



Draft Basic Assessment Report

Proposed Rehabilitation of Watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, Grootplaat, Aurora

EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F1/1/2037/26

VERSION: DRAFT

DATE: September 2026

APPLICANT

Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd

**FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FROM
18 SEPTEMBER 2026 TO 19 OCTOBER 2026**

Written comments should be submitted to the Environmental
Assessment Practitioner, Jeremy Rose of
Infinity Environmental, at the details below or online at
www.infinityenv.co.za



Email: comments+grootplaat@infinityenv.co.za

Tel: 021 834 1600

Collingwood Building, Black River Park
2 Fir Street, Observatory, Cape Town

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Proposed Rehabilitation of Watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, Grootplaat, Aurora: Draft Basic Assessment Report

APPLICANT

Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd

Grootplaat, Farm 37, Aurora, 7325

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Collingwood Building

comments@grootplaat@infinityenv.co.za

Black River Park

www.infinityenv.co.za

2 Fir Street

Observatory, Cape Town

Report purpose

This report is prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and is intended to:

- Present the proposed project and the need for the project.
- Describe the affected environment, to facilitate informed decision making.
- Provide an overview of the BA Process being followed, including public consultation.
- Assess the predicted positive and negative impacts of the project on the environment.
- Provide recommendations to mitigate negative impacts and to enhance the benefits of the project; and
- Provide for environmental management during the implementation of the project.

Authors

Jeremy Rose B.Sc Hons (Reg E.A.P. #2019/1116, Pr.Sci.Nat. 120148)

Olivia De Paiva MSc (Cand E.A.P. #2024/8454, Cand.Sci.Nat 169424)

Kelly Gilmour MSc (Cand E.A.P #2024/8037, Cand.Sci.Nat 169880)

Project Support:

Seemole Shika MSc. (Cand.Sci.Nat 158851)

Keziah Ruiters B.A. Hons

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date	Version
17 September 2026	Draft 1

DECLARATION OF EAP'S INDEPENDENCE

I, Jeremy Rose, appointed by the Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd as Environmental Assessment Practitioner for the Draft Basic Assessment Report, hereby declare that the information provided in this report and supporting documentation is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge; that other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application I have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; that I have disclosed, to the Applicant, the specialist(s), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Competent Authority; that I have ensured that information in respect of the application was distributed or was made available to registered interested and affected parties and that participation will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments; and that I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the NEMA EIA Regulations.



Jeremy Themba Rose BSc (Hons), Reg. E.A.P. 2019/1116, Pr.Sci.Nat. 120148, IAIA member 5781

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and introduction

The Grootplaat rehabilitation project is focused on the watercourses on Farm 15/37 and the remainder RE/37 near Aurora within the Bergrivier Municipality, Western Cape. The property extends across approximately 2 146 ha and is situated within the upper catchment of the Kuilders River system. The site is a high plateau historically used for agriculture, with a valley-bottom watercourse and various associated habitats. The property has been subject to historical agricultural activities, hydrological modification and associated infrastructure development. Over time, these activities, together with the proliferation of invasive alien plant vegetation, altered hydrological processes, drainage modifications, channelisation, erosion and sedimentation, have resulted in prolonged degradation of watercourses and their associated freshwater ecosystems, which reduced the hydrological connectivity, ecological functioning of these aquatic system.

The project seeks to restore and enhance the hydrological functioning, ecological integrity and increase the resilience of the landscape through targeted rehabilitation interventions. Key rehabilitation interventions include the clearing and management of invasive vegetation, rehabilitation of degraded wetland and riparian habitats, hydrological rehabilitation of dam systems, installation of erosion control structures where required, revegetation with indigenous species, rehabilitation of historically cultivated areas, soil amelioration and formalisation of wetland crossings to minimise future impacts on sensitive aquatic environments. The rehabilitation approach is informed by detailed wetland delineations, freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity assessments which identified priority areas for intervention and informed the design of rehabilitation measures.

Site description

The site is situated at approximately 32° 41' 12.84" S, 18° 31' 11.40" E on Farm 15/37 and the remainder of RE/37 near Aurora, in the Bergrivier Local Municipality, Western Cape. The two properties together extend across approximately 2 146 ha and form the northwestern end of a spur of the Piketberg mountain range, a sandstone range lying west of the main Langeberg fold mountains.

The site occupies a shallow plateau valley near the crest of the range, flanked by two parallel ridges, with elevation across the property ranging from approximately 200 m to 1 000 m above mean sea level. The Kuilders River and several of its minor tributaries rise on the site and flow north-west through the property, forming the upper reaches of the Kuilders River catchment. The underlying geology comprises quartzitic sandstone of the Peninsula Formation (Table Mountain Group), with shallow, acidic sandy soils on the surrounding slopes and deeper soils accumulated in the valley around the watercourses and former agricultural lands. Vegetation on the site falls within the Fynbos biome, Northwest Fynbos bioregion, and is mapped as Piketberg Sandstone Fynbos.

The lower-lying valley-bottom areas of the site have been used for agriculture over the past 20 years or more and include a number of existing dwellings, farm workshops and work areas, together with the watercourses, wetlands and in-channel dams that are the subject of this application. The surrounding higher-lying areas comprise steeply sloped, rocky fynbos-covered slopes that have not been developed or cultivated.



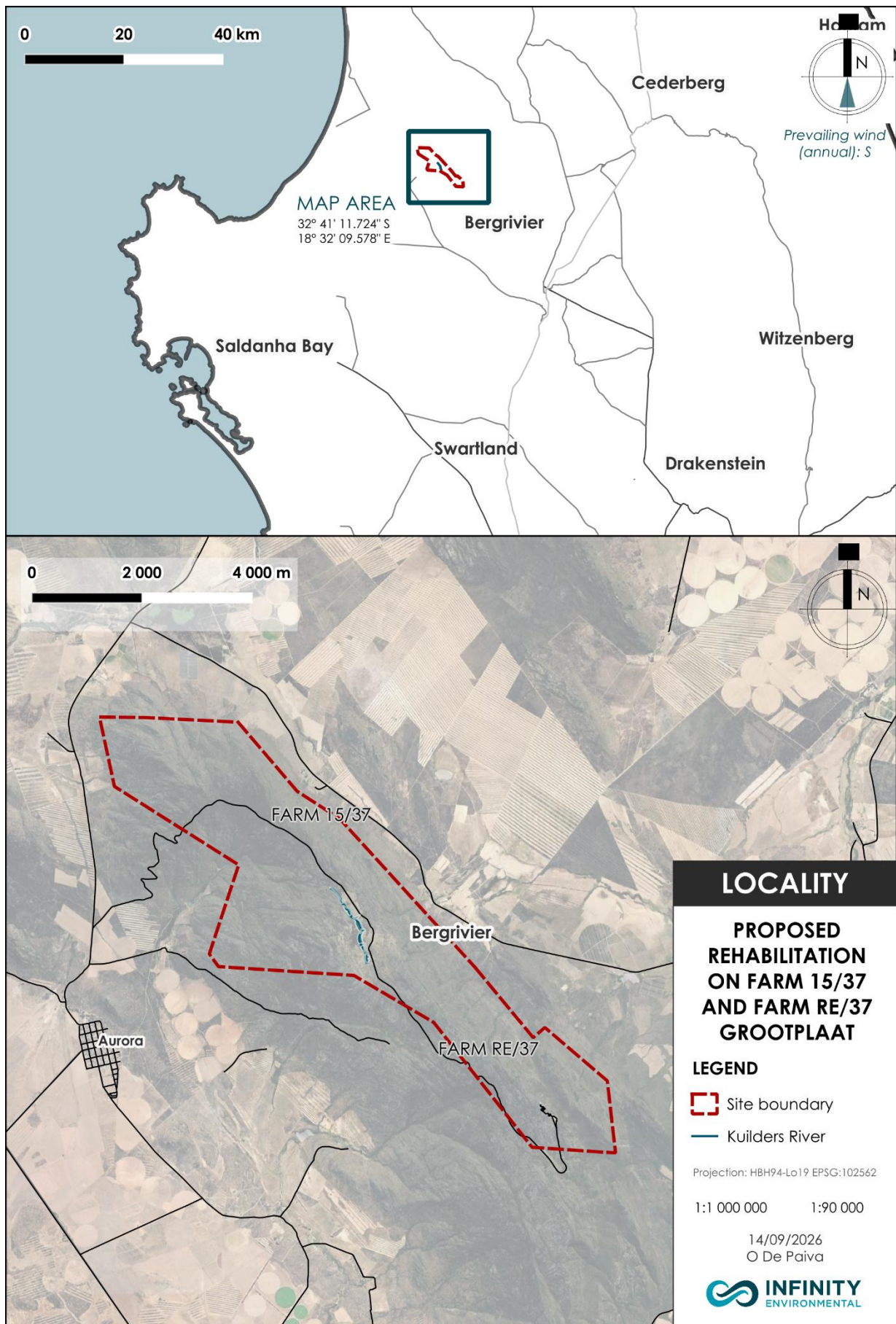


Figure 1. Locality map

Project Proposal

The applicant proposes the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, watercourses, in-channel dams and former agricultural lands on the Grootplaat site through targeted rehabilitation interventions that improve hydrological functioning, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

The rehabilitation programme aims to:

- improve wetland hydrology;
- reverse the impacts of historical agricultural activities;
- control alien invasive vegetation;
- restore and increase indigenous biodiversity;
- stabilise erosion-prone areas; and
- improve the long-term resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems across the property.

Proposed rehabilitation interventions include:

- Structural works in the watercourse: up to five gabion weirs upstream of Dam 1, boardwalk crossings in Wetland Reach B, a vehicle crossing and pedestrian boardwalk at Dam 4, and a drop structure below the Dam 4 wall (approximately 300 m² of new structural footprint);
- Reinforcement of the Dam 1 and Dam 3 spillways, a low-flow release culvert and infiltration trench at Dam 1 and Dam 3, and repair of the existing Dam 4 spillway and construction of a flow spreading structure;
- Wetland reshaping, regrading, bank pull-back, sediment removal and alien plant clearing within existing degraded watercourse areas;
- Clearing of invasive alien vegetation (including *Populus*, *Pinus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Quercus* and *Sesbania* species) across all management units, with cleared material composted, used in erosion control, or stockpiled outside wetlands;
- Soil amelioration, ripping, contouring and revegetation with indigenous pioneer species on old agricultural land (MU2A, MU2B and MU6);
- Rehabilitation of the semi-intact fynbos mosaic (MU3) and transitional wetlands (MU4), including protection of regenerating vegetation and rehabilitation of wetland edges;
- Alien clearing for fire-risk reduction and revegetation in the woodland and recreational zone (MU5); and
- Ongoing removal of pine and other invasive species from the former pine plantation (MU7).

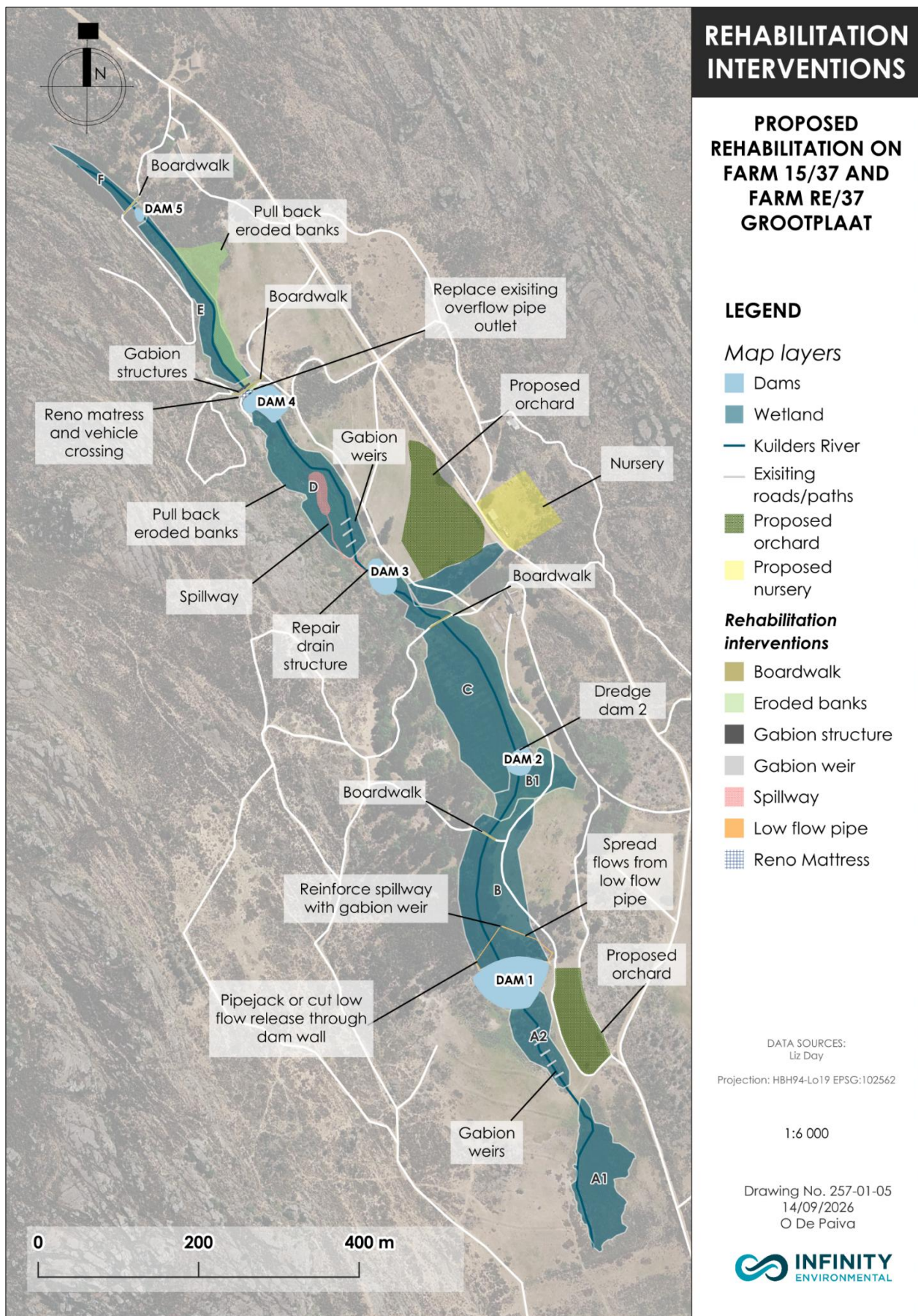


Figure 2: Rehabilitation interventions

Environmental Assessment Process

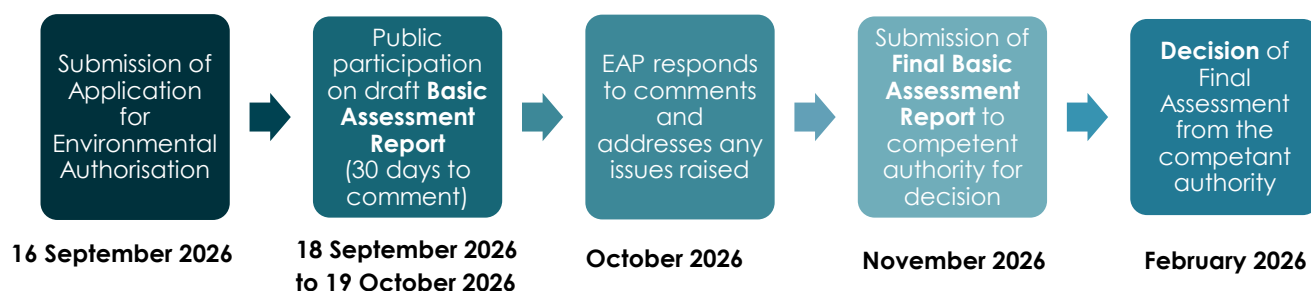
The proposed rehabilitation requires an environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP). The activities requiring environmental authorisation include those set out in the table below, listed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended by GN 326 of 2017) and the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998, NEMA).

Table 1 : Listed activities applicable to the proposed development

Listed activity	Description
Activity 12 of Listing Notice 1 The development of— (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs; (a) within a watercourse;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Activity 19 of Listing Notice 1 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;	The proposed watercourse rehabilitation activities include sediment removal from dams, reshaping of degraded wetlands, channel rehabilitation, erosion control measures and the installation of gabion weirs and other stabilisation structures. The volume of material to be moved will exceed 10 cubic metres and occur within watercourses.
Activity 27 of Listing Notice 1 The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation is required for (ii) maintenance in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The proposed rehabilitation activities focus primarily on the removal of alien invasive vegetation. However, a dense area of bracken fern <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> obscures large parts of the valley bottom wetland on the site and is proposed for clearing, which may slightly exceed one hectare in area. This is an indigenous species, though not an endemic or sensitive one.
Activity 48 of Listing Notice 1 The expansion of (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more, where such expansion occurs (a) within a watercourse;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses including gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3	The proposed rehabilitation activities will include clearing of indigenous

Listed activity	Description
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 in the (i) Western Cape; Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans	bracken fern within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) designated in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan.
Activity 14 of Listing Notice 3 The development of— dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; i. Western Cape i. Outside urban areas: (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;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Activity 23 of Listing Notice 3 The expansion of; (i) dams or weirs where the dam or weir is expanded by 10 square metres or more; (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; Where such development occur; (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback adopted in the prescribed manner; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; excluding the expansion of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, the proposed development requires Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) and a Basic Assessment (BA) must be undertaken by an Environmental Assessment Practitioner. Infinity Environmental is the appointed EAP and is responsible for managing the BA process. The assessment was undertaken by registered EAP Jeremy Rose.



Certain of the proposed rehabilitation activities also constitute water uses in terms of section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA"), specifically the impeding or diverting of the flow of water in a watercourse (section 21(c)) and the altering of the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse (section 21(i)). These water uses fall within the General Authorisation published under Government Notice 4167 of 2023 and will therefore be registered with the Department of Water and Sanitation through the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) rather than licensed. This is on the basis of the Risk Assessment Matrix completed by the aquatic specialist, which rates the risk to the water resource as Low for all proposed activities provided that the control measures set out in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) are strictly applied.

Need and Desirability

The need for and desirability of the proposed rehabilitation is considered in this Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in terms of its level of fit with spatial planning and policy, its social context and its response to principles of environmental management, including the mitigation of environmental impacts of the associated activities. The proposed rehabilitation of watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, is necessitated by the extensive degradation of wetlands, watercourses and former agricultural lands on the property.

The need for the project is further reinforced by the presence of ecologically important aquatic ecosystems and sensitive biodiversity features on the property. The site contains stream, seep wetlands, valley-bottom wetlands and riparian habitats that are classified as endangered ecosystem types and occur within areas identified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Aquatic Ecological Support Areas (ESA1s). The proposed rehabilitation measures will improve wetland hydrology, reduce erosion, re-establish indigenous vegetation, restore ecological connectivity and support the long-term recovery of degraded aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

No alternative location is considered feasible, as the rehabilitation activities are specifically intended to address existing degradation within the wetlands, watercourses, dams and former agricultural areas on Farms 15/37 and RE/37.

Impact Assessment

The specialist studies and statement conducted to inform this impact assessment are listed below. All impacts identified and assessed, as well as the proposed mitigation measures and management actions can be found in Section I of this BAR. In addition, all mitigation and management measures proposed by the specialists, including those additional impacts and management measures identified by the EAP, have been included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), which is attached as Appendix H of this BAR. Specialist reports are included under Appendix G of this report.

Table 2: EIA Team

Role	Organisation	Name
Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Infinity Environmental	Jeremy Rose (Reg EAP 2019/1116) Olivia De Paiva MSc (Cand EAP #2024/8454, Cand.Sci.Nat) Kelly Gilmour MSc (Cand EAP #2024/8037, Cand.Sci.Nat)



Role	Organisation	Name
Project support	Infinity Environmental	Seemole Shika (Cand.Sci.Nat)
Freshwater Ecologist	Liz Day Consulting	Dr. Elizabeth Day (Pr.Sci.Nat, Reg No 004806)
Botanist	Nick Helme Botanical Surveys	Nick Helme

Aquatic: The aquatic features on the site form a connected system in the upper Kuilders River catchment, comprising headwater seep wetlands (Wetland Reach A and Seep Wetland B1), unchanneled and channelised valley-bottom wetlands (Wetland Reaches B to E), riparian habitat, a bedrock-controlled foothill stream reach (Reach F) and five in-channel dams. Present Ecological State across the reaches ranges from Category C (moderately modified) to Category D/E (largely to seriously modified), with the reaches downstream of Dam 1 the most degraded. Ecological importance is rated Moderate for the wetland and stream reaches and Low for the artificial dams. The delineation confirmed the wetlands to be naturally occurring, with the dams and channelised sections resulting from historical modification.

Botanical: The botanical specialist (Helme, 2026) found that the proposed wetland rehabilitation measures are likely to result in a long-term Medium positive impact on flora and terrestrial ecology on the site and supports the project proceeding on this basis. Recommended mitigation includes continued removal of alien invasive plant species using appropriate methodology (Martens *et al.*, 2021), revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous species propagated from surrounding vegetation, and a programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, which has not burned in more than 25 years against an optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this vegetation type.

