

**CONSERVATION INTELLIGENCE:
LANDSCAPE CENTRAL**

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reference SSD14/2/6/1/9/4/81-33_Housing_Cloetesdal
date 29 January 2020

Euonell Visagie
Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants
PO Box 2632
Paarl
7620

By email: eg@gnec.co.za

Dear Ms Visagie

RE: Proposed mixed use development (Newinbosch) on the remainder of portion 33 of Farm 81, Cloetesdal, Stellenbosch – 1st Draft Basic Assessment Report.

DEA&DP Ref: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B4/45/1124/19

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 1st Draft Basic Assessment Report and wish to make the following initial comments:

1. The development site was historically covered by Swartland Shale Renosterveld which is a Critically Endangered vegetation type. However, the site has been cultivated over a long period and there is no natural vegetation remaining.
2. The western-most corner of the site overlaps with part of an area mapped as Ecological Support Area category 2 (ESA2). ESA2 areas are areas which once supported important ecological functions but which are acknowledged as being degraded or even transformed. Ideally, these areas should be rehabilitated. In this instance the ESA2 area is part of a historic drainage channel which fed water into the dam north of the site. It is highly unlikely that this area can be rehabilitated however, due to the long history of agricultural activities on the site.
3. The main concern from an ecological perspective is the risk of additional pollutants and sediment entering the Plankenburg River. We note that a detailed stormwater management plan has been provided. The site should be strictly monitored during construction for any signs of erosion which should be remediated immediately.
4. Please confirm that the site is within the current urban edge.
5. In all cases such as this where a significant portion of agricultural land is being changed into urban development, it must not be used as an excuse to expand agricultural enterprises into natural habitat elsewhere.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alana Duffell-Canham', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alana Duffell-Canham