017.</p>

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>application process. This form can be obtained on the Departmental website.</p> <p>3.2 Alternatives</p> <p>It is understood that the project includes the grain silo bags area with the associated routes for the trucks and the weigh bridge for both alternatives. Furthermore, the preferred alternative includes a storm water retention pond for the possible storm water surface flow that will be generated.</p> <p>The alternative which is not preferred, has no facility for the storm water surface flow. This Directorate is of the opinion that this is not an appropriate alternative as storm water must be catered for with any alternative layout or design of a facility. It is suggested that more realistic alternatives be assessed.</p> <p>In addition to the above, an alternative to grain silo bags should be assessed (i.e. grain silo structures).</p> <p>3.3 Retention Dam</p> <p>It is noted that the retention dam proposed for the storm water is located in south west corner of the property and that it has a</p>	<p>This is noted and agreed.</p> <p>As per the explanation to this also provided in the Post-App Draft BAR, the applicant initially did not deem it necessary to construct a stormwater retention pond due to the fact that the site will not be developed with hard surface and drainage onto the open soil would still occur to a large extent.</p> <p>A grain silo tower alternative has also been included as per the comment. Silo towers were discussed with the Department of Agriculture during pre-consultation meetings for the project. The Department of Agriculture indicated that they would under no circumstance support a tower silo at this located it was agreed that the bag grain silo would be the preferred alternative.</p> <p>The site storm water flows will be directed to the new access roads</p>
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PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>controlled outflow. It is not clear where the outflow will be and to where the water will drain to. The retention dam must be free draining, furthermore, this Directorate does not support an option where water will drain into an unlicensed or unregistered water storage facility. It is unclear whether the facility on the neighbouring landowners property is indeed registered/licensed and if it has the capacity to receive and store the stormwater generated from the proposed development. This matter must be clarified and the issue resolved with the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency.</p> <p>Please be reminded of the requirements of One Environmental Management System in this regard.</p> <p>3.4 Traffic Impact</p> <p>It is noted that the proposal and Pre-Application BAR has been submitted to the relevant roads authority for MR342, DR1553 and OP5005 respectively, however, it is advised that the matter be followed up with the said authorities to obtain their comment and design requirements.</p>	<p>on the southern and western boundaries to culminate at the south-western corner. The flood will be balanced in a retention dam on the south-western corner with an outlet conforming to the pre-development flood size.</p> <p>The neighbouring farmer has a small earth dam on the boundary of his property and requested that this be utilized for the stormwater retention. The dam is an old existing dam and is too small in size to require any approvals or registration in terms of the NWA.</p> <p>Comment has been obtained from the PGWC: Integrated Transport Management Department. It noted inter alia that only one full access will be considered. Should proposed accesses be spaced more than 500m from each other, this branch will consider more than one access. This department will provide further comment during the consent land use application.</p> <p>A Traffic Impact Statement has also been undertaken and is herewith included as Annexure G. The accesses are located approximately 600m from each other and was confirmed as being</p>
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PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>3.5 Impact Assessment</p> <p>It is noted that no impact assessment has been conducted for the decommission phase of the development. Kindly take note of the following contained within Appendix 1 Content of the Basic Assessment Report:</p> <p>“(i) a full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts the activity will impose on the preferred location through the life of the activity, including –</p> <p>(i) a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process; and</p> <p>(ii) an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk and an indication of the extent to which the issue and risk could be avoided or addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures;”</p> <p>4. The Department awaits the submission of the Application Form or a Revised Pre-Application BAR as prescribed by the EIA Regulations, 2014. Please note that one printed copy and one electronic copy (saved on CD/DVD) of the Application Form must be submitted.</p> <p>Upon the submission of a revised BAR, this Directorate ay provide further comment.</p> <p>5. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an Environmental</p>	<p>more than sufficient by the Traffic Statement.</p> <p>This has been amended and decommissioning has been taken into consideration as part of the Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p>
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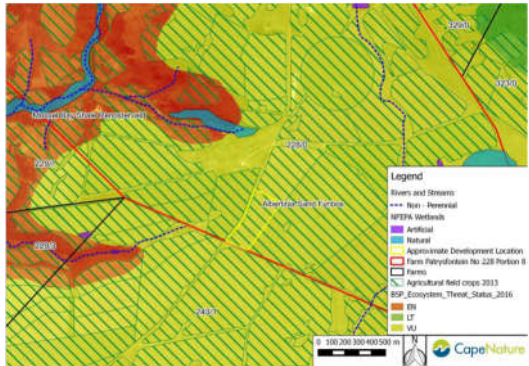
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			<p>Authorisation being granted by the Department. It is an offence in terms of Section 49A of the NEMA for a person to commence with a listed activity unless the Department has granted an Environmental Authorization for the undertaking of the activity. Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 24F and 49A of the NEMA will result in the matter being referred to the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Directorate of this Department for prosecution. A person convicted of an offence in terms of the above is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such a fine and imprisonment.</p> <p>6. The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on the information received.</p>	
Colin Fordham Cape Nature	6 February 2018	Email	<p>CapeNature, as custodian of biodiversity in the Western Cape¹, would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report for the proposed construction of 10ha of grain silos on Farm Patrysfontein No. 288 Portion 8 Mossel Bay (received on the 14th of December 2017) and would like to make the following comments. Please note that our comments only pertain to the biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.</p> <p>The following section will describe the proposed preferred alternative scope of works and was extracted from the documentation supplied:</p>	