No-go option: Under the no-go option no rehabilitation is undertaken and the existing degradation continues. Wetland extent and function would continue to decline, channel incision and erosion would continue, invasive alien vegetation would continue to spread and displace indigenous vegetation, and downstream flow persistence and water quality would not improve. The no-go option is therefore not preferred.

The table below summarises the impacts assessed, assuming implementation of the recommended mitigation and management measures for the preferred and no-go alternatives.

Table 3: Key Impacts

Impact	Nature	Significance after mitigation	Description
Design and Rehabilitation Phase Impacts			
Improvement in wetland condition and extent	Positive	Medium	The rehabilitation interventions are expected to improve watercourse hydrological function, reduce erosion and sedimentation risk, strengthen the ecological corridor along the valley-bottom wetland, and increase resilience to floods, droughts and fire. Wetland condition in affected reaches is expected to improve by at least one PES category, with an unquantified increase in wetland extent, provided the mitigation measures in the EMPr are implemented.
Watercourse degradation/disturbance	Negative	Low	Construction-related activities, including gabion and reno mattress installation, spillway alterations, bank and bed reshaping, and

Impact	Nature	Significance after mitigation	Description
			orchard establishment near watercourses, could increase sedimentation, trampling and compaction, and create conditions favourable to invasive alien plant re-establishment if not managed.
Maintenance Phase Impacts			
Watercourse degradation/disturbance	Negative	Low	Ongoing but infrequent maintenance (alien clearing, repairs to gabions, reno mattresses, spillways and dam walls, sediment removal, boardwalk repairs) carries a similar but lower-frequency risk of short-term trampling, compaction and sedimentation.
Impact on terrestrial flora and vegetation	Positive	Not rated	

EAP's recommendation

Based on the findings of this Basic Assessment, including the specialist aquatic ecosystems assessment (Day, 2026) and botanical assessment (Helme, 2026), the EAP is of the opinion that the proposed rehabilitation of watercourses, wetlands and degraded agricultural land on Grootplaat is likely to result in a long-term positive impact on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems on the site. Short-term negative impacts associated with construction and ongoing maintenance activities are assessed as being of low significance and readily managed through the mitigation measures set out in Section I and the EMPr (Appendix H).

The EAP therefore recommends that environmental authorisation be granted for the proposed activities, subject to the conditions and mitigation measures set out in this BAR and its EMPr, including the monitoring and maintenance measures recommended by the specialists. The Maintenance Management Plan included in the Environmental Management Programme is also recommended for adoption, to allow for future, adaptive maintenance actions.

Public Participation

A database of potential interested and affected parties has been compiled that includes immediately adjacent landowners and occupiers, ward councillors, municipal officials, relevant state departments and organs of state. Notification letters have been posted or emailed to all identified interested and affected parties informing them of the proposal and the opportunity to comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report.

We invite any members of the public who feel they are affected by or have an interest in the proposed project, to comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report and to register as **interested and affected parties (I&APs)**. All registered I&APs will receive communication regarding the proposed project and will be notified of any future opportunities for comment. Interested and affected parties are required to provide contact information and a declaration of any interest they may have in the application to register.

A 30-day public participation process will end on Monday 19 October 2026.

Interested and affected parties are invited to review the draft Basic Assessment Report, and **comment** using any of the following methods:



Online at **www.infinityenv.co.za/public/grootplaat**



By email to **comments+grootplaat@infinityenv.co.za**



By WhatsApp message to **060 524 7676**



The 30-day commenting period will start on Friday 18 September 2026 and end on Monday 19 October 2026.

For more information, to comment, or to arrange alternative ways of participating, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, Jeremy Rose of Infinity Environmental, at the details above.

Processing of personal information

We are required by the EIA Regulations, GNR 326 of 2017 and the National Environmental Management Act to maintain a register of interested and affected parties including of people who have commented, attended meetings, or requested registration. This requires us to collect and process certain personal information as defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013. The following personal information has been collected for the purpose of public participation from identified I&APs and will be collected from anyone who comments or registers:

- Name, contact details and address;
- A copy of any comments submitted; and
- Details of any interest declared in the granting or refusal of the application.

Personal information will be stored by Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd at 2 Fir Street, Observatory 7925, and on a password-secured cloud storage system which may include servers outside the Republic of South Africa. You may at any time request access to or rectify this information by contacting us at info@infinityenv.co.za. Visit www.infinityenv.co.za/legal to view our Privacy Policy

REPORT OVERVIEW

	Executive Summary
Section A	<u>Administrative Details</u>
Section B	<u>Confirmation of specific project details</u>
Section C	<u>Legislation, policies and guidelines or protocols</u>
Section D	<u>Applicable listed activities</u>
Section E	<u>Planning context and need and desirability</u>
Section F	<u>Public participation</u>
Section G	<u>Description of the receiving environment</u>
Section H	<u>Alternatives, methodology and assessment of alternatives</u>
Section I	<u>Findings, impact management and mitigation measures</u>
Section J	<u>General</u>
Declarations	
Appendices	

ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
DEA&DP	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DWS	National Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Regulations	Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended by GN R 326 of 7 April 2017
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
ESA	Ecological Support Area
ha	Hectare
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
IAP	Invasive Alien Plant
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998, as amended)
NEMBA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)
NWA	National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
ToR	Terms of Reference



BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Summary of how the requirements of Appendix 1 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (GN R 326, as amended) are met by this Basic Assessment Report

Appendix 1 requirement	Section of BAR
1) A basic assessment report must contain the information that is necessary for the competent authority to consider and come to a decision on the application, and must include-	
(a) details of – i. the EAP who prepared the report; and ii. the expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae;	A <i>EAP is EAPASA-registered</i>
(b) the location of the activity, including (i) the 21-digit Surveyor General code of each cadastral land parcel; (ii) where available, the physical address and farm name; (iii) where the required information in items (i) and (ii) is not available, the coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties;	B - 4.6 B - 4.4 B - 4.7
(c) a plan which locates the proposed activity or activities applied for as well as associated structures and infrastructure at an appropriate scale; or, if it is- (i) a linear activity, a description and coordinates of the corridor in which the proposed activity or activities is to be undertaken; or (ii) on land where the property has not been defined, the coordinates within which the activity (iii) is to be undertaken;	Appendix B1
(d) a description of the scope of the proposed activity, including (i) all listed and specified activities triggered and being applied for; and (ii) a description of the activities to be undertaken including associated structures and infrastructure;	D B - 4.4
(e) a description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is proposed including- (i) an identification of all legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks, and instruments that are applicable to this activity and have been considered in the preparation of the report; and (ii) how the proposed activity complies with and responds to the legislation and policy context, plans, guidelines, tools frameworks, and instruments	E
(f) a motivation for the need and desirability for the proposed development including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location	E, H Appendix K
(g) a motivation for the preferred site, activity and technology alternative;	H
(h) a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, including – (i) details of all the alternatives considered; (ii) details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs; (iii) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them; (iv) the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects; (v) the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts- (aa) can be reversed; (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated; (vi) the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives; (vii) positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on	H I F

the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects; (viii) the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk; (ix) the outcome of the site selection matrix; (x) if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and (xi) a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity;	
(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– (i) a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process; and (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;	I
(j) an assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk, including– (i) cumulative impacts; (ii) the nature, significance and consequences of the impact and risk; (iii) the extent and duration of the impact and risk; (iv) the probability of the impact and risk occurring; (v) the degree to which the impact and risk can be reversed; (vi) the degree to which the impact and risk may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and (vii) the degree to which the impact and risk can be avoided, managed or mitigated;	I
(k) where applicable, a summary of the findings and impact management measures identified in any specialist report complying with Appendix 6 to these Regulations and an indication as to how these findings and recommendations have been included in the final report;	I
(l) an environmental impact statement which contains– (i) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment; (ii) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and (iii) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;	J Appendix B2 J
(m) based on the assessment, and where applicable, impact management measures from specialist reports, the recording of the proposed impact management outcomes for the development for inclusion in the EMPr;	J - 2.1
(n) any aspects which were conditional to the findings of the assessment either by the EAP or specialist which are to be included as conditions of authorisation;	J - 2.2
(o) a description of any assumptions, uncertainties, and gaps in knowledge which relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed;	J - 2.4
(p) a reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be made in respect of that authorisation;	J - 2.3
(q) where the proposed activity does not include operational aspects, the period for which the environmental authorisation is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded, and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised;	J - 2.5
(r) an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to– (i) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; (ii) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; (iii) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and (iv) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties; and	K
(s) where applicable, details of any financial provisions for the rehabilitation, closure, and ongoing post decommissioning management of negative environmental impacts;	n/a
(t) any specific information that may be required by the competent authority; and	n/a
(u) any other matters required in terms of section 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.	n/a



BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS.

NOVEMBER 2019

(For official use only)	
Pre-application Reference Number (if applicable):	
EIA Application Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	
Exemption Reference Number (if applicable):	
Date BAR received by Department:	
Date BAR received by Directorate:	
Date BAR received by Case Officer:	

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(This must Include an overview of the project including the Farm name/Portion/Erf number)

Proposed Rehabilitation of Watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, Grootplaat, Aurora

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BE READ PRIOR TO COMPLETING THIS BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. **The purpose** of this template is to provide a format for the Basic Assessment report as set out in Appendix 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended) in order to ultimately obtain Environmental Authorisation.
2. The Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations is defined in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") hereinafter referred to as the "NEMA EIA Regulations".
3. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in this Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"). The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided.
4. All applicable sections of this BAR must be completed.
5. Unless protected by law, all information contained in, and attached to this BAR, will become public information on receipt by the Competent Authority. If information is not submitted with this BAR due to such information being protected by law, the applicant and/or Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") must declare such non-disclosure and provide the reasons for believing that the information is protected.
6. This BAR is current as of **November 2019**. It is the responsibility of the Applicant/ EAP to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the BAR have been released by the Department. Visit this Department's website at <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp> to check for the latest version of this BAR.
7. This BAR is the standard format, which must be used in all instances when preparing a BAR for Basic Assessment applications for an environmental authorisation in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations when the Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("DEA&DP") is the Competent Authority.
8. Unless otherwise indicated by the Department, one hard copy and one electronic copy of this BAR must be submitted to the Department at the postal address given below or by delivery thereof to the Registry Office of the Department. Reasonable access to copies of this Report must be provided to the relevant Organs of State for consultation purposes, which may, if so indicated by the Department, include providing a printed copy to a specific Organ of State.
9. This BAR must be duly dated and originally signed by the Applicant, EAP (if applicable) and Specialist(s) and must be submitted to the Department at the details provided below.
10. The Department's latest Circulars pertaining to the "One Environmental Management System" and the EIA Regulations, any subsequent Circulars, and guidelines must be taken into account when completing this BAR.
11. Should a water use licence application be required in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA"), the "One Environmental System" is applicable, specifically in terms of the synchronisation of the consideration of the application in terms of the NEMA and the NWA. Refer to this Department's Circular EADP 0028/2014: One Environmental Management System.
12. Where Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) ("NHRA") is triggered, a copy of Heritage Western Cape's final comment must be attached to the BAR.
13. The Screening Tool developed by the National Department of Environmental Affairs must be used to generate a screening report. Please use the Screening Tool link



<https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool> to generate the Screening Tool Report. The screening tool report must be attached to this BAR.

14. Where this Department is also identified as the Licencing Authority to decide on applications under the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 29 of 2004) ('NEM:AQA'), the submission of the Report must also be made as follows, for-
Waste Management Licence Applications, this report must also (i.e., another hard copy and electronic copy) be submitted for the attention of the Department's Waste Management Directorate (Tel: 021-483-2728/2705 and Fax: 021-483-4425) at the same postal address as the Cape Town Office.

Atmospheric Emissions Licence Applications, this report must also be (i.e., another hard copy and electronic copy) submitted for the attention of the Licensing Authority or this Department's Air Quality Management Directorate (Tel: 021 483 2888 and Fax: 021 483 4368) at the same postal address as the Cape Town Office.

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

CAPE TOWN OFFICE: REGION 1 and REGION 2 (Region 1: City of Cape Town, West Coast District) (Region 2: Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)	GEORGE OFFICE: REGION 3 (Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)
BAR must be sent to the following details: Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 1 or 2) Private Bag X 9086 Cape Town, 8000 Registry Office 1st Floor Utilitas Building 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 1 and 2) at: Tel: (021) 483-5829 Fax (021) 483-4372	BAR must be sent to the following details: Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) Private Bag X 6509 George, 6530 Registry Office 4th Floor, York Park Building 93 York Street George Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) at: Tel: (044) 805-8600 Fax (044) 805 8650

MAPS

Provide a location map (see below) as Appendix A1 to this BAR that shows the location of the proposed development and associated structures and infrastructure on the property.	
Locality Map:	The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities or development proposals of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g., 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must indicate the following: • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend; and • a linear scale.

	For ocean based or aquatic activity, the coordinates must be provided within which the activity is to be undertaken and a map at an appropriate scale clearly indicating the area within which the activity is to be undertaken. Where comment from the Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works is required, a map illustrating the properties (owned by the Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works) that will be affected by the proposed development must be included in the Report.
Provide a detailed site development plan / site map (see below) as Appendix B1 to this BAR; and if applicable, all alternative properties and locations.	
Site Plan:	Detailed site development plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. The site plans must contain or conform to the following: • The detailed site plan must preferably be at a scale of 1:500 or at an appropriate scale. The scale must be clearly indicated on the plan, preferably together with a linear scale. • The property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50m of the site must be indicated on the site plan. • On land where the property has not been defined, the co-ordinates of the area in which the proposed activity or development is proposed must be provided. • The current land use (not zoning) as well as the land use zoning of each of the adjoining properties must be clearly indicated on the site plan. • The position of each component of the proposed activity or development as well as any other structures on the site must be indicated on the site plan. • Services, including electricity supply cables (indicate aboveground or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and access roads that will form part of the proposed development must be clearly indicated on the site plan. • Servitudes and an indication of the purpose of each servitude must be indicated on the site plan. • Sensitive environmental elements within 100m of the site must be included on the site plan, including (but not limited to): ○ Watercourses / Rivers / Wetlands ○ Flood lines (i.e., 1:100 year, 1:50 year and 1:10 year where applicable); ○ Coastal Risk Zones as delineated for the Western Cape by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("DEA&DP"); ○ Ridges; ○ Cultural and historical features/landscapes; ○ Areas with indigenous vegetation (even if degraded or infested with alien species). • Whenever the slope of the site exceeds 1:10, a contour map of the site must be submitted. • North arrow A map/site plan must also be provided at an appropriate scale, which superimposes the proposed development and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred and alternative sites indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffer areas.
Site photographs	Colour photographs of the site that shows the overall condition of the site and its surroundings (taken on the site and taken from outside the site) with a description of each photograph. The vantage points from which the photographs were taken must be indicated on the site plan, or locality plan as applicable. If available, please also provide a recent aerial photograph. Photographs must be attached to this BAR as Appendix C. The aerial photograph(s) should be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site. Date of photographs must be included. Please note that the above requirements must be duplicated for all alternative sites.
Biodiversity Overlay Map:	A map of the relevant biodiversity information and conditions must be provided as an overlay map on the property/site plan. The Map must be attached to this BAR as Appendix D.
Linear activities or development and multiple properties	GPS co-ordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeeshoek 94 WGS84 co-ordinate system. Where numerous properties/sites are involved (linear activities) you must attach a list of the Farm Name(s)/Portion(s)/Erf number(s) to this BAR as an Appendix. For linear activities that are longer than 500m, please provide a map with the co-ordinates taken every 100m along the route to this BAR as Appendix A3.

ACRONYMS

DAFF:	Department of Forestry and Fisheries
DEA:	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEA& DP:	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DHS:	Department of Human Settlement
DoA:	Department of Agriculture



DoH:	Department of Health
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EMPr:	Environmental Management Programme
HWC:	Heritage Western Cape
NFEPA:	National Freshwater Ecosystem Protection Assessment
NSBA:	National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment
TOR:	Terms of Reference
WCBSP:	Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan
WCG:	Western Cape Government

ATTACHMENTS

Note: The Appendices must be attached to the BAR as per the list below. Please use a ✓ (tick) or a x (cross) to indicate whether the Appendix is attached to the BAR.

The following checklist of attachments must be completed.

APPENDIX			✓ (Tick) or x (cross)
Appendix A:	Maps		
	Appendix A1:	Locality Map	✓
Appendix B:	Appendix B1:	Site development plan(s)	✓
	Appendix B2	A map of appropriate scale, which superimposes the proposed development and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffer areas;	✓
Appendix C:	Photographs		✓
Appendix D:	Biodiversity overlay map		✓
Appendix E:	Permit(s) / license(s) / exemption notice, agreements, comments from State Department/Organs of state and service letters from the municipality.		
	Appendix E1:	Final comment/ROD from HWC	
	Appendix E2:	Copy of comment from Cape Nature	
	Appendix E3:	Final Comment from the DWS	
	Appendix E7:	Comment from WCG: DoA	
	Appendix E8:	Comment from WCG: DHS	
	Appendix E11:	Comment from DEA&DP: Waste Management	
	Appendix E12:	Comment from DEA&DP: Biodiversity	
	Appendix E15:	Comment from the local authority	
	Appendix E17:	Comment from the District Municipality	

	Appendix E20:	Proof of agreement/TOR of the specialist studies conducted.	
	Appendix E21:	Proof of land use rights	✓
Appendix F:	Public participation information: including a copy of the register of I&APs, the comments and responses Report, proof of notices, advertisements and any other public participation information as is required.		✓
Appendix G: Appendix G1	Specialist Report(s): Freshwater Impact Assessment		✓
Appendix H:	EMPr		✓
Appendix I:	Screening tool report		✓
Appendix J:	The impact and risk assessment for each alternative		Refer to Section H
Appendix K:	Need and desirability for the proposed activity or development in terms of this Department's guideline on Need and Desirability (March 2013)/DEA Integrated Environmental Management Guideline		✓
Appendix L:	Compliance Statements and Verification Reports in terms of the GN 320 OF 2020 Assessment		✓
Appendix M:	Site Sensitivity Verification Report		✓

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Highlight the Departmental Region in which the intended application will fall	CAPE TOWN OFFICE:		GEORGE OFFICE:
	REGION 1 (City of Cape Town, West Coast District)	REGION 2 (Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)	REGION 3 (Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)
Duplicate this section where there is more than one Proponent Name of Applicant/Proponent: Name of contact person for Applicant/Proponent (if other): Company/ Trading name/State Department/Organ of State: Company Registration Number: Postal address: Telephone: E-mail:	Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd		
	Luca Verbeeck		
	Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd		
	2025/566438/07		
	Grootplaat Farm ERF 37 Portion 0 and Portion 15		
	Piketberg road, Aurora		Postal code: 7325
	Telephone:		Cell: 0710495566
	E-mail: grootplaat@gmail.com		Fax:
	Company of EAP: Infinity Environmental Pty (Ltd)		
	EAP name: Jeremy Rose		
Postal address: 2 Fir Street			
Observatory			
Telephone: (021) 834 1600		Cell: 084 0555 678	
E-mail: Jeremy@infinityenv.co.za		Fax:	
Qualifications: B.Sc. Environmental and Geographic Science (Hons)			
EAPASA registration no: 2019/1116			
Duplicate this section where there is more than one landowner Name of landowner: Name of contact person for landowner (if other): Postal address: Telephone: E-mail:	Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd		
	Luca Verbeeck		
	Grootplaat Farm ERF 37 Portion 0 and Portion 15		
	Piketberg road, Aurora		Postal code: 7325
	Telephone:		Cell: 071 049 5566
	E-mail: grootplaat@gmail.com		Fax:
	Name of Person in control of the land: Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd		
	Name of contact person for person in control of the land: Luca Verbeeck		
	Postal address: Grootplaat Farm ERF 37		Postal code: 7325
	Telephone:		Cell: 071 049 5566
E-mail: grootplaat@gmail.com		Fax:	
Duplicate this section where there is more than one Municipal Jurisdiction Municipality in whose area of jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall: Contact person: Postal address:	Bergrivier Municipality		
	Hanlie Linde, Municipal Manager of Bergrivier Municipality		
	PO BOX 60		
	Piketberg, 13 Church Street		
Telephone: E-mail:	(022) 913 6000		Postal code: 7320
			Cell:
	MM@bergmun.org.za		Fax:

SECTION B: CONFIRMATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECT DETAILS AS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION FORM

1.	Is the proposed development (please tick):	New		Expansion	✓
2.	Is the proposed site(s) a brownfield or greenfield site? Please explain.				
The proposed site is greenfield: located within a predominantly rural and natural environment with limited existing infrastructure. Apart from existing gravel roads, small farm buildings and in channel dams, the property remains largely characterised by natural to semi-natural ecosystems including fynbos vegetation, wetlands, riparian area and open agricultural land (Figure 3). The proposed rehabilitation activities will take place in previously disturbed areas and watercourses within a natural and agricultural environment. The proposed activities focus on rehabilitation of watercourses and their associated ecosystems. Photographs 1 to 6 below illustrate the general condition of the site, its watercourses and the in-channel dams at the time of the April 2026 site inspections.					
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSED REHABILITATION ON FARM 15/37 AND FARM RE/37 GROOTPLAAT LEGEND Dams Kuipers River Residential and farm infrastructure Areas utilised for agriculture Access roads and paths Projection: HBH94-L019 EPSG:102562 1:9 000 Drawing No. 257-01-08 15/09/2026 O De Paiva INFINITY ENVIRONMENTAL					
Figure 3: Existing infrastructure and land use					



Photograph 1: Headwater seep wetland within the Kuilders River system.



Photograph 2: Degraded valley bottom wetland within the site.



Photograph 3: The existing condition of Dam 2 (April 2026).



Photograph 4: Invasive vegetation (bracken fern) affecting wetland and



Photograph 5: Existing condition of Dam 4 (April 2026).



Photograph 6: Sediment accumulated within Dam 5.

3.	For Linear activities or developments
3.1.	Provide the Farm(s)/Farm Portion(s)/Erf number(s) for all routes:

																		Not applicable — not a linear activity. Refer to item 4.3.		
3.2.	Development footprint of the proposed development for all alternatives.																			
3.3.	Provide a description of the proposed development (e.g. for roads the length, width and width of the road reserve in the case of pipelines indicate the length and diameter) for all alternatives. Not applicable — not a linear activity. The proposed development is described under item 4.4.																			
3.4.	Indicate how access to the proposed routes will be obtained for all alternatives.																			
Not applicable — not a linear activity. Site access is described under item 4.5.																				
3.5.	SG Digit codes of the Farms/Farm Portions/Erf numbers for all alternatives																			
3.6.	Starting point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°					′					″								
	Longitude (E)	°					′					″								
	Middle point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°					′					″								
	Longitude (E)	°					′					″								
	End point co-ordinates for all alternatives																			
	Latitude (S)	°					′					″								
	Longitude (E)	°					′					″								
Note: For Linear activities or developments longer than 500m, a map indicating the co-ordinates for every 100m along the route must be attached to this BAR as Appendix A3.																				
4.	Other developments																			
4.1.	Property size(s) of all proposed site(s):																	2146 ha		
4.2.	Developed footprint of the existing facility and associated infrastructure (if applicable): The existing developed footprint within Management Unit 1 (the watercourses), to which this application relates, comprises the five existing in-channel dams and their earth and concrete wall and spillway structures, and the informal tracks crossing the watercourse at four points. Existing gravel farm roads, dwellings, farm buildings and orchards elsewhere on the 2 146 ha property are not affected by this application, and no expansion of that footprint is proposed.																	10 ha		
4.3.	Development footprint of the proposed development and associated infrastructure size(s) for all alternatives: The proposed structural footprint within watercourses, calculated from the typical details prepared for the project, is made up as follows: - Up to five gabion weirs in the watercourse upstream of Dam 1, each approximately 15 m x 1.5 m: 112.5 m²; - Boardwalk crossings in Wetland Reach B: 30 m²; - Boardwalk crossings in Wetland Reach C: 45 m²;																	Approx 336 m²		

	• Reno mattress vehicle crossing over the Dam 4 wall: 32 m²; • Timber pedestrian boardwalk at Dam 4: 49 m²; • Reno mattress drop structure below the Dam 4 wall (4 m x 8 m): 32 m²; • Boardwalk crossings at Dam 5 wall: 35 m²; Total of the above quantified structures: approximately 336 m². The following interventions are additional to the above but are not expansions of the existing footprint: • the gabion weirs reinforcing the Dam 1 and Dam 3 spillways; • the low-flow release pipe culvert and infiltration trench at Dam 1 and Dam 3; and • the repair of the existing concrete spillway at Dam 4. Wetland reshaping, regrading, bank pull-back, sediment removal and alien plant clearing are rehabilitation works within existing degraded watercourse areas rather than new developed footprint, and their extents are shown on the intervention plan. Final quantities will be confirmed in the method statements to be prepared by the implementing agent.	
4.4.	Provide a detailed description of the proposed development and its associated infrastructure (This must include details of e.g. buildings, structures, infrastructure, storage facilities, sewage/effluent treatment and holding facilities).	
Project Background Grootplaat is a privately-owned farm occupying a mountain ridge north of Aurora in the Bergrivier local municipality in the Western Cape (Figure 4). Approximately 2 146 hectares in extent, the property includes large areas of steep, fynbos slopes. The part of the site that is the subject of this application occupies a high plateau and valley, which was historically under agriculture. It was purchased by the applicant in October 2025, and the landowner now intends to rehabilitate certain degraded parts of the site including old agricultural fields and a valley-bottom watercourse that rises on the site and becomes a tributary of the Boesmans river, which itself is a tributary of the Berg River. The need for rehabilitation at Grootplaat arises from varying levels of degradation because of historical agriculture, forestry activities, invasive alien plant infestations and altered hydrological processes. The rehabilitation activities required have been developed by restoration specialists Vula Environmental, with input from aquatic ecologist Dr Liz Day. They include certain listed activities requiring environmental authorisation. The remainder of the site includes a number of existing dwellings, some of which were previously used for hospitality; small-scale agricultural use including orchards and horticulture; and natural fynbos areas. For the purposes of the rehabilitation plan and for ease of interpretation, the site is divided into seven management units (MU), including: - MU1 Watercourses (including wetlands, rivers and dams) - MU2 Old agricultural fields - MU3 Semi-intact fynbos mosaic - MU4 Transitional wetlands - MU5 Woodland / recreational zone - MU6 Recovering agricultural lands - MU7 Former pine plantation		

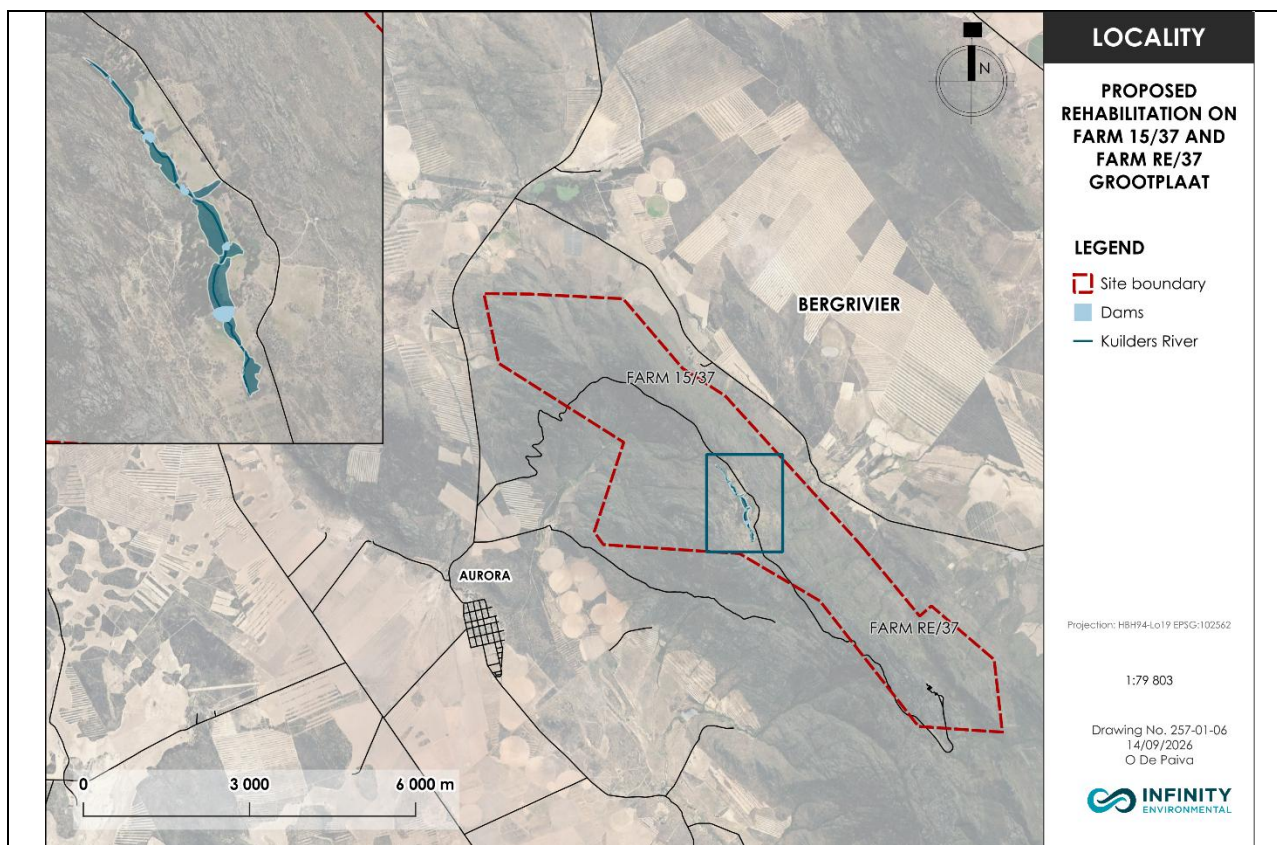


Figure 4: Site location map

Refer to Figure 5 for an overview of the site and MUs. **Section G** of this Basic Assessment describes the aquatic ecosystems on the site in more detail, and **Appendix G1** is the Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment prepared by Dr Liz Day.

Historical cultivation was concentrated within the valley-bottom areas and former agricultural fields (MU2 and MU6), where the clearing of natural vegetation and prolonged agricultural use caused soil compaction, loss of organic matter, reduced soil structure and proliferation of agricultural weeds and the degradation of adjacent wetland habitats. Pine plantations were historically established in MU7. In addition, invasive alien tree species such as *Populus sp.* (poplar), *Quercus sp.* (oak) and *Eucalyptus sp.* became established throughout the watercourses, wetlands and surrounding terrestrial habitats. These invasions displaced indigenous vegetation, reduced habitat quality, increased water losses through increased evapotranspiration, limited groundwater recharge, obstructed natural flow paths, contributed to the overall decline in wetland ecosystem functionality and placed additional pressure on available water resources.

The instream dams further altered the natural hydrology of the watercourses on the site. Over time, these dams modified flow regimes, reduced downstream flows, altered sediment transport processes and disrupted hydrological connectivity between wetlands and watercourses. Dam leakages, sediment accumulation and modified overflow levels intensify these impacts, contributing to the degradation of downstream wetland systems. Historical drainage interventions and hydrological modifications also resulted in sections of the valley-bottom wetlands becoming channelled and deeply incised, lowering local water tables, reducing the natural water retention capacity of wetlands and increasing erosion within the watercourse network.

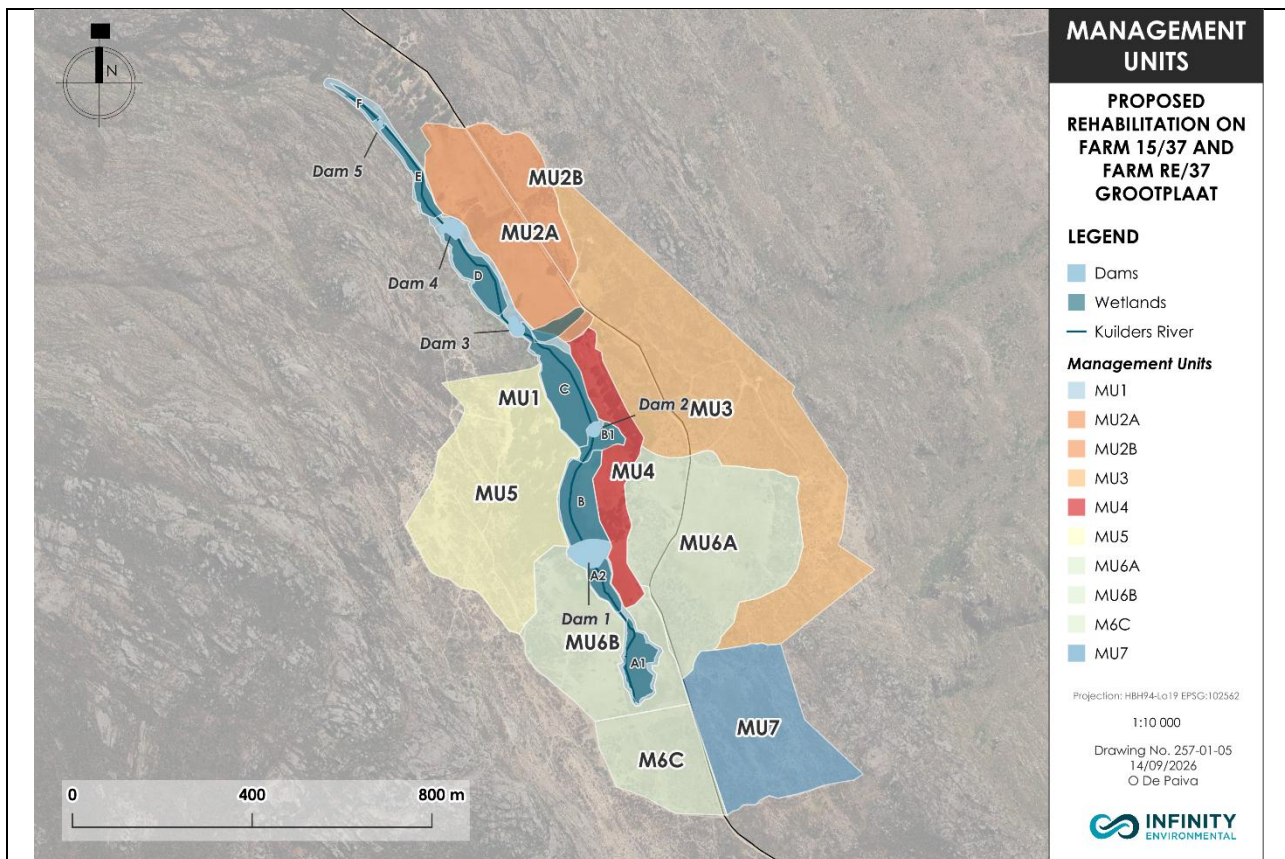


Figure 5: Management units map showing MU boundaries, areas, and labels

Project Proposal

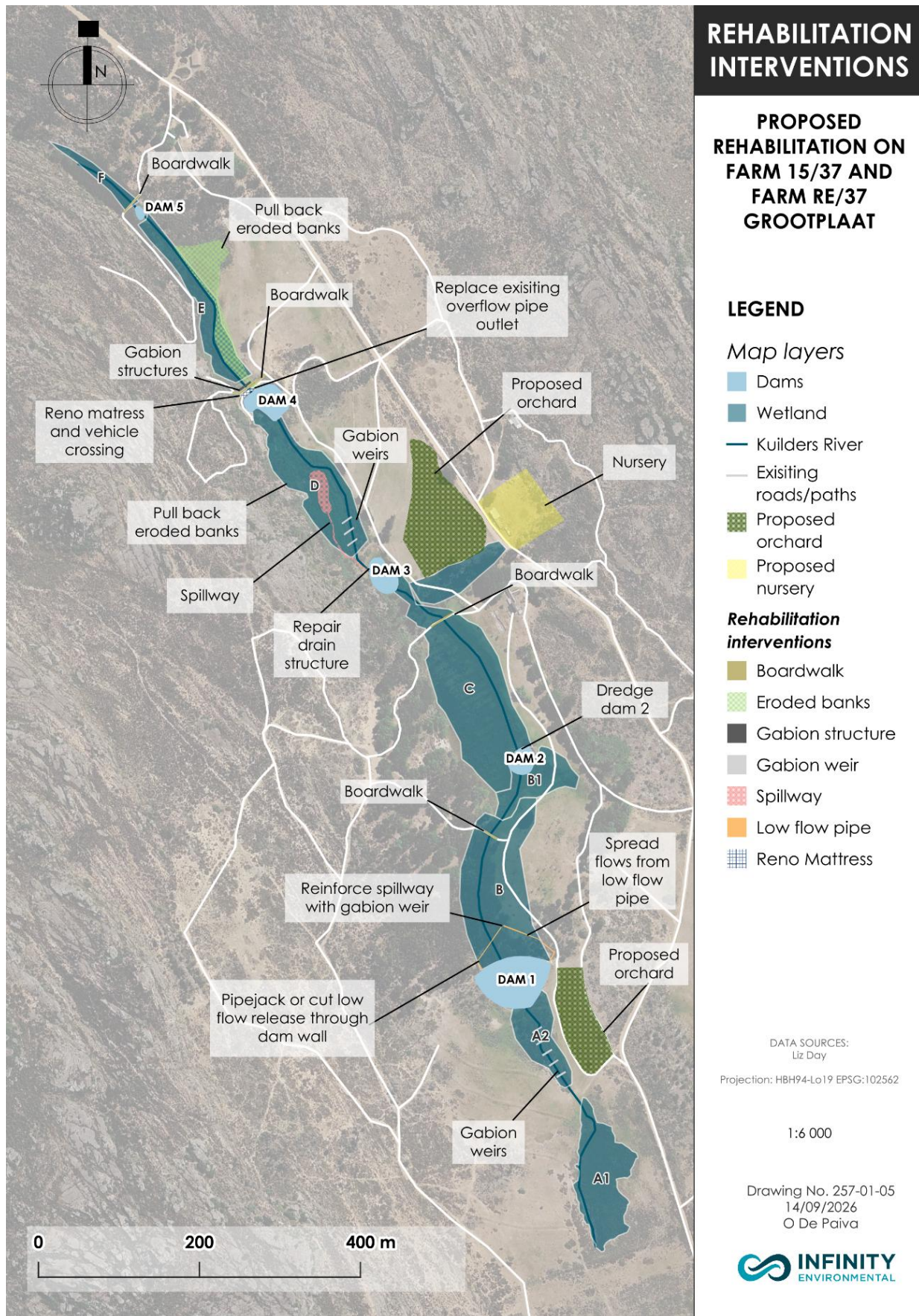
The applicant proposes the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, watercourses, in-channel dams and former agricultural lands on the Grootplaar site through targeted rehabilitation interventions that improve hydrological functioning, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

The rehabilitation programme aims to:

- improve wetland hydrology;
- reverse the impacts of historical agricultural activities;
- control alien invasive vegetation;
- restore and increasing indigenous biodiversity;
- stabilise erosion-prone areas; and
- improve the long-term resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems across the property.

A set of over-arching rehabilitation objectives and guiding rehabilitation principles, developed by the project team, informed the proposed interventions and their planned implementation methodology. These are set out in more detail in the EMP, and include:

1. Do no harm
2. Improve ecosystem condition
3. Improve aquatic ecosystem function and condition, by improving wetland hydrology and hydroperiod, where possible, and improving watercourse biodiversity
4. Improve dam function by repairing dam walls where necessary and removing sediment
5. Establish the Kuilders River system and its associated wetland seeps as resilient ecological corridors through the landscape
6. Enhance the value of watercourses as areas with high amenity value, for low-impact recreational activities.



The rehabilitation interventions have been defined in various management units according to their ecological condition, key degradation drivers and rehabilitation potential. It should be noted that the rehabilitation plan is based on adaptive management principles; accordingly, while the proposed measures are set out in some detail below, there are aspects that may require adaptation and adjustment during implementation. A Maintenance Management Plan was compiled to address activities occurring within watercourses and is included with this application and proposed for adoption by the competent authority for any future rehabilitation and maintenance activities within watercourses on the site.

MU1: Kuilders River System

This will include the continued clearing of invasive vegetation, including *Populus* sp., *Pinus* sp., *Eucalyptus* sp., *Quercus* sp., *Sesbania* sp. and extensive infestations of *Pteridium* sp. Cleared material will be processed for compost production, erosion control structures or responsibly stockpiled in designated areas outside wetlands and drainage lines. The Kuilders River system requires various interventions, which differ according to the characteristics and specific requirements of each reach, as described below.



Wetland Reach A

Wetland Reach A is a wide seep wetland grading into an unchanneled valley-bottom wetland at the southern upslope end of the site. Its characteristics are described in further detail in Section G. Interventions in Reach A will focus on addressing historic drainage and channelisation impacts and include:

- Regrading riparian and wetland areas affected by ploughing and berms, to restore natural surface and subsurface water flows;
- Reintroduction of indigenous wetland species to stabilise soils and improve habitat quality;
- Reshaping of incised channels by cutting back and grading banks to a 1:2 or gentler slope;
- Installation of up to five gabion weirs in the watercourse upstream of Dam 1, where a deeply incised channel has eroded headward of the reservoir and downstream of an informal road crossing of the watercourse (Photograph 7) and the point separating reach 'A1' and reach 'A2' in Figure 7. The proposed weirs will be located in the watercourse between **32° 41' 21.33" S, 18° 32'10.49" E and 32° 41' 23.72" S, 18° 32' 11.82" E** and have dimensions of approximately 15 m by 1.5 m by 1 m, constructed according to the typical detail presented in Figure 8. They are intended to capture sediment and raise groundwater levels, contributing to the re-establishment of wetland conditions upstream of the dam. The weirs will be placed approximately 15 m apart (centre to centre) with final placement to be determined on site by the restoration ecologist and aquatic ecologist;
- Reinforcement of the existing spillway at the northern side of Dam 1, to reduce erosion risk and better channel high flow events toward the downstream watercourse: this includes the placement of gabion weirs at 4-5 metre intervals within the spillway, as well as reshaping and reinstating the appropriate channel profile in this artificial channel;
- Installation of a low-flow release pipe culvert through the wall of Dam 1, using pipejacking, drilling, or trenching as appropriate, to allow for the managed release of flows into the downstream system and simulation of a more natural hydroperiod, particularly during the early part of the rainy season; and
- Construction of an infiltration trench at the base of Dam 1 to receive flows from the low-flow release pipe and distribute them laterally across the historic extent of the valley bottom wetland in this area, reinstating flows to droughted parts of this wetland.