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p><i>“The client – SSK – SENTRAAL SUID CO-OPERATIVE Ltd - proposes a Grain Silo Bag Storage Area to serve the Agricultural Industry on a Portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patrysfontein No. 228 in Mossel Bay. The area will be accessed through access points to the concerned area off the existing OB5005 gravel road.</i></p> <p><i>Grain Carriers will access the property through set circulation routes (gravel roads) that will also incorporate a weigh bridge. After the grain carriers have been weighed they will proceed to an area where the transported grain / produce will be stored in the associated Grain Silo Bags. The Grain Silo Bags is the most cost effective means to store large amounts of grain, as it does not incorporate solid fixed structures and can be easily dismantled and relocated as the need arises. The Grain Silo Bags are made from a waived material that is very resistant to climatic condition fluctuations (rain, wind, heat) and fauna attempting to access the grain for source of nourishment.</i></p> <p><i>Numerous agricultural sectors utilize this form of storage, to store mass amounts of grain efficiently and cost effectively. The Grain Silo Bags, when the need arises, can be easily dismantled / transported, and excludes the need for hardened structures to be constructed. The only solid structure proposed as part of this Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will be a cast concrete foundation to incorporate the necessary weigh bridge, of approximately 150m2 in footprint. No formalized tarred access roads are proposed as part of the Grain Silo Bag Area, only compacted raised gravel roads</i></p>	
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PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p><i>with access to be taken off the existing gravel road (OB5005) adjacent to the property.”</i></p> <p>According to Mucina and Rutherford² and the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP 2017)³, the vegetation unit present on the property is the Vulnerable Albertina Sand Fynbos (Poorly Protected) (Figure 1). Albertina Sand Fynbos unit is listed as a threatened ecosystem in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM: BA). The Albertina Sand Fynbos contains 36 threatened plant species and 24 endemic plant species with 5% formally conserved and 57% of its original extent remaining in a natural condition. The conservation target for this specific vegetation unit is listed as 32% of its original extent.</p>  <p>Figure 1: Map of approximate footprint showing vegetation units (statuses shown on map), NFEPA wetlands, locations of known streams and rivers, as well as location of registered DAFF fields.</p> <p>There are no known drainage lines or National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p>
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PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

(NFEPA) 4 wetlands present within the approximate footprint (Figure 1). The entire area is also located outside the extent of any (Western Cape Biodiversity Sector Plan (WCBSP 2017)5 layers (Figure 2).

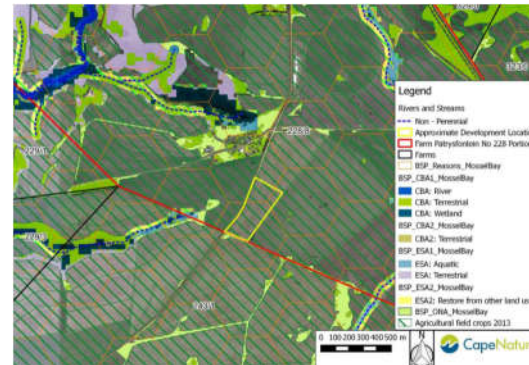


Figure 2: Map of the approximate footprint, showing the extent relative to WCBSP (2017).

Following a review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and appendices, and given the above mentioned sensitivity of the site, CapeNature would like to make the following comments/recommendations:

1. CapeNature would like to remind the landowner that in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) (“CARA”) landowners must prevent the spread of alien invasive plants on the entire property (not just within the development footprint boundary). The level of alien infestation is therefore not be seen as reducing the sensitivity of a site, nor is the subsequent removal of alien vegetation from a property regarded as a mitigation measure due to this is a legal requirement. Infestation