Photograph 7: Incised channel downstream of road crossing

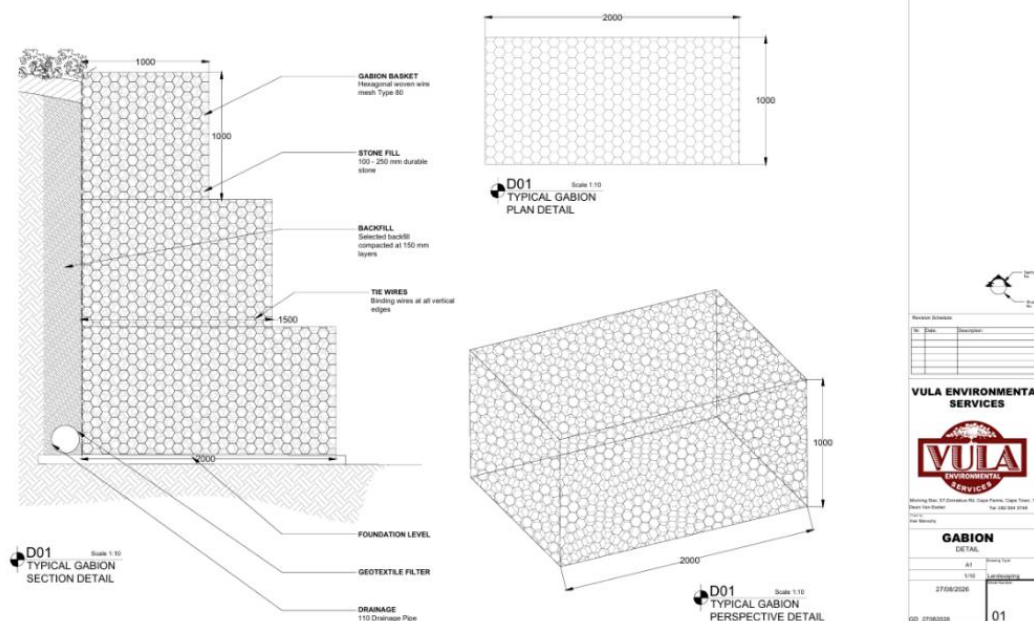


Figure 8: Gabion typical detail

Dam 1 will also be dredged to remove excess sediment buildup and resealed with clay or bentonite or equivalent to reduce leakage pathways; its upstream slopes rehabilitated and reshaped slightly to improve habitat. Alien and invasive vegetation will be removed.

Wetland Reach B interventions will focus on restoring hydrological connectivity that has been disrupted by upstream channelisation and include:

- Control of woody alien plant species, particularly a dense forest of *Populus* and *Eucalyptus* within the watercourse and riparian areas;
- Wetland reshaping and selective sediment removal to reinstate more natural flow patterns in the valley bottom wetland where these have been altered by ploughing or erosion;
- Installation of erosion control measures, potentially including rock weirs and reno mattresses (**Figure 9**), where conditions require;
- Revegetation with indigenous wetland species tolerant of seasonal water level variation; and
- Replacement of existing informal wetland crossings with lower-impact boardwalk structures to reduce trampling and compaction of wetland habitats and soils. Boardwalk installation in Wetland Reach B is proposed to be approximately 20 m in length and follow the typical details in **Figure 10**.

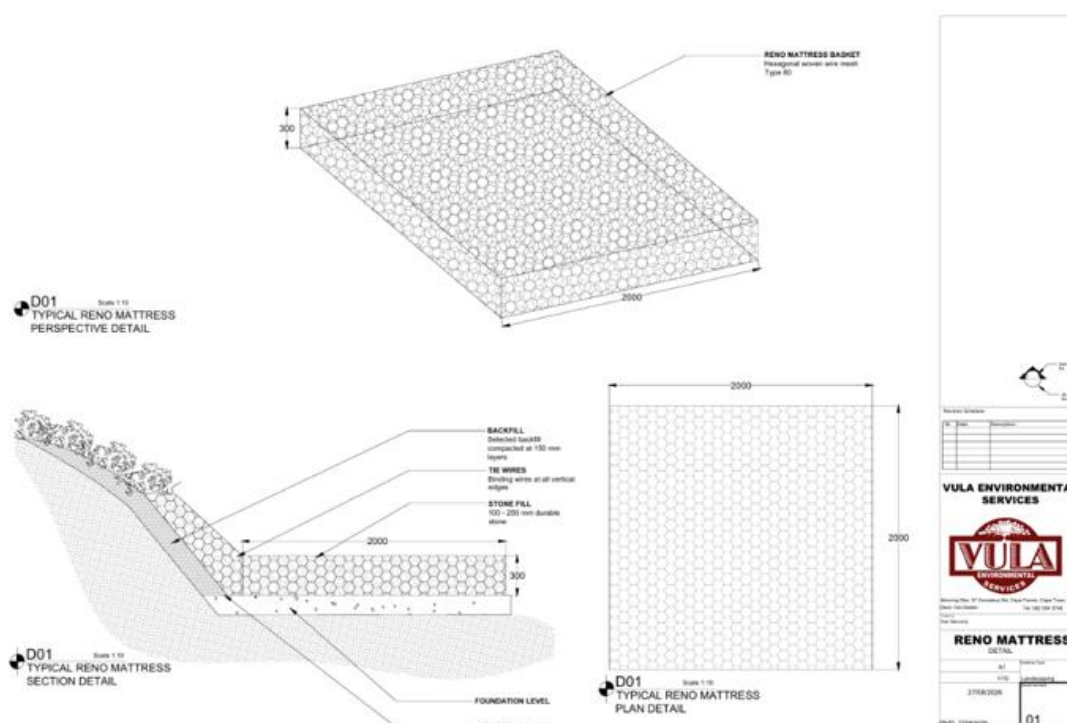
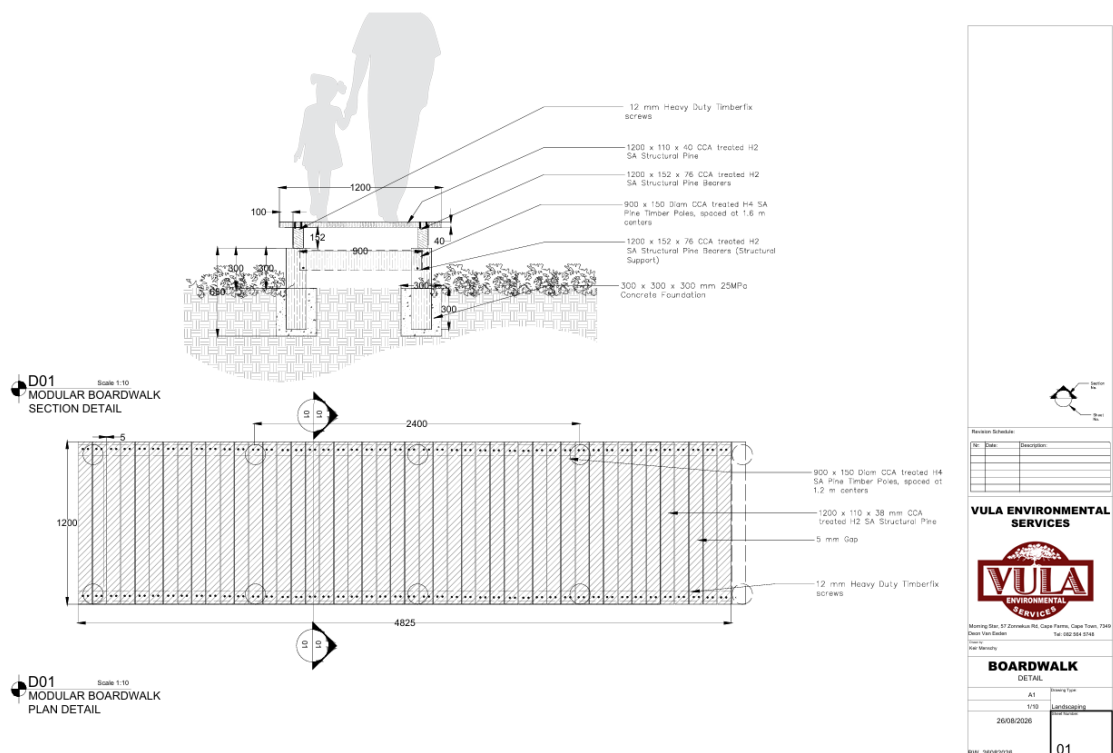


Figure 9: Reno Mattress typical detail

Seep Wetland B1, a seep flowing into the main watercourse from the north, will follow similar measures to those proposed for Wetland Reach B to improve surface water distribution; reduce runoff concentration from roads; and enhance vegetation cover.

Dam 2 also requires dredging to remove built-up sediments.

- Boardwalk structures to reduce trampling and compaction of wetland habitats and soils. Boardwalk installation in Wetland Reach C is proposed to be approximately 32 m in length and follow the typical details in **Figure 10**;
- Repairs to the siphon/sump structure in **Dam 3** to improve water retention;
- Allowance for a low flow release of early wet season flows into the watercourse downstream of Dam 3 – this could be by way of adjustments to existing pipes in the dam or by pipe-jacking through the dam wall or other alternative measures that would achieve the desired outcome while still allowing for dam storage; and
- Reinforcement and repair of the deeply eroded spillway of Dam 3 with up to three gabion weir structures.



In Wetland Reach D, downstream of Dam 3, required rehabilitation interventions include:

- Clearing of indigenous invasive *Pteridium aquilinum* bracken fern from the wetland and riparian areas;
- Revegetation with indigenous wetland species;
- Reshaping of degraded wetland surfaces and pulling back eroded banks to recreate a wider valley bottom wetland profile; and
- Reshaping and stabilisation of channel banks.

At **Dam 4**, a number of interventions are required to improve hydrological functioning and improve access to two existing dwellings:

- Construction of a vehicle crossing at Dam 4 by installing reno mattresses across the dam wall, over an area of approximately 200m²;
- Installation of a timber boardwalk for pedestrian access across the watercourse: approximately 1.2 m wide and located at **32° 40' 55.00" S, 18° 31' 56.25" E**
- Repair of the existing concrete spillway at Dam 4.



Photograph 8. Concrete spillway over the dam wall of Dam 4

In **Wetland Reach E**, downstream of Dam 4:

- Flows will be spread out below the base of the Dam 4 wall by constructing a drop structure with a castellated weir below the dam, spreading flows across a reno mattress structure below the dam wall to guide flows into a number of smaller channels;
- Eroded banks are to be reshaped and pulled back to recreate a wider valley-bottom wetland; and
- Woody alien and invasive vegetation are to be managed and banks rehabilitated with indigenous wetland species.

Dam 5 will be cleared of silt to restore its original storage capacity. A boardwalk crossing will be installed across the dam wall to facilitate improved pedestrian access.

Management Units 2A and 2B (MU2A and MU2B): Old Agricultural Land

Rehabilitation within MU2A and MU2B will include a soil amelioration programme, revegetation of nutrient poor soils with indigenous pioneer species, and the controlled ripping, contouring and soil preparation.

Management Unit 3(MU3): Semi-intact Fynbos Mosaic

Rehabilitation within MU3 will include the removal of invasive alien species, management of historical disturbance areas and the protection of regenerating indigenous vegetation.

Management Unit 4 (MU4): Transitional Wetlands

Removal of invasive vegetation, soil stabilisation, revegetation of indigenous plant species, and the rehabilitation of degraded wetland edges will be done as a part of the rehabilitation in the transitional wetlands.

Management Unit 5 (MU5): Woodland and Recreational Zone

Measures include clearing of alien invasive vegetation to reduce fire risk and the revegetation of indigenous plant species.

Management Unit 6 (MU6): Recovering Agricultural Lands

Rehabilitation will include alien vegetation management measures as well as the application of compost, soil stabilization and revegetation of indigenous plant species

Management Unit 7 (MU7): Former Pine Plantation

Rehabilitation includes the ongoing removal of pine trees, seedlings and other invasive species.

4.5. Indicate how access to the proposed site(s) will be obtained for all alternatives.

The site can be accessed from the Aurora via the road extending between Pastorie street and Buitengracht street, which connects to an existing gravel road running in a north-easterly direction towards the Grootplaat property (Figure 11). Access to the rehabilitation target areas will be obtained via the existing farm road network and internal farm tracks.

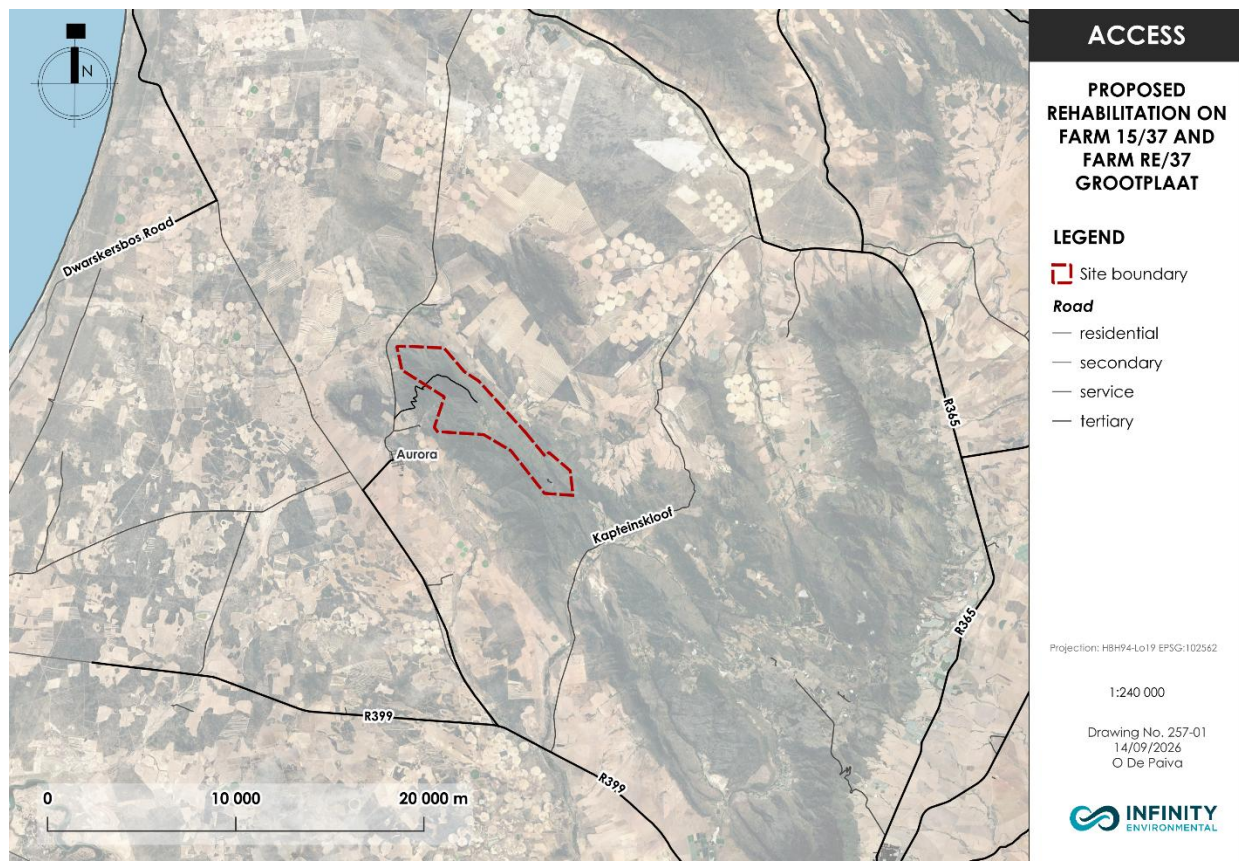


Figure 11: Site access

4.6. SG Digit code(s) of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:

C0580000000003700000

C0580000000003700015

4.7.	Coordinates of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:			
	Latitude (S)	32°	41'	12.84"
	Longitude (E)	18°	31'	11.40"

SECTION C: LEGISLATION/POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES/PROTOCOLS

1. Exemption applied for in terms of the NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations

Has exemption been applied for in terms of the NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations. If yes, include a copy of the exemption notice in Appendix E18.	YES	NO
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2. Is the following legislation applicable to the proposed activity or development.

The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) ("ICMA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the relevant competent authority as Appendix E4 and the pre-approval for the reclamation of land as Appendix E19.	YES	NO
The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) ("NHRA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from Heritage Western Cape as Appendix E1.	YES	NO
The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ("NWA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the DWS as Appendix E3.	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) ("NEM: AQA"). If yes, attach a copy of the comment from the relevant authorities as Appendix E13.	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) ("NEM: WA")	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) ("NEMBA").	YES	NO
The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) ("NEMPAA").	YES	NO
The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983). If yes, attach comment from the relevant competent authority as Appendix E5.	YES	NO

3. Other legislation

List any other legislation that is applicable to the proposed activity or development.
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, Act 43 of 1983 - Western Cape Biodiversity Act, Act 6 of 2021 in respect of the propagation on site of indigenous species. - National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998): section 21 (c) and 21 (i) water uses associated with the rehabilitation works, to be registered under the General Authorisation published in Government Notice 4167 of 2023 through the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency. Section 21 (a) and 21 (b) water uses associated with the existing dams are being addressed through a separate, parallel existing lawful use verification and validation process. - National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004): Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2020, in respect of the removal and control of listed invasive alien plant species and the propagation on site of indigenous species - National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999): section 35, in respect of the recorded rock art on the property.

4. Policies

Explain which policies were considered and how the proposed activity or development complies and responds to these policies.

Provincial Spatial Development Plan

The Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) provides a shared spatial development vision for both the public and private sectors. It is a critical tool used by provincial and local authorities to guide land use, infrastructure development, and spatial transformation within the region.

The proposed wetland rehabilitation is supported by:

Policy R2: Safeguard inland and coastal water resources and manage the sustainable use of water.

In relation to inland water resources, under **Point 2 of Policy R2**, the PSDF states:

"Rehabilitation of degraded aquatic systems is a complex interdisciplinary intervention requiring, inter alia, built environment upgrading, improved farming practices, as well as the involvement of diverse stakeholders. Towards rolling out a province-wide water systems rehabilitation programme, share lessons learnt from the Berg River Improvement Plan and Working for Water."

The project proposes the rehabilitation of degraded aquatic ecosystems within Grootplaar and is therefore aligned with this policy objective.

Similarly, **Point 5 of Policy R2** states:

"Protect and rehabilitate river systems and high-yielding groundwater recharge areas, particularly in areas of intensive land use."

The headwaters of the Kuilders River fall within Grootplaar, and the rehabilitation of this area is proposed as part of the project, which would positively influence the broader Kuilders River system

CapeNature strategic plan 2025-2030

The plan details efforts to build ecological resilience and protect the Western Cape's biodiversity by addressing climate and water risks and aligning with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This aligns with the Western Cape Government's commitment to leveraging ecological assets for socio-economic growth and addressing environmental challenges. It also incorporates targets for protected area expansion and supports the global effort to protect biodiversity by 2030.

Bergrivier Municipality Spatial Development Framework, 2024-2029

One of the primary rivers within the Bergrivier Municipal Area is the Berg River, of which the Kuilders River is a tributary. The Berg River is a key water resource within the Water Management Area and is considered critically endangered.

The Bergrivier MSDF, Chapter 6, outlines rural development proposals that respond to identified development opportunities. Under Section 6.1.1, Water Hydrology, opportunities associated with water catchment areas, watercourses, highly and moderately productive groundwater resources, and the coastline are identified. In this section, the promotion and delineation of natural open space networks, as well as the rehabilitation, rehabilitation, maintenance, enhancement, and preservation of the Berg River corridor and its tributaries, are proposed. It is further proposed that existing and historical connections between wetlands, drainage channels, and rivers/streams be conserved through rehabilitation initiatives.

The proposed rehabilitation aligns with these rural development proposals, as it seeks to rehabilitate the Kuilders River tributary within Grootplaar.

National Wetland Management Framework for South Africa, 2021

The NWMF includes a Strategic Action Plan comprising seven (7) key management themes, together with a preliminary suite of goals, objectives and prioritised actions aimed at enhancing wetland management in South Africa. Theme 5, Restoration of Wetlands, seeks to promote and support the active rehabilitation of wetlands to enhance their key functions and values. The rehabilitation actions proposed for GrootPlaar are best supported through Objective 5.2, which aims to promote and actively facilitate the rehabilitation of wetlands by private landowners, NGOs, businesses and other non-government stakeholders. Furthermore, Action 5.2.1 seeks to streamline and actively facilitate authorisation requirements for wetland restoration projects.

GrootPlaar is a privately owned property that contains several degraded wetlands. The proposed rehabilitation therefore aligns with the objectives of Theme 5 of the NWMF by promoting the active rehabilitation of wetlands on private land and enhancing their ecological functioning and value.

5. Guidelines

List the guidelines which have been considered relevant to the proposed activity or development and explain how they have influenced the development proposal.

DEA&DP Guideline on Public Participation (2013), and

Department of Environmental Affairs Public Participation guideline in terms of NEMA EIA Regulations (2017)

These guidelines were considered in the determination of appropriate public participation strategies. All public participation requirements as stipulated in the EIA Regulations will be met.

DEA&DP Guideline on Alternatives (2013), and

DEA Guideline on Alternatives (2014)

The provisions of the Guidelines were implemented in the Basic Assessment, through the identification and assessment of feasible and reasonable alternatives to the proposed activity, with a focus on impact minimization.

DEA&DP Guidelines on Need and Desirability, 2013

This guideline informed the compilation of Section E and Appendix K of this report.

SANBI and DWA Wetland offsets: a best-practice guideline for South Africa (2014)

The wetland offset guideline was used by the aquatic specialist in determining impact mitigation measures for the proposed development.

Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan and Guidelines, 2026

The proposed rehabilitation aligns with the guidelines for Critical Biodiversity Areas. GrootPlaar consists of an ESA river and ESA wetland, for which the general management guideline is to maintain these systems in a functional, near-natural state. The proposed rehabilitation aims to achieve this objective.

6. Protocols

Explain how the proposed activity or development complies with the requirements of the protocols referred to in the NOI and/or application form		
The Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Themes (GN 320 of 2020) ('the Protocols') came into effect on 9 May 2020 and 30 October 2020. These protocols mandate site sensitivity verifications for identified Themes on the site based on the National Environmental Screening Tool Report. These themes include for the subject site: In terms of the Protocols, the themes require a site sensitivity verification followed by specialist assessments of confirmed sensitivities. The table below provides an overview of the site sensitivity as verified by the EAP and confirms the assessment(s) which have been undertaken. The Site Sensitivity Verification Report in Appendix M provides further detail.		
Themes/assessments	Site sensitivity verification	Outcome
Agriculture Theme	The site is agricultural land and its sensitivity for this theme is acknowledged, but the proposed rehabilitation activities will not impact negatively on agricultural resources and are instead expected to contribute positively to soil conservation, wetland function, and other beneficial outcomes. The Site Sensitivity Verification therefore confirms there to be no sensitivity for this theme in the context of the proposed activities.	A specialist assessment or compliance statement are not required.
Animal Species Theme	The site is mapped as a high sensitivity based on the potential occurrence of species of conservation concern, including Black Harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>), Verreaux's Eagle (<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>) and Secretary bird (<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>). The proposed rehabilitation activities are limited to the rehabilitation of watercourses and associated aquatic habitats and are not expected to result in negative impacts on these species or their habitat.	A compliance statement or specialist assessment are not required.
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	The proposed rehabilitation activities target rehabilitation of watercourses and associated wetland systems.	Dr Liz Day of Liz Day Consulting conducted the aquatic biodiversity assessment. See Appendix G1 of this BAR.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	The site is assigned a high sensitivity rating due to the presence of recorded cave art. The proposed rehabilitation activities will be confined to watercourses and transformed areas, and are not anticipated to impact on heritage resources in any way. Excavation activities are limited in extent and are not	A specialist assessment is not required.

	expected to compromise the archaeological or cultural heritage resources.	
Civil Aviation Theme	The site is mapped as having high sensitivity for the civil aviation theme due to its location within FAR45: Langebaanweg Military Flying Area. The proposed rehabilitation activities will have no impact on aviation operations, radar functionality and will not be an obstacle for air traffic. The Site Sensitivity Verification therefore confirms the correct sensitivity to be low.	No specialist assessment or compliance statement is required.
Defence Theme	The site is mapped as having low sensitivity for the defence theme. The nearest military base was the 4 Special Regiment Base, which is approximately 61km southeast of the project site. The proposed activities do not comprise infrastructure or structures that could interfere with defence operations or radar systems.	A compliance statement is not required.
Palaeontology Theme	The site is located within an area of high palaeontological sensitivity. However, the rehabilitation activities are confined to existing watercourses and disturbed areas and will involve limited excavation.	A specialist assessment is not required.
Plant Species Theme	The dominant vegetation type occurring on the site is Piketberg Sandstone Fynbos. Rehabilitation activities may require limited vegetation clearing wetland and riparian areas.	A Botanical and Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement was prepared by Nick Helme of Nick Helme Botanical Surveys. Refer to Appendix L of this BAR.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Although the site is mapped as having low terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity, the proposed rehabilitation activities occur within natural habitat associated with watercourses.	A Botanical and Terrestrial Compliance Statement was prepared by Nick Helme of Nick Helme Botanical Surveys. Refer to Appendix L of this BAR.
Additional specialist from screening tool: Landscape/visual impact Theme	The proposed rehabilitation activities are intended to restore degraded watercourses and wetlands and are not expected to result in adverse visual impacts. The rehabilitation	A specialist assessment is not required.

	is expected to enhance the natural landscape character of the area.	
Additional specialist from screening tool: Hydrology Theme	The proposed activities will occur within and adjacent to the Kuilders stream and associated wetland systems.	The freshwater component was assessed as part of the wetland delineation and aquatic biodiversity assessment undertaken by Dr Liz Day of Liz Day Consulting. Refer to Appendix G1 of this BAR.
Additional specialist from screening tool: Socio-Economic Theme	The Need and Desirability assessment incorporated within the Basic Assessment Report adequately addresses the relevant socio-economic considerations associated with the project.	A compliance statement is not required.

SECTION D: APPLICABLE LISTED ACTIVITIES

List the applicable activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
Activity 12	The development of (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Activity 19	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;	Wetland and watercourse rehabilitation activities involving excavation, reshaping, regrading, sediment control works, installation of gabion weirs, rehabilitation of incised channels and dam rehabilitation within the Kuilders River system and associated wetlands.
Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation is required for (ii) maintenance in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The proposed rehabilitation activities focus primarily on the removal of alien invasive vegetation. However, a dense area of bracken fern <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> obscures large parts of the valley bottom wetland on the site and is proposed for clearing, which may cumulatively slightly exceed one hectare in area. This is an

		indigenous species, though not an endemic or sensitive one.
Activity 48	The expansion of (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more, where such expansion occurs (a) within a watercourse;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses including gabion weirs, erosion control structures, wetland crossings, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
Activity 12	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 in the (i) Western Cape; Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.	The proposed rehabilitation activities will include clearing of indigenous bracken fern within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) designated in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan.
Activity 14	The development of— dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; i. Western Cape i. Outside urban areas: (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;	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures, boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Activity 23	The expansion of— dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or	The proposed rehabilitation infrastructure within or near watercourses includes gabion weirs, erosion control structures,

	(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs— (a) within a watercourse; i. Western Cape i. Outside urban areas: (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;	boardwalks, dam outlet structures and associated stabilisation works.
Note: - The listed activities specified above must reconcile with activities applied for in the application form. The onus is on the Applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. If a specific listed activity is not included in an Environmental Authorisation, a new application for Environmental Authorisation will have to be submitted. - Where additional listed activities have been identified, that have not been included in the application form and amended application form must be submitted to the competent authority.		

List the applicable waste management listed activities in terms of the NEM: WA

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Category A	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
No waste management listed activities in terms of NEM: WA are triggered by the proposed rehabilitation.		

List the applicable listed activities in terms of the NEM: AQA

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Listed Activity(ies)	Describe the portion of the proposed development to which the applicable listed activity relates.
No activities in terms of NEM: AQA are triggered by the proposed rehabilitation project.		

SECTION E: PLANNING CONTEXT AND NEED AND DESIRABILITY

1.	Provide a description of the preferred alternative.
<u>Overview of Rehabilitation of Watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37</u> The proposed rehabilitation activities on Grootplaat property aim to restore degraded wetlands, watercourses, five in-channel dams and former agricultural lands through targeted ecological rehabilitation measures, including invasive alien plant clearing, hydrological rehabilitation, erosion control, soil amelioration, indigenous revegetation and wetland stabilisation in order to improve hydrological functioning, enhance biodiversity and increase the long-term resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. No transformation of intact natural habitat is proposed, and all remaining natural vegetation will be retained and protected. The rehabilitation activities include the following: • Installation of five gabion weirs of 1.5 m each distanced 15 m from centre to centre at Dam 1 • Reinforce spillway with gabion weirs at 4-5 m intervals at Dam 1 • Spread flows from low-flow pipe using infiltration trench near Dam 1 • Pipejack or cut lowflow release through dam walk downstream of Dam 1 • Boardwalk installation with Wetland Reach B • Dredging at dam 2 • Boardwalk installation within Wetland Reach C • Repair drain structure at Dam 3 • Reinforce spillway • Installation three gabion structures downstream of Dam 3 • Pull back eroded banks to recreate wider valley bottom wetland in Wetland Reach D • Reinforce the vehicle crossing with reno mattress at Dam 4 • Installation of timber boardwalk at Dam 4 • Upgrading of spillway at Dam 4 • Drop-structure: castellated weir • Installation of 4 m x 8 m Reno mattress near Dam 4 wall • Install reno mattress to spread flows (2-4 channels) within Wetland Reach E • Pull back eroded banks to recreate wider VB wetland within Wetland Reach E • Boardwalk crossing at Dam 5 wall	
2.	Explain how the proposed development is in line with the existing land use rights of the property as you have indicated in the NOI and application form? Include the proof of the existing land use rights granted in Appendix E21.
The project does not require a change in land use rights and is compatible with the property's current lawful use.	
3.	Explain how potential conflict with respect to existing approvals for the proposed site (as indicated in the NOI/and or application form) and the proposed development have been resolved.
The proposed development is compatible with all existing approvals applicable to the site. No conflicts were identified and therefore no conflict resolution was required.	
4.	Explain how the proposed development will be in line with the following?
4.1	The Provincial Spatial Development Framework.
<u>Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (2014)</u>	

The proposed Grootplaat rehabilitation project aligns with the 2014 Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF), particularly **Policy R1: Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**. The proposed rehabilitation interventions occur within the CBAs associated with surrounding natural fynbos slopes, ESAs within the valley bottom and aquatic systems and areas supporting indigenous vegetation, wetlands, riparian habitat and ecological corridors. The proposed project directly supports the objectives of Policy R1 through the protection and restoration of indigenous vegetation and fynbos habitats, the removal of invasive alien vegetation, the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands and riparian systems, improve ecological connectivity through the main stream, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem functioning within CBA and ESA areas.

The project is also consistent with **Policy R2: Safeguard Inland and coastal water resources and manage the sustainable use of water** particularly point 5, which promotes the protection and rehabilitation of river systems and high yielding groundwater recharge areas, especially in areas subject to intensive land use. This policy is applicable because the proposed interventions focus primarily on wetland and watercourse rehabilitation. The proposed project supports the objectives of Policy R2 through the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, seeps and river reaches, the restoration of hydrological connectivity between dams and downstream wetland systems, the control invasive vegetation that negatively affects water availability and ecosystem functioning.

4.2 The Integrated Development Plan of the local municipality.

Bergrivier Municipal Integrated Development Plan (2022-2027)

The proposed project aligns with the Bergrivier Municipality Integrated Development Plan (2022-2027) by contributing directly to the municipality's objectives of environmental sustainability, climate resilience and sustainable development. The project includes the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, rivers, riparian areas, in-channel dams and agricultural lands through invasive plant clearing, hydrological rehabilitation, erosion control indigenous revegetation, soil rehabilitation and wetland stabilisation measures.

The clearing of invasive alien plants will improve water availability and support the municipality's objective relating to natural resource conservation and climate change adaptation. The rehabilitation of the wetland, stream, and riparian zones will enhance the water retention within the watercourse, flood attenuation, erosion control and water quality within the watercourses, which aligns with the municipality's goals of protecting ecological infrastructure and enhancing climate resilience. The dam rehabilitation and hydrological rehabilitation measures will improve water management and contribute to long term water security within the catchment. The soil rehabilitation component of the project includes erosion control and revegetation of indigenous plant species which focuses on restoring degraded land, improving biodiversity and support land management objectives. The clearing of invasive alien plants will improve water availability and support the municipality's objective relating to natural resource conservation and climate change adaptation.

The rehabilitation of the wetland, stream, and riparian zones will enhance the water retention within the watercourse, flood attenuation, erosion control and water quality within the watercourses, which aligns with the municipality's goals of protecting ecological infrastructure and enhancing climate resilience. The dam rehabilitation and hydrological rehabilitation measures will improve water management and contribute to long term water security within the catchment. The soil rehabilitation component of the project includes erosion control and revegetation of

indigenous plant species which focuses on restoring degraded land, improving biodiversity and support land management objectives.	
4.3.	The Spatial Development Framework of the local municipality. <u>Bergrivier Municipality Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) 2024 – 2029</u> The Bergrivier Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF), 2024-2029, adopted as a core component of the 5th generation Bergrivier IDP, 2022 – 2027, guides growth and development in the Bergrivier municipal area in a sustainable manner over five-year and twenty-year development cycles, aligned with the Capital Expenditure Framework of the Municipality. The proposed rehabilitation on the site aligns with the Bergrivier Local Municipality Spatial Development Framework by promoting and delineating natural open space networks and restoring, rehabilitating, maintain and enhancing various specifically preserving aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity along the Berg River and its tributaries. The project is consistent with Chapter 5: Protect ecological and agricultural integrity, as it seeks to restore degraded natural ecosystems and improve the ecological condition of areas previously impacted by agricultural activities, altered hydrology and invasive vegetation. By rehabilitating aquatic and terrestrial habitats, the project will support biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem service provision and climate change resilience. As the proposed activities are entirely rehabilitative in nature and do not involve urban expansion, intensification of development or incompatible land uses, therefore consistent with the environmental sustainability and conservation objectives of the Municipal SDF. Furthermore, the project aligns closely with the proposals in Chapter 6, Section 6.1.1 (Water Hydrology) of the MSDF, which identifies water catchment areas, watercourses, wetlands and groundwater resources as strategic environmental assets requiring protection and rehabilitation. The MSDF promotes rehabilitation, maintenance, enhancement and preservation of the Berg River corridor and its tributaries, as well as the conservation and restoration of existing and historical connections between wetlands, drainage channels, streams and groundwater system. The project directly supports this objective through the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, seeps, riparian habitats and river reaches associated with the Kuilders River system. Proposed interventions include the removal of invasive alien vegetation, restoration of wetland hydrological function. Stabilisation of eroded channels and reestablishments of indigenous vegetation.
4.4.	The Environmental Management Framework applicable to the area. <u>Bergrivier Municipality Environmental Management Framework (2026)</u> The proposed Grootplaat rehabilitation is strongly aligned with the objectives, principles and management outcomes of the Bergrivier Municipality Environmental Management Framework (EMF) because it focuses on restoring ecological functioning, protecting water resources, rehabilitating degraded wetlands, controlling invasive vegetation and improving climate resilience and ecological infrastructure. The EMF identifies wetlands, rivers, riparian zones and biodiversity corridors as critical environmental assets requiring protection and restoration. The project aims to rehabilitate seep wetlands, valley-bottom wetlands, riparian habitats and sections of the upper Kuilders River system, which enhances water quality, improves habitat connectivity, reduces erosion and supports biodiversity conservation. The proposed clearing and management of invasive alien vegetation further aligning with the EMF's biodiversity and water resource management objectives as invasive

species are recognised as a major threat to ecological functioning, water security and ecosystem resilience within the municipality.

The project supports the EMF's climate change adaptation and resilience goals through nature-based restoration measures that improve water retention, reduce flood and erosion risks and increase the landscape's capacity to withstand drought and changing climatic conditions. By rehabilitating natural ecosystems rather than introducing new development pressures, the project contributes to the EMF's vision of maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure, strengthening environmental sustainability and promoting long-term conservation outcomes. The Grootplaat rehabilitation represents a practical implementation of the EMF's objectives for water resource protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable environmental management within the Bergrivier Municipality.

5.	Explain how comments from the relevant authorities and/or specialist(s) with respect to biodiversity have influenced the proposed development.
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Input from the freshwater ecologist influenced the layout and interventions for the proposed rehabilitation.

Wetland delineation (Liz Day, 2026)

The wetland delineation was a key factor influencing the location, extent and design of the proposed rehabilitation activities. By accurately identifying and mapping the extent of the wetlands, watercourses and associated aquatic ecosystems, the delineation provided the baseline for rehabilitation planning and ensured that rehabilitation measures were focused on degraded areas while avoiding unnecessary disturbance to surrounding natural habitat.

The delineation confirmed the extent of the degraded seep wetland upstream of Dam 1 (Reach A), which informed rehabilitation activities aimed at addressing channel incision, restoring wetland hydrology, removing invasive alien vegetation and rehabilitating drained seep habitats. It further confirmed the extent of the channelised valley-bottom wetlands downstream of Dam 1 (Reaches B, C, D and E), informing the proposed wetland reshaping, erosion control, gabion weir installation, hydrological rehabilitation and revegetation measures aimed at restoring wetland function.

The delineation demonstrated the hydrological connectivity between the wetlands and in-channel dams. This informed the inclusion of dam rehabilitation measures, controlled outlet structures and outflow management interventions designed to improve downstream wetland inundation patterns and restore more natural flow processes within the system.

In addition, the delineation informed the establishment of ecological buffer zones, including recommended setbacks of 30 m from wetlands and 20 m from dams, to protect aquatic ecosystem functions during implementation. The delineated wetland boundaries guided the alignment and design of proposed wetland crossings and access routes to minimise impacts on sensitive aquatic habitats.

The wetland delineation was fundamental in determining where rehabilitation interventions could occur, where ecological buffers were required and which degraded wetland areas should be prioritised for hydrological and ecological rehabilitation.

Botanical Specialist

The botanical specialist (Helme, 2026) found that the proposed wetland rehabilitation measures are likely to result in a long-term Medium positive impact on flora and terrestrial ecology on the site

and confirmed that the rehabilitation activities could proceed without significant impacts on sensitive plant species or habitats. No plant Species of Conservation Concern (SCCs) were recorded within the proposed rehabilitation footprint, although several threatened and rare plant species occur within the surrounding rocky sandstone habitats which fall outside the project footprint. To avoid impacts on higher-sensitivity habitats and species, all rehabilitation activities have been confined to existing wetlands, riparian areas and previously disturbed portions of the site.

Recommended mitigation includes continued removal of alien invasive plant species using appropriate methodology (Martens *et al.*, 2021), revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous species propagated from surrounding vegetation, and a programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, which has not burned in more than 25 years against an optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this vegetation type.

Authorities

This draft BAR has been prepared for public participation in terms of Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This draft BAR is being circulated for comment for the first time, and any comments from authorities will be considered and responded to.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 6. | Explain how the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (including the guidelines in the handbook) has influenced the proposed development. |
|----|--|

The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP) informed the identification of environmental sensitivities and the design of the proposed rehabilitation interventions. The site falls within an area containing Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), and other natural areas, all which were considered during planning for wetland delineation and overall project planning. The WCBSP mapping was used to identify biodiversity priorities and ecological corridors on and around the property shown in **Figure 12**.