Noted and agreed. The bigger aspect to consider which might not have been emphasized is that the site has been ploughed and cultivated for decades.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>by alien plants does not necessarily mean that an area is not important for biodiversity as some vegetation types are particularly prone to invasive alien infestation but may recover when cleared of alien vegetation.</p> <p>2. In addition to CARA, in terms of the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, NEM: BA6,2014, specific alien plant species (e.g. <i>Acacia cyclops</i>) are either prohibited or listed as requiring a permit; aside from restricted activities concerning, <i>inter alia</i>, their spread, and should be removed.</p> <p>3. Should the applicant require any additional cut and fill or quarry material, the sources of which should be determined and listed in the BAR. CapeNature will not support the applicant sourcing material from any unlicensed borrow pits or quarries. Alternatively the applicant should apply to the relevant competent authorities to establish the required mines. It should also be determined what level of material processing will be required and comment from the Department of Mineral Resources sought on the proposed scope of works.</p> <p>4. CapeNature recommends that the applicant contact the Mossel Bay Municipal Town Planning Department to determine what potential consent use applications will need to be lodged to gain Municipal approval for the construction of the facility in terms of the SPLUMA (Act No. 16 of 2013) and the LUPA (Act No. 3 of 2014).</p> <p>To conclude, CapeNature does not object to the proposed establishment of 10 ha of grain silos and infrastructure on existing</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. It is not foreseen that additional cut and fill material would be required.</p> <p>It has been established that a consent use would be required for the activity.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			agricultural lands. CapeNature may however provide additional comment on any required further applications and reserves the right to revise initial comment and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.	
Fabion Smith	24 January 2018	Email	<p>With reference to your report with GNEC code 20463, with DEA&DP reference number 16/3/6/7/1/D6/29/0176/17 dated 14/12/2017 and received by BGCMA on 08/01/2018, herewith the following:</p> <p>The BGCMA has no objection against the proposed establishment, provided that the following conditions are adhered to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All relevant sections and regulations of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) regarding water use must be adhered to. 2. No pollution of surface water or ground water resources may occur due to any activity. 3. The minimizing of waste must be promoted and alternative methods for waste management must be investigated. 4. The monitoring of water resources in the designated area needs to be done on a regular basis. This monitoring initiative should be managed and driven in a co-operative manner. <p>Please be advised that no activities may commence without the appropriate approvals/authorizations (where needed) from the responsible authority. The onus remains with the registered property owner to</p>	<p>It is noted that the BGCMA has no objection to the proposal.</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Noted. No surface water on site.</p> <p>Agreed. As per the Waste Minimization Plan included in the EMPr.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p>

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>confirm adherence to any relevant legislation that such activities might trigger and/or need authorization for.</p> <p>Also be advised that the comment provided is in the interest of responsible water resources management. The BGCMA will gladly comment on any additional information provided for review. The BGCMA reserves the right revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that might be received.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact this office of you have any further queries.</p> <p>Please ensure to quote the above reference in doing so.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	
Malcolm Watters Provincial Roads Network Management	13 February 2018	Email	<p>1. Die volgende het betrekking:</p> <p>1.1 Mnr D de Wet se e-pos op 18 Desember 2017 aan Mnr Sj Schoeman by die kantore van die Distriskspadingenieur, Oudtshoorn.</p> <p>1.2 U kennisgewing op terrein.</p> <p>1.3 Die Distriskspadingenieur, Oudtshoorn se memorandum 2018-01-05 Job 95692 DR1553 Memo to Head office.docx aan hierdie Direktooraat.</p> <p>2. Vanuit 'n omgewingsoogpunt het hierdie Tak geen beswaar teen die uitreiking van 'n Omgewingsgoedkeuring nie, op voorwaarde dat hierdie Tak die kans gegun sal word om kommentaar te kan lewer gedurende 'n</p>	<p>Kennis word hiervan geneem en u sal weer in kennis gestel word tydens die grondgebruikaansoek.</p>

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228 IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

			<p>Grondgebruiksaansoek, wat via die Plaaslike Owerheid aan hierdie Tak gestuur moet word.</p> <p>3. Voorlopig kan hierdie Tak noem dat die volgende gedurende die Grondgebruiksaansoek aangespreek / verander sal moet word:</p> <p>3.1 Slegs 'n enkele voltoegang (in en uit) sal vir goedkeuring oorweeg word. Indien toegange meer as 500m gespasieer is, dank an hierdie Tak oorweging skenk aan meer as een toegangspunt.</p> <p>3.2 'n Studie wat die impak van die addisionele verkeer op die padnetwerk en toegang(e) sal beskryf, asook die metodes wat voorgestel word om daardie impakte te verlig.</p> <p>Die uwe</p>	<p>'n Verkeers Verslag is na afloop van die eerste publieke hersiening onderneem. Die studie het gevind dat die toegange ±600m uitmekaar is end at dit meer as voldoende sal wees vir voorgestelde aansoek op hierdie orde pad.</p> <p>Soos genoem is hierdie studie reeds onderneem en is die studie hierby ingesluit as Addendum G.</p>