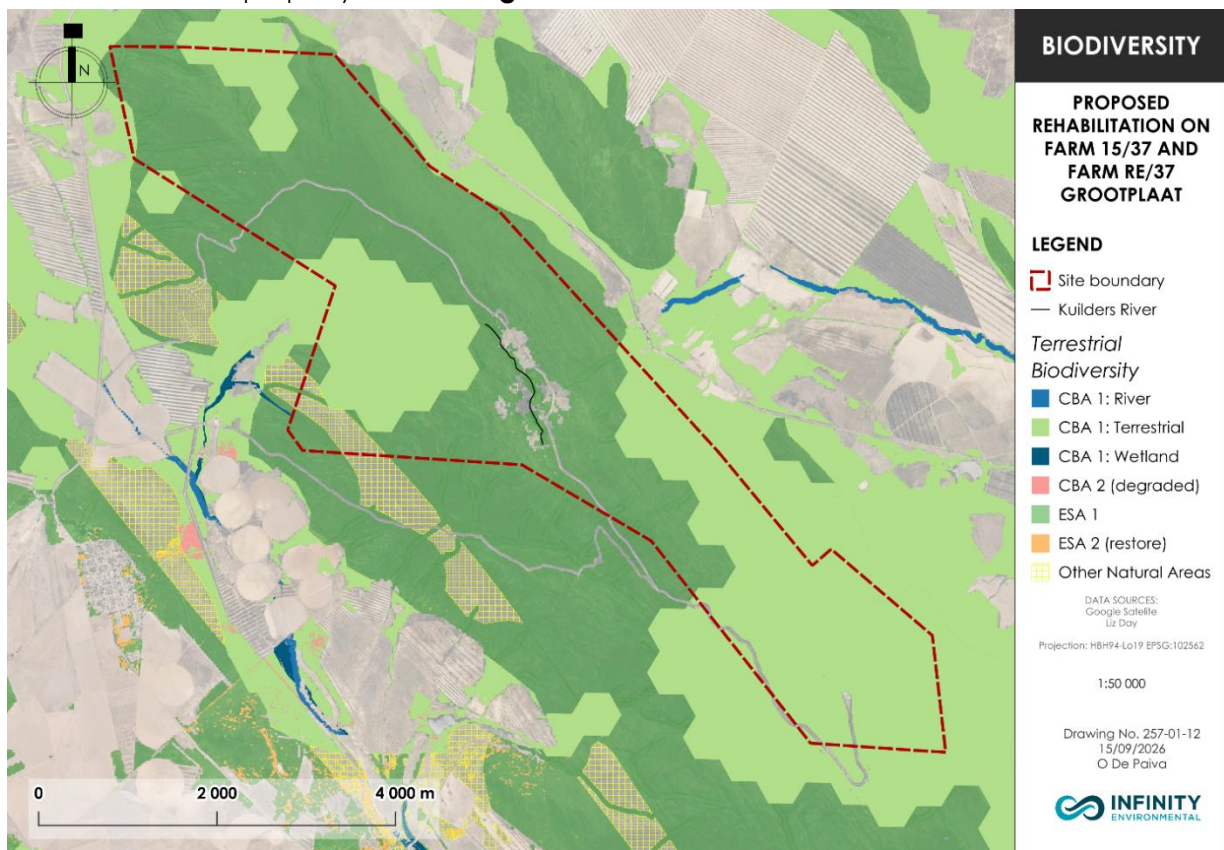


Figure 12: Biodiversity network surrounding the proposed site

In accordance with the WCBSP Handbook guidelines, the proposed rehabilitation seeks to protect and improve ecological infrastructure by restoring degraded wetlands and riparian areas, clearing invasive alien vegetation, restoring indigenous vegetation, enhance hydrological functioning, and maintaining ecological connectivity across the site. Natural vegetation in CBA areas will be retained, and no transformation no intact biodiversity areas will occur.	
7.	Explain how the proposed development is in line with the intention/purpose of the relevant zones as defined in the ICMA.
The project site is not located within the coastal zone, and the ICMA zoning provisions are therefore not applicable.	
8.	Explain whether the screening report has changed from the one submitted together with the application form. The screening report must be attached as Appendix I.
The Screening Tool Report, generated in September 2026 is included as Appendix I . The report remains unchanged from the one submitted with the application form.	
9.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise vacant land available within an urban area.
The site is located outside an urban area, and the optimisation of vacant urban land is therefore not applicable to the proposed development.	
10.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise the use of existing resources and infrastructure.
The proposed rehabilitation project will optimise the use of existing resources and infrastructure by focusing on the rehabilitation of watercourses and wetland systems. Existing farm roads, access routes, dams, water management infrastructure and operational areas will be utilised and upgraded where necessary to support the associated activities. By rehabilitating already disturbed and degraded areas, the project improves the productivity, resilience and environmental performance of existing land and water resources. In addition, the biomass generated from alien vegetation clearing will be reutilised through on-site composting and soil improvement programmes.	
11.	Explain whether the necessary services are available and whether the local authority has confirmed sufficient, spare, unallocated service capacity. (Confirmation of all services must be included in Appendix E16).
The proposed rehabilitation project will not generate a significant demand for municipal services. Existing farm infrastructure and services will be utilised where required. No material increase in demand for municipal services is anticipated.	
12.	In addition to the above, explain the need and desirability of the proposed activity or development in terms of this Department's guideline on Need and Desirability (March 2013) or the DEA's Integrated Environmental Management Guideline on Need and Desirability. This may be attached to this BAR as Appendix K.
Please see attached Appendix K for a detailed response to the Need and Desirability considerations in terms of this guideline.	

SECTION F: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Process ("PPP") must fulfil the requirements as outlined in the NEMA EIA Regulations and must be attached as Appendix F. Please note that If the NEM: WA and/or the NEM: AQA is applicable to the proposed development, an advertisement must be placed in at least two newspapers.

1. Exclusively for linear activities: Indicate what PPP was agreed to by the competent authority. Include proof of this agreement in Appendix E22.

Not applicable as the activity is not linear activity.

2. Confirm that the PPP as indicated in the application form has been complied with. All the PPP must be included in Appendix F.

Comprehensive public participation ensures that all potential interested and affected parties are identified and notified of the proposed rehabilitation of watercourses on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, giving them an opportunity to register as interested and affected parties and to submit their comments on application and assessment. Although the actual development footprint is located far from human settlements, its effects may be far reaching in extent, bearing in mind that some maintenance works will be carried out within watercourses.

Potential Interested and affected parties

The EIA Regulations define potential interested and affected parties as including –

- » (i) the occupiers of the site and the owner or person in control of the site
- » (ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site
- » (iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;
- » (iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
- » (v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
- » (vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;

All potential I&APs were notified by email or hand delivery of the public participation process on 18 September 2026.

Notification of registered I&AP's

A database of registered interested and affected parties (I&APs) has been compiled. Potential I&APs were invited to register their interest in this application, should they wish to receive further notifications.

Notification of adjacent landowners and occupiers

Adjacent landowners and occupiers of the site have been notified by hand delivery, email site notifications at strategic points along the proposed area of development and through a media notice in the *Weslander* local newspaper of the public participation process.

Notification of municipal councillors and community organisations

The site is in Ward 6 of the Bergrivier Municipality. The respective councillors have been notified via email. Identified community-based organisations have also been notified via email.

Organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity

As part of the environmental impact assessment public participation process, organs of state which administer related legislation are provided with an opportunity to comment on the Basic

Assessment Report. Each organ of state has been notified of the availability of the draft BAR for comment via email which includes a link containing the report and associated appendices. The table below lists the organs of state to be consulted.

Media notices

A media notice was published in the *Weslander* (local newspaper) on 17 September 2026, notifying the public of the application and a 30-day commenting period.

Site notices

Site notices have been placed on the property by the EAP, complying with regulatory requirements.

Report availability

The draft Basic Assessment Report and associated appendices have been made available on the project website at <https://www.infinityenv.co.za/public/grootplaar>

A copy of the report has been made available for public viewing at the Piketberg Library on Kerk Street, Piketberg from **18 September 2026 to 19 October 2026**.

Comments will be accepted via a website form, by email and WhatsApp. All comments received during the commenting period will be included in the Basic Assessment Report which will be finalised for submission to the competent authority.

Confirmation and proofs will be provided on submission of the Final Basic Assessment Report for decision. A consolidated database of registered I&APs with proofs of notification of the draft Basic Assessment Report will be provided to the competent authority.

3. Confirm which of the State Departments and Organs of State indicated in the Notice of Intent/application form were consulted with.

The State Departments and Organs of State to be consulted on the draft BAR include:

Bergvliet Local Municipality
BOCMA
CapeNature
Heritage Western Cape (HWC)
West Coast District Municipality
Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)
National Department of Agriculture
Western Cape Department of Agriculture

The above-mentioned state departments and organs of state were notified of the non-statutory public participation process and will be notified of the draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) publication for comment.

4. If any of the State Departments and Organs of State were not consulted, indicate which and why.

All relevant State Departments and Organs of State will be consulted.

5. If any of the State Departments and Organs of State did not respond, indicate which.

To be confirmed on completion of the public participation process.



6. Provide a summary of the issues raised by I&APs and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated into the development proposal.

To be completed on completion of the public participation process.

Note:

A register of all the I&AP's notified, including the Organs of State, and all the registered I&APs must be included in Appendix F. The register must be maintained and made available to any person requesting access to the register in writing.

The EAP must notify I&AP's that all information submitted by I&AP's becomes public information.

Your attention is drawn to Regulation 40 (3) of the NEMA EIA Regulations which states that *"Potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in subregulation (1) prior to submission of an application but **must** be provided with an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the competent authority."*

All the comments received from I&APs on the pre -application BAR (if applicable and the draft BAR must be recorded, responded to and included in the Comments and Responses Report and must be included in Appendix F.

All information obtained during the PPP (the minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with I&APs and other role players wherein the views of the participants are recorded) and must be included in Appendix F.

Please note that proof of the PPP conducted must be included in Appendix F. In terms of the required "proof" the following is required:

- a site map showing where the site notice was displayed, dated photographs showing the notice displayed on site and a copy of the text displayed on the notice;
- in terms of the written notices given, a copy of the written notice sent, as well as:
 - if registered mail was sent, a list of the registered mail sent (showing the registered mail number, the name of the person the mail was sent to, the address of the person and the date the registered mail was sent);
 - if normal mail was sent, a list of the mail sent (showing the name of the person the mail was sent to, the address of the person, the date the mail was sent, and the signature of the post office worker or the post office stamp indicating that the letter was sent);
 - if a facsimile was sent, a copy of the facsimile Report;
 - if an electronic mail was sent, a copy of the electronic mail sent; and
 - if a "mail drop" was done, a signed register of "mail drops" received (showing the name of the person the notice was handed to, the address of the person, the date, and the signature of the person); and
- a copy of the newspaper advertisement ("newspaper clipping") that was placed, indicating the name of the newspaper and date of publication (of such quality that the wording in the advertisement is legible).

SECTION G: DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

All specialist studies must be attached as Appendix G.

1. Groundwater

1.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
1.2.	Provide the name and or company who conducted the specialist study.		
Not applicable as no groundwater study was undertaken.			
1.3.	Indicate above which aquifer your proposed development will be located and explain how this has influenced your proposed development.		
The proposed site is located within a fractured aquifer, with a yield ranging between approximately 2.0 and 5.0 l/s (Figure 13), according to spatial data available on Cape Farm Mapper. Groundwater discharge from this aquifer is likely to contribute to maintenance of seeps and baseflows within the Kuilders River catchment. Rehabilitation interventions involving earthworks, dam modification, sediment removal or channel reshaping will therefore be implemented in a manner that avoids disruption of groundwater flow paths and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.			

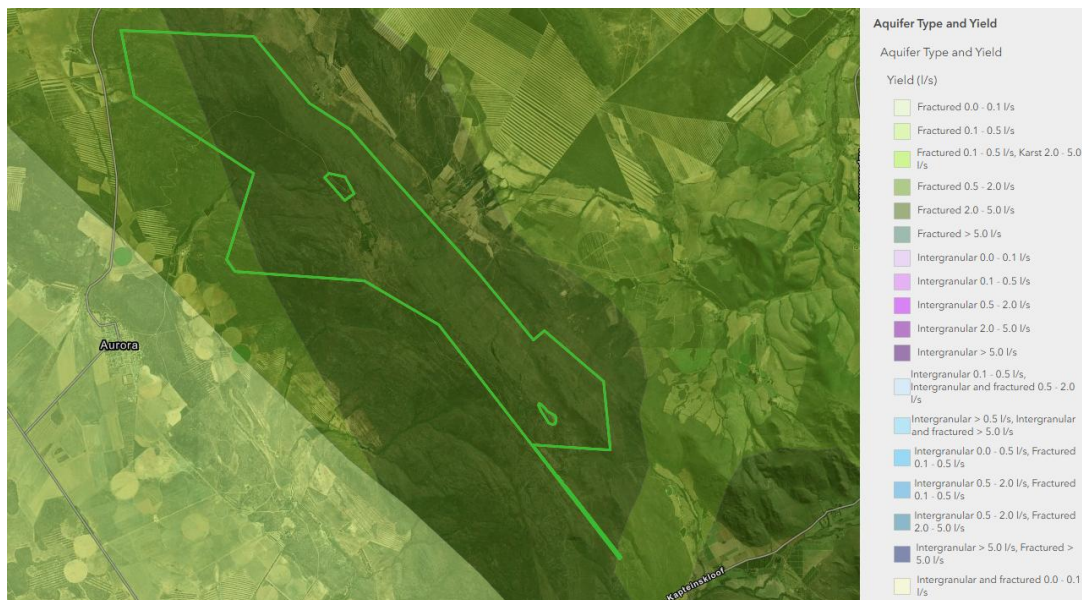
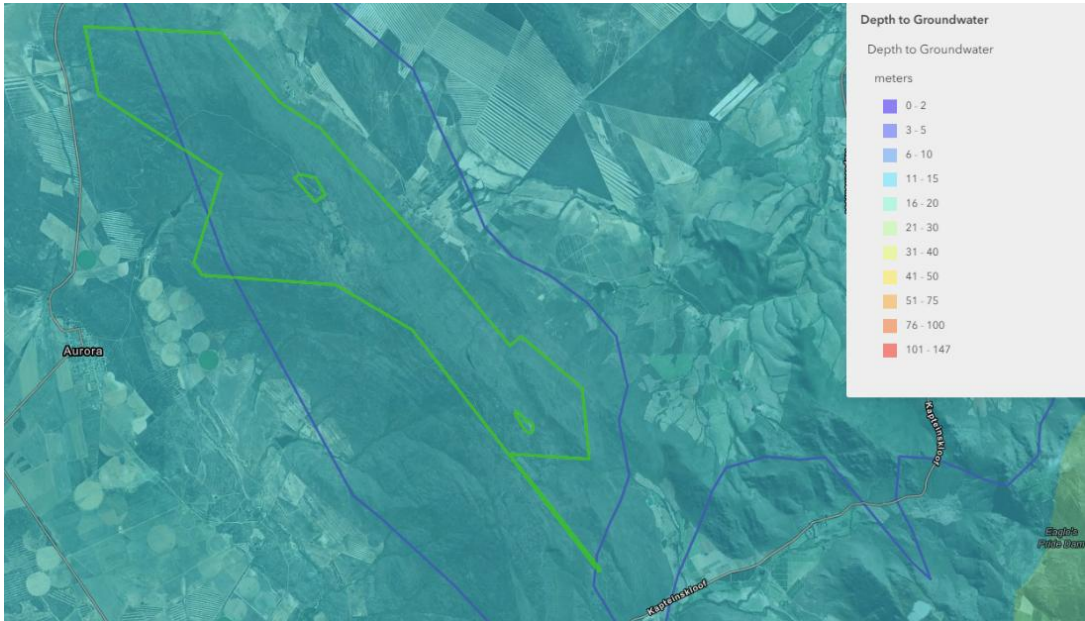


Figure 13: Aquifer type and Yield (Source: Department of Water and Sanitation, 2012)

1.4.	Indicate the depth of groundwater and explain how the depth of groundwater and type of aquifer (if present) has influenced your proposed development.
The groundwater depth varies across the site, with the shallow groundwater likely to occur within the valley-bottom wetlands and seep areas. Rehabilitation measures that involve earthworks, wetland reshaping, sediment removal or the installation of structures such as gabion weirs have therefore been limited to the minimum extent necessary and are intended to promote natural groundwater-surface water interactions. The proposed interventions are expected to enhance groundwater recharge and discharge functions by restoring wetter conditions within degraded wetlands and reducing the rate at which water is lost through artificial channels and invasive alien vegetation. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation, the depth of groundwater ranges between 11 – 20 mbgl (Figure 14).	
 Figure 14: Depth to groundwater (Source: Department of Water Sanitation, 2005).	

2. Surface water

2.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
2.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
Liz Day of Liz Day Consulting.			
2.3.	Explain how the presence of watercourse(s) and/or wetlands on the property(ies) has influenced your proposed development.		
The site area forms part of the Kuilders River catchment, which is a tributary of the Boesmans River, itself a tributary of the Berg River. It lies within the DWS Quaternary Catchment G10K, which forms part of the Berg/Olifants Water Management Area (WMA) and is included in the Berg Catchment Resource Quality Objectives promulgated by DWS in 2020 (GN 1179 of 2020). The site consists of five instream dams with water uses that date back to the 1970s. The current water uses include irrigation for small scale orchards and domestic use only. This section draws largely on the findings from the wetland delineation conducted by Liz Day Consulting. Most of the site is ranked as a Phase 2 Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA) under the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas programme (Driver <i>et al.</i>, 2011): rivers in only moderately good			

condition (PES Category C) but nonetheless prioritised for conservation because national biodiversity targets cannot be met using only rivers in natural or good condition. The proposed rehabilitation targets watercourses within this Phase 2 FEPA sub-quaternary and, according to the aquatic specialist, accords well with the intent of that rating. High-lying areas draining north-east and east of the site into the Hols and Boesmans River sub-catchments are themselves ranked as FEPAs and are not affected by the proposed activities.

Wetlands on the site are poorly represented in national and provincial spatial datasets, and the assessment relied on on-site delineation and ground-truthing. Watercourses on the site comprise a source-area seep wetland (Reach A), five in-channel dams (Dams 1 to 5) and the wetland reaches between and below them (Reaches B to E), transitioning to a foothill stream (Reach F) below Dam 5. Condition across these reaches, assessed using the PES methodology, ranges from Category C (Reach A1, upstream of an access road, and Reach F) to Category D/E in the most degraded reaches (Reach A2, Reach B, and Reach D), reflecting varying degrees of impoundment, channelisation, alien invasion and historical agricultural disturbance. The interconnected watercourse system has been rated of Moderate Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS), on the basis of generally low residual habitat and species richness offset by its role in groundwater-fed seep formation and potential hydraulic buffering of the downstream Berg River system.

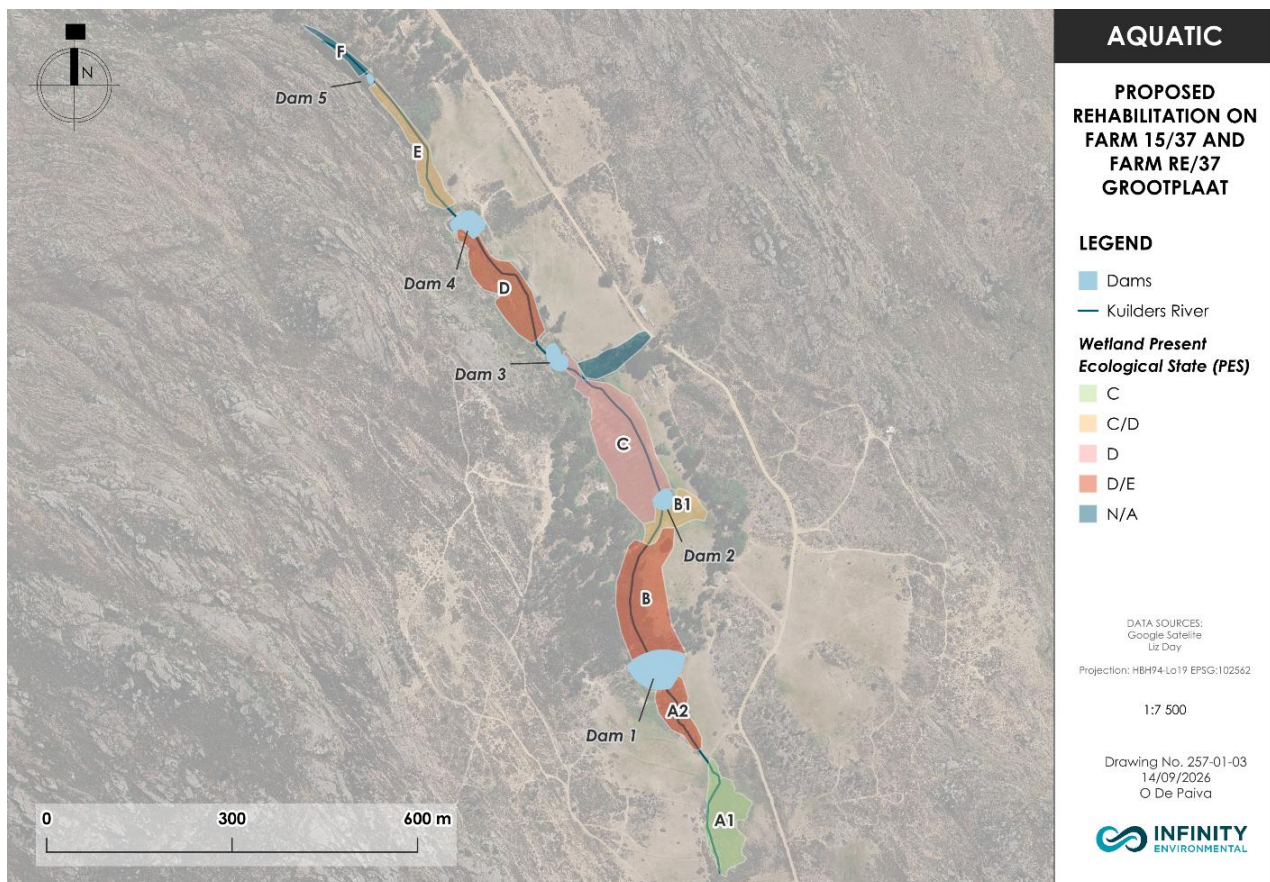


Figure 15: Wetland delineation map of watercourses

Figure 15 shows the watercourses delineated on the site in April 2026. These comprise hillslope seeps, in-channel dams, (naturally) unchanneled valley bottom wetlands, and mountain stream / foothill streams in the downstream reaches of the site. They are described briefly in the following sections.

Wetland Reach A: This is a headwater seep wetland that forms part of the source area of the Kuilders River system. It is characterised by seasonally saturated soils, wetland vegetation (*Centella sp.*, *Juncus capensis* and sparse *Cenchrus macrourus*) and diffuse surface and subsurface flows. The seep is wide and was disturbed by past land-use impacts that include agriculture evident with ploughing in sections of the property and disturbed vegetation bands within the delineated seep. The north-east to southwest running dirt road interrupts the flow of the seep and resulted in the historic concentration of flows from the seep, particularly during flood conditions into an incised channel that leads into Dam 1.

Watercourse PES has been estimated as PES Category C (moderately modified) upstream of the north-east to south-west access road (Wetland Reach A1), deteriorating to PES Category D/E downstream of the road (Wetland Reach A2).

Dam 1: This is an artificial instream depression comprising an earth-wall structure with a high-level overflow on its eastern side. At present, the dam wall is structurally compromised by large trees including invasive alien species. The lower parts of the dam are periodically deeply inundated and support limited plants, with few plant species able to survive the conditions from deep inundation to seasonal drought. The dam has altered the natural flow regime by impounding water that would historically have flowed downstream into wetlands.

Wetland Reach B: A formerly unchanneled valley bottom wetland that has been modified by flow reduction upstream at Dam 1, channelisation, alien vegetation invasion and hydrological alteration. Within this reach, there is a small hillslope seep wetland that contributes seasonal discharge into wetland reach B. The main flows from the western channel (which was dry in April 2026) pass into the area downslope of the berm, where indigenous wetland plants such as *Psoralea affinis*, *Juncus kraussii* and *Juncus capensis* occur in dense stands

The watercourse between Dam 1 and Dam 2 has been evaluated as PES Category D/E, on the basis of the major change (decrease) in hydrology; extensive loss of indigenous vegetation; high vulnerability to erosion; major changes to bed, channel and extent. It is probably rehabilitable with effort to PES Category D.

Seep Wetland B1: This wetland enters the main valley bottom wetland (Wetland Reach B) just upstream of Dam 2. Runoff from the adjacent access road also flows strongly down the seep line, bringing with it concentrated flows of water as well as silt and plant debris during rainfall events.

Wetland condition has been impacted by road runoff, alien invasion and limited upstream development (roads and a small area of agricultural land). The seep has however retained seepage function in its lower reaches, despite grazing and loss of indigenous vegetation. The seep wetland has been assessed as PES Category C/D.

Dam 2: Relatively small dam located within the valley bottom wetland system which developed due to the buildup of water in dam and upslope of its surrounding berms and other flow impediments. The dam provides open-water habitat and contributes the local wetland formation upstream of the dam.

Wetland Reach C: This reach (downstream of dam 2) is a valley bottom wetland that has become channelled due to upstream impoundment, flow modification and historical disturbance. It is influenced by seepage from adjacent slopes and supports wetland vegetation.

Alien vegetation; loss of indigenous vegetation and changes in wetland / river channel morphology are the major impacts identified. Together, these changes mean that this reach of the watercourse (Dam 2 to Dam 3) has been assessed as PES Category D.

Dam 3: A sump installed within the dam allows the passage of accumulated water to downstream reaches. The dam supports wetland vegetation around its margins but has substantially altered natural flow processes. The dam also includes a highly overgrown spillway, which drops off vertically into a channel that passes between Dam 3 and Dam 4, edged by extensive stands of *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern). The dam was largely empty at the time of assessment in April 2026.

Wetland Reach D: This reach is characterised by a deeply incised and channelised valley bottom wetland, which has resulted in drainage of the surrounding wetland and lowering of the water table. It is dominated by bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*). This reach of the watercourse has been assessed as PES Category D/E, given the severe changes to hydrology, channel, wetland morphology and vegetation that have accrued in this reach.

Dam 4: This dam comprises an in-channel dam, with a concrete spillway and eight pipe outlets onto the concrete spillway overflow area. The dam contains limited open water and supports indigenous wetland vegetation around wetter margins. The dam continues to alter the hydrology of the downstream system.

Wetland Reach E: This reach remains channelised and supports indigenous wetland vegetation despite impacts from hydrological modification and historical alien invasion. Areas outside of the channel are dominated by *Pteridium aquilinum* but the valley bottom wetland itself is morphologically less impacted than in the upstream reaches, and includes relatively natural wetland habitat towards Dam 5.

This reach of the watercourse has been assessed as PES Category C/D, taking into account existing indigenous vegetation, albeit with some (cleared) alien vegetation and with the understanding that hydrology has been significantly impacted by upstream impoundment as well as by alien invasion.

Dam 5: This dam/ impoundment, created by a concrete weir, was completely infilled with sediment at the time of the April 2026 site visit, suggesting significant or ongoing erosion of upstream areas between Dams 4 and 5 – this would probably largely be due to agricultural activities in this area, but could also reflect the more recent impacts of alien plant clearing in the upstream reaches, exacerbating sediment accumulation.

Reach F: This reach represents the transition from wetland habitat to a foothill stream with a defined channel and bedrock-controlled geomorphology. Although affected by upstream dams and past alien invasion, it retains good ecological functioning.

This reach of the watercourse has been assessed as PES Category C, using a modified version of the Habitat Integrity rating of Kleynhans (1999) (Southern Waters 2000) with the main impacts being invasion by alien vegetation (and its impacts on hydroperiod), upstream impoundment (and its impacts on hydrology and hydroperiod) and loss of indigenous vegetation.

The DFFE Screening Tool rates large areas of the site, including the valley bottom wetland system targeted for rehabilitation, as Very High Sensitivity for the Aquatic Biodiversity theme. The aquatic specialist's ground-truthing broadly concurs with this rating, while noting that the Screening Tool does not reflect the full extent of wetlands and the five dams identified through site-level delineation.

3. Coastal Environment

3.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
3.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
	N/A		
3.3.	Explain how the relevant considerations of Section 63 of the ICMA were taken into account and explain how this influenced your proposed development.		
	N/A		
3.4.	Explain how estuary management plans (if applicable) has influenced the proposed development.		
	N/A		
3.5.	Explain how the modelled coastal risk zones, the coastal protection zone, littoral active zone and estuarine functional zones, have influenced the proposed development.		
	N/A		

4. Biodiversity

4.1.	Were specialist studies conducted?	YES	NO
4.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist studies.		
	Aquatic biodiversity: Dr Liz Day of Liz Day Consulting (refer to Appendix G1). Botanical and terrestrial biodiversity: Nick Helme of Nick Helme Botanical Surveys (refer to Appendix L).		
4.3.	Explain which systematic conservation planning and other biodiversity informants such as vegetation maps, NFEPA, NSBA etc. have been used and how has this influenced your proposed development.		
	The proposed rehabilitation project was informed by a range of national, provincial and regional biodiversity planning tools and datasets. These included the 2024 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP), the Vegetation Map of South Africa, available conservation planning information from CapeNature and field based ecological assessment undertaken on site. The vegetation Map of South Africa identified the site as occurring predominantly within Piketberg Sandstone Fynbos, a vegetation type endemic to the Piketberg Mountains and recognised as important for biodiversity conservation due to its high species richness and endemism. This informed the decision to retain all remaining natural fynbos areas, prioritise alien invasive vegetation plant clearing, and restore indigenous vegetation within some previously cultivated portions of the property.		

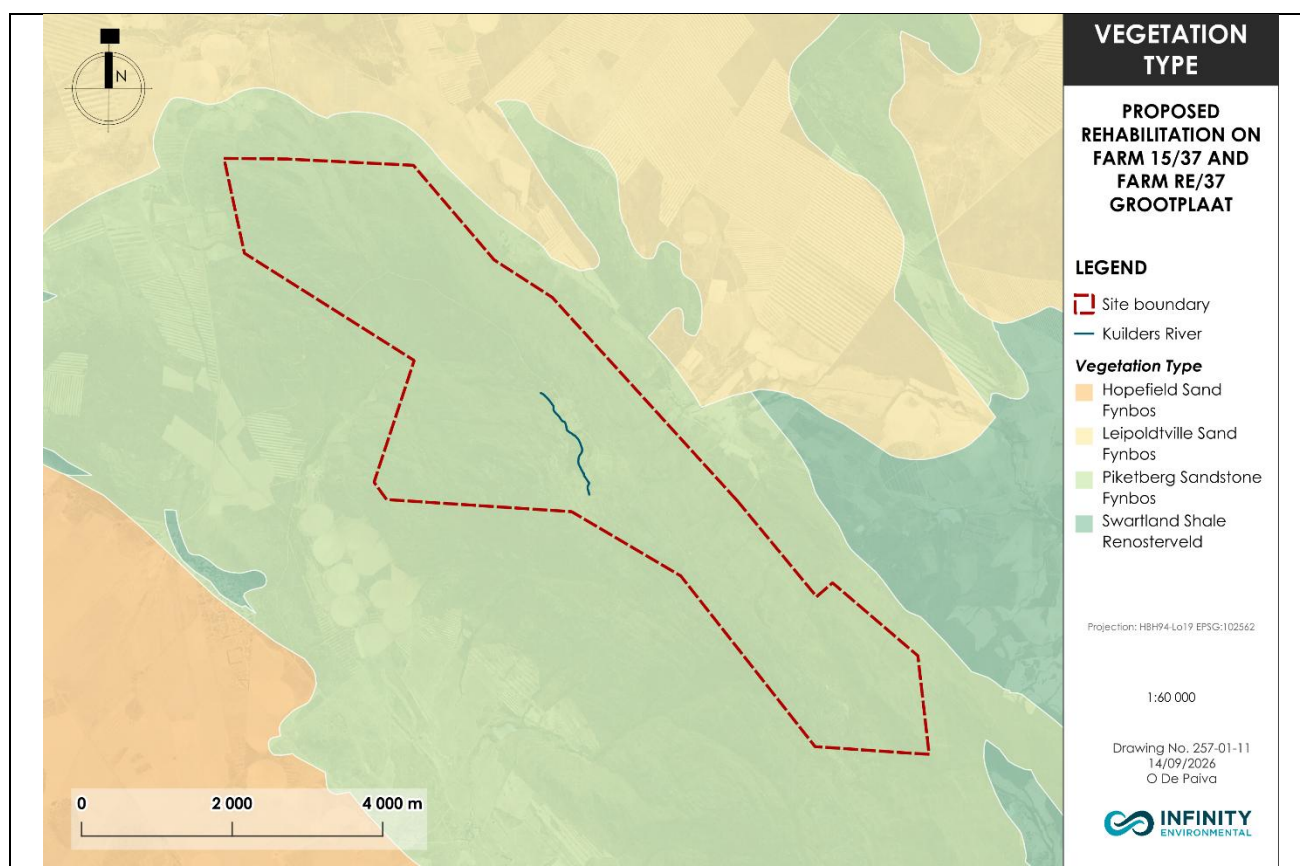


Figure 16: Natural vegetation types on the site and surrounding area (data from SANBI, 2021)

4.4. Explain how the objectives and management guidelines of the Biodiversity Spatial Plan have been used and how has this influenced your proposed development.

The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan showed that most of the valley-bottom areas on the property fall within an Aquatic Ecological Support Area (ESA1), while the surrounding natural vegetation is classified AS Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA1). Consequently, the proposed development has been designed to avoid further loss of natural habitat, retain intact fynbos vegetation and focus rehabilitation within largely degraded areas.

4.5. Explain what impact the proposed development will have on the site-specific features and/or function of the Biodiversity Spatial Plan category and how has this influenced the proposed development.

The site falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Aquatic Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) identified in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan. The proposed rehabilitation focused on the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, improve hydrological functioning, remove invasive alien vegetation and strengthen ecological connectivity within these biodiversity priority areas. The Biodiversity Spatial Plan influenced the development by guiding the protection of natural fynbos areas, the prioritisation of rehabilitation within disturbed areas, the maintenance of ecological corridors and the inclusion of ecological buffer zones around watercourses.

The botanical specialist verification study for the site (Helme, 2026) confirms that the study area falls within Piketberg Sandstone Fynbos, a vegetation type of least concern nationally, of which approximately 82% of the original extent remains. The area lies within the Core Cape Subregion of the Greater Cape Floristic Region, an area of exceptionally high plant diversity and endemism. The CapeNature Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (CapeNature, 2023) maps most of the study area as Ecological Support Area 1; Helme's field verification broadly supports this, noting that parts of the wetland are in sufficiently good condition to approach Critical Biodiversity Area status.

Indigenous vegetation cover across the study area ranges from 5% to 100%, reflecting a gradient from near-intact wetland habitat to areas heavily disturbed by historical agriculture and alien infestation. No plant Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) were recorded within the project footprint, and none are considered likely to occur there. Numerous SoCC, including <i>Leucospermum profugum</i>, <i>Leucadendron discolor</i> and <i>Babiana lineolata</i>, occur within 1 000 m of the footprint, concentrated in undisturbed rocky sandstone areas outside the area of proposed intervention. Botanical sensitivity within the project area is rated Low to Medium at a regional scale, consistent with the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool's Medium sensitivity rating for plant species. The Low sensitivity rating reflects the widespread and non-threatened status of the underlying vegetation type, historical soil disturbance, the absence of recorded SoCC, and dominance by weedy and alien species in the most disturbed areas.	
4.6.	If your proposed development is located in a protected area, explain how the proposed development is in line with the protected area management plan.
N/A	
4.7.	Explain how the presence of fauna on and adjacent to the proposed development has influenced your proposed development.
The presence of indigenous fauna and the potential occurrence of Species of Conservation Concern, including the Black Harrier and Verreux's Eagle, influenced the rehabilitation design by prioritising the protection and rehabilitation of natural habitats and ecological corridors across the site. The proposed rehabilitation activities have accordingly been designed to minimise disturbance to fauna through the retention of intact indigenous vegetation, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, control of invasive alien plants and rehabilitation of degraded habitats. Ecological buffers were recommended around wetlands and watercourses.	

5. Geographical Aspects

Explain whether any geographical aspects will be affected and how has this influenced the proposed activity or development.	
Wetland Delineation Study A wetland delineation study was conducted on 8 and 9 April 2026 by Dr Liz Day of Liz Day Consulting. The primary aim of this investigation was to confirm the location, extent, condition of the wetlands and watercourses and determine whether the wetlands are naturally occurring or formed due to anthropogenic forces. Regional Geology The underlying geology of the site is quartzitic sandstone of the Peninsula Formation in the Table Mountain Group. Very shallow, acidic sandy soils overlie exposed bedrock on the surrounding slopes, with deeper soils accumulated in the Grootplaat valley around the watercourses and in the agricultural lands on the site.	

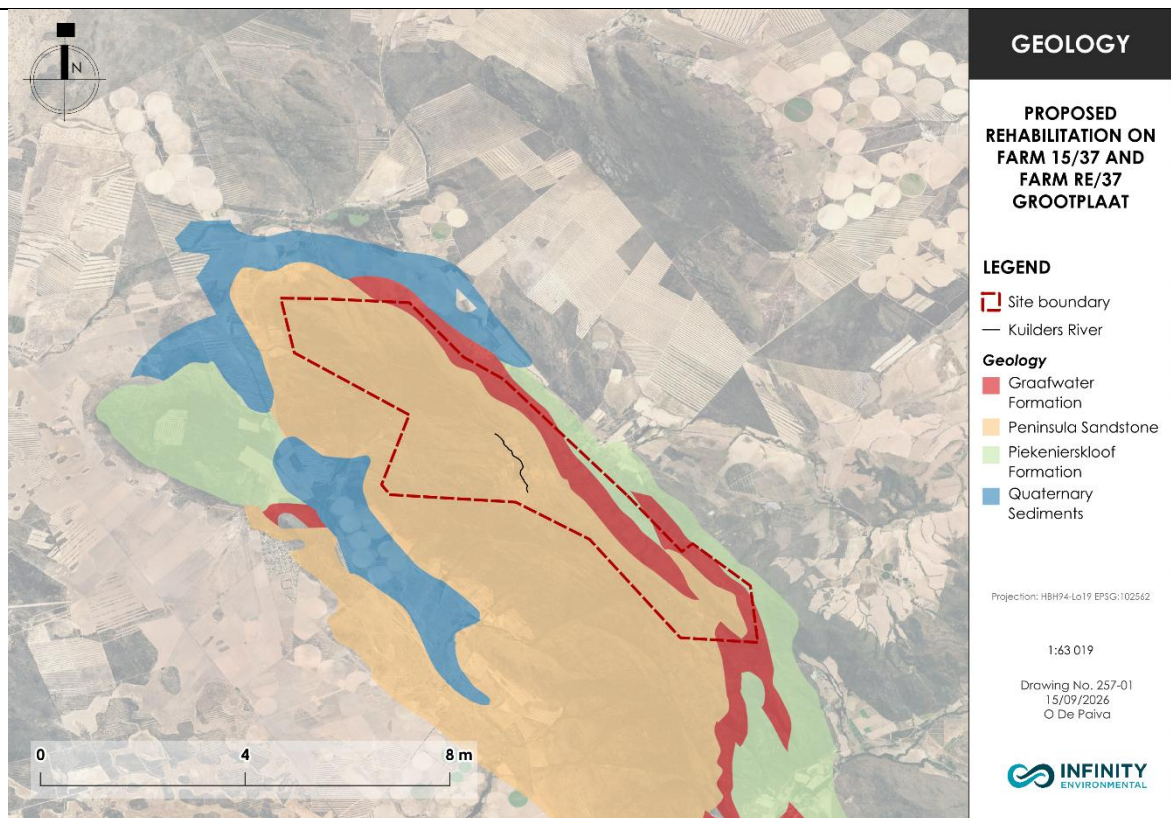


Figure 17: Site geology

Findings:

- Wetland verification confirmed the presence of a connected aquatic system comprising seep wetlands, unchanneled valley-bottom wetlands, riparian habitats, a foothill stream and five in-channel dams associated with the Kuilders River headwaters.
- Wetland reaches downstream of Dam 1 have been significantly degraded by altered hydrology, channel incision, wetland shrinkage, historic agricultural activities and invasive alien vegetation.
- Wetlands and stream reach retain ecological value despite modification and continue to receive groundwater and seepage inputs that support aquatic ecosystem functioning.
- Wetland condition (PES) ranges from Category C (moderately modified) to Category D/E (largely to seriously modified) across the different reaches.

Recommendation:

- Clearing of invasive alien vegetation
- Improve wetland hydrology by restoring more natural flow regimes and allowing controlled low-flow releases from dams where feasible and authorised.
- Address channel incision and wetland drainage through the installation of appropriately designed stabilisation structures such as gabion weirs
- Rehabilitate degraded and channelised wetland areas through reshaping, regrading and rehabilitation of broader zones of seasonal saturation.
- Re-establishment of indigenous wetland and riparian vegetation
- Dam infrastructure repairs and removal of accumulated sediments without increasing dam capacity.
- Establishment of ecological buffer zones of at least 30 m around wetlands and 20 m around dams to protect aquatic ecosystem.

6. Heritage Resources

6.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	NO
6.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
Not applicable as no specialist study was undertaken.			
6.3.	Explain how areas that contain sensitive heritage resources have influenced the proposed development.		
N/A			

7. Historical and Cultural Aspects

Explain whether there are any culturally or historically significant elements as defined in Section 2 of the NHRA that will be affected and how has this influenced the proposed development.

The site is assigned a high archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity in the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool report because of recorded rock art on the property (Photograph 9). The rock art occurs in sandstone shelters on the rocky slopes, outside the delineated watercourses, wetlands and previously cultivated areas to which this application relates. The presence of these resources influenced the proposed development by confining all rehabilitation activities, access routes and material stockpiles to watercourses and previously transformed areas, and by including the rock art localities within the no-go areas identified in Section H. Refer to item 7 below.



Photograph 9: Rock art found in a sandstone shelter on the rocky slope

8. Socio/Economic Aspects

8.1.	Describe the existing social and economic characteristics of the community in the vicinity of the proposed site.
The site falls within the Piketberg area and is located near the small town of Aurora within the Bergrivier Local Municipality. The most recent census for which detailed ward-level information is available is the 2011 Census, although these data are now approximately 15 years old. According to the 2011 Census, the municipality had a population of 61 897 people, of whom 51% were female and 49% were male. Formal dwellings accounted for 87.9% of all households, while 10.3% of households occupied informal dwellings. The population was predominantly Coloured (67.1%), followed by Black African (16.5%), White (15.8%) and Indian/Asian (0.6%). In terms of education, 24.1% of residents had completed Grade 12, 7.8% had attained higher education qualifications, and 5.4% had received no formal schooling. The unemployment rate was recorded at 14.5%, representing an increase from 13.8% in 2001 and 9.8% in 1996. Access to basic services was generally high, with approximately 96% of households having access to piped water inside their dwellings, while 3% relied on communal standpipes and 1% had no access to piped water. Refuse removal services were provided to approximately 79% of households, while 19.7% disposed of refuse communally or on-site, and 1.2% had no formal refuse disposal service. In 2022 the population size was 70 276, of whom 48.3% were male and 51.7% were female. 91.6% of households were formal dwellings, while 6.4% were informal and 1.4% were traditional dwellings. The population groups at the time were 72% Coloured, 15% White, 10.3% Black African, 1.3% other and 0.1% Indian or Asian. Here 37.9% of people received some secondary schooling, 30.4% completed Grade 12 and 10.3% of people received higher education. The 2022 Census release does not provide detailed information on language distribution or annual household income at this level of analysis. Consequently, the 2011 Census remains the most recent published source of data for these indicators within the Bergrivier Local Municipality.	
8.2.	Explain the socio-economic value/contribution of the proposed development.
The proposed rehabilitation of the Grootplaat wetlands within the Kuilders River, a tributary of the Berg River, will improve water flow and water quality, ultimately benefiting the downstream aquatic systems and Berg River Estuary.	
8.3.	Explain what social initiatives will be implemented by applicant to address the needs of the community and to uplift the area.
For this localised rehabilitation work, no specific initiatives are proposed by the applicant to address community needs, but where additional unskilled labour is required it is assumed that this will be locally sourced.	
8.4.	Explain whether the proposed development will impact on people's health and well-being (e.g. in terms of noise, odours, visual character and sense of place etc) and how has this influenced the proposed development.
The proposed rehabilitation area is in an area with minimal foot traffic and is out of view from the surrounding areas. Mechanical clearing, excavation, sediment removal and the installation of structures will require the use of plant and vehicles, and localised noise and dust will therefore be generated during working hours for the duration of the works. Given the distance to the nearest dwellings and the intervening topography, these effects are not expected to be perceptible off the property. No odours are anticipated, and the proposed activities are expected to enhance the sense of place over the longer term.	

SECTION H: ALTERNATIVES, METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Details of the alternatives identified and considered

1.1.	Property and site alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred property and site alternative.	
The preferred property comprises Portion 15 and Remainder of Farm 37, where the identified Kuilders River system and associated wetlands and riparian habitats are located.	
Provide a description of any other property and site alternatives investigated.	
No site alternative was investigated as the project was designed to address the site-specific environmental issues.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred property and site alternative including the outcome of the site selection matrix.	
The need for the project arises directly from historical impacts and degradation that have occurred on the Grootplaat property, including changes to hydrology, erosion, invasive alien plant infestations, wetland degradation and loss of indigenous vegetation. The environmental challenges are site specific and can only be addressed within the affected areas where the impacts occur which is on Grootplaat Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37.	
Provide a full description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative within the site.	
The preferred site alternative was identified through site assessments and specialist investigations that evaluated the condition of wetlands, watercourses, dams riparian areas and degraded agricultural lands across the Grootplaat property. Rehabilitation interventions were targeted to areas demonstrating the highest levels of degradation and potential ecological recovery.	
The rehabilitation project is site specific, where the location of the proposed activities was determined by the position of degraded area requiring rehabilitation.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no property and site alternatives were considered.	
The proposed activities are aimed at the rehabilitation of ecological processes and enhancing the condition of identified rehabilitation units that have been delineated based on site specific environmental assessments and rehabilitation priorities. The location of the wetlands, watercourses, dams and degraded agricultural areas determine where the rehabilitation measures must be implemented. Consequently, there are no reasonable or feasible alternative sites that could provide the same environmental benefits.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the property and site alternatives will have on the environment.	
As no alternative properties or sites were considered, the assessment relates to the preferred site, being Farm 15/37 and RE/37, Grootplaat, where the rehabilitation activities will be implemented.	
The proposed rehabilitation of the Kuilders stream will have the following positive impacts: • Rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, valley-bottom wetlands and riparian habitats within the Kuilders River catchment. • Improvement of hydrological connectivity and functioning through rehabilitation of dams, wetlands and watercourse. • Reduction in invasive alien plant infestations resulting in enhanced biodiversity and water availability.	

- Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands through soil amelioration, revegetation and erosion control measures.
- Stabilisation of erosion prone areas and reduction of sediment inputs into wetlands, dams and downstream watercourses.

The proposed rehabilitation of the Kuilders stream will have the following negative impacts:

- Temporary disturbance of soils and vegetation during rehabilitation earthworks, dam rehabilitation, wetland reshaping and erosion control activities.
- Temporary disturbance to fauna associated with vegetation clearing, machinery operation and construction activities.
- Risk of erosion following alien vegetation clearing and earthworks before indigenous vegetation becomes established.
- Potential accidental pollution from fuels, herbicides or machinery if the necessary environmental measures are not properly implemented.
- Localised disturbance within wetlands and riparian areas during the installation of rehabilitation structures, boardwalks and hydrological rehabilitation measures.

1.2. Activity alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.

Provide a description of the preferred activity alternative.

The preferred activity alternative is the proposed targeted rehabilitation on the Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37, Grootplaat. The activity focuses on the rehabilitation of watercourses, hydrological functionality and biodiversity value of degraded wetlands, in-channel dams, riparian habitats and previously cultivated areas associated with the upper Kuilders River catchment.

Provide a description of any other activity alternatives investigated.

The preferred activity is the only activity being considered as it relates to rehabilitation within selected wetland reaches and management units to restore the hydrological and ecological functionality and connectivity of the aquatic system.

Provide a motivation for the preferred activity alternative.

The rehabilitation measures described in this BAR have been informed by specialist input and site visits, resulting in site-specific measures prescribed to restore the watercourses on site (and other benefits as described above). Activity alternatives in the form of rehabilitation methods were discussed and deliberated amongst the project team in the process of compiling a rehabilitation plan, resulting in the proposed preferred alternative for the site. Therefore, no other activity alternative is assessed in this BAR.

Provide a detailed motivation if no activity alternatives exist.

No reasonable activity alternatives were considered as the rehabilitation is intended to restore specific degraded wetlands, watercourses, riparian habitats, dams and historically cultivated areas that occur on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37.

The rehabilitation activities have been developed based on detailed freshwater and botanical assessments, which identified environmental processes that require rehabilitation and measures to address the causes of degradation. The proposed activities include wetland reshaping, hydrological rehabilitation, erosion control, alien vegetation clearing, indigenous revegetation and dam rehabilitation are necessary to achieve the rehabilitation objectives.

The no-go alternative entails continuation of the status quo. Should no rehabilitation be undertaken on the Grootplaat property, the existing degradation of the Kuilders River system,

associated wetlands, dams, riparian areas and former agricultural lands will continue and potentially worsened. Historical impacts such as altered hydrology, erosion, sedimentation, invasive alien plant infestations, wetland drainage and loss of indigenous vegetation have already reduced the ecological functioning of these ecosystems.
List the positive and negative impacts that the activity alternatives will have on the environment.
The proposed rehabilitation of the degraded wetlands, watercourses, riparian areas, in-channel dams will allow the rehabilitation of hydrological functionality of the Kuilders stream and associated wetland ecosystem. The proposed rehabilitation of watercourses will have the following positive impacts: • Rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, watercourses • Improvement of hydrological functioning and connectivity through wetland rehabilitation, dam improvements and flow rehabilitation measures. • Reduction in invasive alien vegetation. • Reestablishment of indigenous wetland • Stabilisation of erosion-prone areas and reduced accumulation of sediments downstream. The proposed rehabilitation of watercourses will have the following negative impacts: • Temporary disturbance of wetlands, watercourses and riparian areas during construction and rehabilitation activities. • Short-term vegetation loss associated with earthworks, alien clearing and installation of rehabilitation structures. • Temporary disturbance to fauna through machinery operation and human activity. • Potential localised impacts associated with fuel spills; herbicide use and construction-related waste generation.
1.3. Design or layout alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts
Provide a description of the preferred design or layout alternative.
The preferred design comprises the rehabilitation structures and alignments described in Section B item 4.4: • gabion weirs and reno mattress structures sized and positioned to suit the channel incision and flow conditions of each reach; • a low-flow release pipe culvert and infiltration trench at Dam 1; • repairs and reinforcement to the existing spillway and sump structures at Dams 1, 3 and 4; • a castellated drop structure and reno mattress flow-spreading apron below Dam 4; and • raised timber boardwalks and a reno mattress vehicle crossing placed on the footprint of existing informal crossings. Structures are constructed from gabion baskets and reno mattresses filled with locally won rock, and from timber, in accordance with the typical details in Figures 5, 6 and 7.
Provide a description of any other design or layout alternatives investigated.
No discrete alternative layouts were investigated, because the location of each intervention is determined by the position of the degradation it addresses: the incised channel upstream of Dam 1, the existing dam walls and spillways, and the existing informal crossing points. Design alternatives were instead considered at the level of individual structures, and the rehabilitation plan is expressly based on adaptive management principles: the type, dimensions and final placement of each structure may be adjusted during implementation by the restoration ecologist and the aquatic ecologist in response to site conditions. Boardwalk alignments are confined to the footprint of existing informal crossing points and no new crossing points are proposed.

Provide a motivation for the preferred design or layout alternative.	
The preferred design is motivated on the following grounds. It uses permeable, soft-engineered structures that continue to allow the passage of water, sediment and small fauna, rather than hard engineering that would permanently fix channel geometry and prevent re-wetting of the adjacent wetland. It confines all works to existing degraded watercourse areas, existing dam infrastructure and existing crossing points, so that no intact natural habitat is transformed. It retains the ability to refine interventions as wetland response is monitored.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no design or layout alternatives exist.	
Design considerations are described above. Alternative layouts are not available because the interventions must be located where the degradation occurs.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the design alternatives will have on the environment.	
Positive: • permeable gabion and reno mattress structures retain sediment and raise groundwater levels while allowing continued passage of water, sediment and small fauna, supporting the re-establishment of wetland conditions upstream of the structures; • placing the boardwalks and the vehicle crossing on existing informal crossing footprints removes the ongoing trampling, compaction and erosion caused by uncontrolled crossings; and • confining all works to existing degraded watercourse areas and existing dam infrastructure avoids any transformation of intact natural habitat. Negative: • the selected layout requires structures to be built within the beds and banks of watercourses, with localised and temporary disturbance of wetland soils and vegetation at each structure location and at the associated working areas and access points; and • because final placement is determined on site under the adaptive-management approach, the precise footprint of disturbance cannot be fixed in advance of implementation.	
1.4.	Technology alternatives (e.g., to reduce resource demand and increase resource use efficiency) to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred technology alternative:	
The preferred technology comprises low-technology, labour-intensive rehabilitation methods: manual and mechanical alien plant clearing with selective cut-stump herbicide treatment applied by suitably qualified personnel in accordance with registered label requirements; earthworks using conventional plant confined to the smallest practicable working area; gabion baskets and reno mattresses filled with locally won rock; raised timber boardwalk decks; and gravity-fed low-flow release pipework and an infiltration trench at Dam 1. Cleared biomass is chipped, composted or reused as erosion-control material on site rather than removed or burned, and an on-site nursery will propagate indigenous plant material for revegetation.	
Provide a description of any other technology alternatives investigated.	
Alternative technologies investigated included timber or brushwood weirs, which are not proposed due to their relative vulnerability to decay and flood impacts. Gabion and reno mattress structures, timber boardwalks and gravity-fed low-flow releases are the standard, proven and lowest-impact technologies available for watercourse rehabilitation of this type and scale.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred technology alternative.	

The preferred technologies have a low resource demand and increase resource use efficiency: they use rock won on site and plant material propagated on site, require no permanent energy or potable water supply, generate minimal waste because cleared biomass is reused, and can be installed and maintained by hand using local labour. They are also reversible and adjustable, which is necessary given the adaptive-management basis of the rehabilitation plan.	
Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.	
The technology selection is motivated above. No further alternatives were considered necessary given the low resource demand and reversibility of the selected methods.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the technology alternatives will have on the environment.	
The positive impacts of the technology alternatives are: - labour-intensive methods and the use of rock won on site and plant material propagated in the on-site nursery avoid the resource demand, emissions and disturbance associated with importing materials; and - reuse of cleared biomass as compost, mulch and erosion-control material avoids waste generation and off-site disposal; and gravity-fed low-flow releases require no permanent energy or potable water supply. The negative impacts of the technology alternatives are: - selective herbicide use in cut-stump treatment carries a risk of contamination of wetland soils and surface water if incorrectly applied or applied in unsuitable conditions; and - mechanical clearing and earthworks plant operating in and adjacent to watercourses carries a risk of hydrocarbon spillage, soil compaction and sediment mobilisation.	
1.5.	Operational alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.
Provide a description of the preferred operational alternative.	
The preferred operational alternative is ongoing ecological maintenance of the rehabilitated areas by the landowner under the Maintenance Management Plan submitted with this application, implemented adaptively on the basis of the monitoring requirements set out in the EMPr. Operational activities comprise follow-up clearing and treatment of invasive alien plant regrowth; inspection and repair of the gabion weirs, reno mattresses, boardwalks, spillways and the Dam 1 low-flow release pipe and infiltration trench; seasonal adjustment of dam outflows to pass wet-season baseflows into the downstream wetland areas while retaining flows from larger rainfall events; replacement planting where indigenous establishment has failed; and fixed-point photographic and drone monitoring before and after each winter rainfall season.	
Provide a description of any other operational alternatives investigated.	
The alternative of completing the rehabilitation works as a single construction event without structured follow-up maintenance was considered and rejected. Alien plant clearing and wetland revegetation both fail without repeat treatment over several seasons, and unmaintained erosion-control structures are liable to fail in high-flow events, which would return the system towards its pre-rehabilitation condition.	
Provide a motivation for the preferred operational alternative.	
Maintenance under an adopted Maintenance Management Plan is preferred because the rehabilitation outcome depends on repeat intervention over several seasons rather than on a single construction event, and because adoption of the plan by the competent authority allows routine maintenance within watercourses to continue without a fresh authorisation for each intervention. It also preserves the adaptive-management basis of the rehabilitation plan, allowing measures to be adjusted in response to monitored wetland response.	

Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.	
Operational alternatives are described above.	
List the positive and negative impacts that the operational alternatives will have on the environment.	
The positive impacts of the alternatives are: • permeable gabion and reno mattress structures retain sediment and raise groundwater levels while allowing continued passage of water, sediment and small fauna, supporting the re-establishment of wetland conditions upstream of the structures; • placing the boardwalks and the vehicle crossing on existing informal crossing footprints removes the ongoing trampling, compaction and erosion caused by uncontrolled crossings; and • confining all works to existing degraded watercourse areas and existing dam infrastructure avoids any transformation of intact natural habitat. The negative impacts of the alternatives are: • the selected layout requires structures to be built within the beds and banks of watercourses, with localised and temporary disturbance of wetland soils and vegetation at each structure location and at the associated working areas and access points; and • because final placement is determined on site under the adaptive-management approach, the precise footprint of disturbance cannot be fixed in advance of implementation.	
1.6.	The option of not implementing the activity (the 'No-Go' Option).
Provide an explanation as to why the 'No-Go' Option is not preferred.	
Under the No-Go option, the degraded wetlands and watercourses would remain in their current impaired state, resulting in continued loss of wetland extent and function, reduced water retention capacity, continued channel incision and erosion, and further deterioration of aquatic habitats. Invasive alien vegetation would continue to spread, placing additional pressure on indigenous biodiversity and reduced habitat quality. In the absence of rehabilitation interventions, the watercourses would remain in their current state, and the in-channel dams would continue to impound flows that would otherwise sustain the downstream system through the year. In addition, there would be ongoing soil erosion, continued degradation of the former agricultural areas, reduced soil quality and limited natural recovery of indigenous vegetation. The no-go alternative is assessed comparatively against the preferred alternative for the purposes of this application.	
1.7.	Provide an explanation as to whether any other alternatives to avoid negative impacts, mitigate unavoidable negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, or detailed motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist.
No alternatives, apart from those described in responses were investigated.	
1.8.	Provide a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including the preferred location of the activity.
The preferred alternative is the implementation of the proposed rehabilitation activities on Farm 15/37 and Farm RE/37 (Grootplaat), within the Kuilders River system and associated wetlands, riparian habitats, in-channel dams and degraded agricultural areas. No alternative was considered feasible as the rehabilitation interventions were addressing site specific environmental degradations.	

2. "No-Go" areas

Explain what "no-go" area(s) have been identified during identification of the alternatives and provide the co-ordinates of the "no-go" area(s).

The only No-go area identified is the rock art site and its immediate surroundings. While there are many sensitive wetland habitats on the property, the proposed activities target rehabilitation of these areas and they cannot usefully be declared as no-go areas (Figure 18).

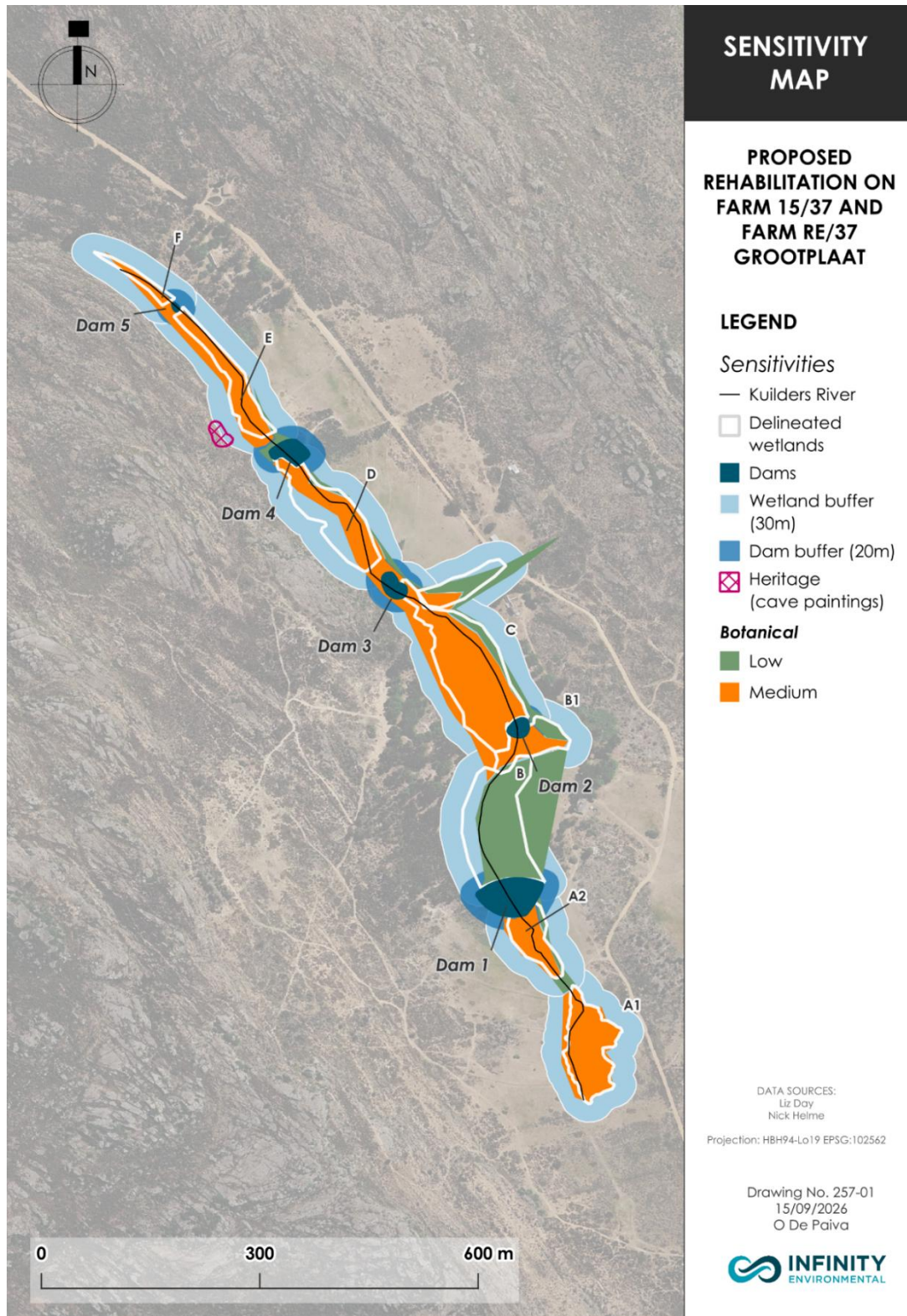


Figure 18: Site sensitivity map

3. Methodology to determine the significance ratings of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives.

Describe the methodology to be used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the proposed activity or development and alternatives, the degree to which the impact or risk can be reversed and the degree to which the impact and risk may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.

This section outlines the impact assessment methodology, based on the DEAT 2006 Guideline on Assessment of Alternatives and Impacts.

Impacts are defined as the changes in an environmental parameter that result from undertaking an activity. The change is the difference between the effect on the environmental parameter where the activity is undertaken compared to that where the activity is not undertaken. Impacts occur over a specific period and within a defined area.

Impacts may occur during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development, and may be direct, indirect and/or cumulative in nature.

- **Direct impacts** are impacts that are caused directly by the activity and generally occur at the same time and at the place of the activity. These impacts are usually associated with the construction, operation or maintenance of an activity and are generally obvious and quantifiable.
- **Indirect impacts** of an activity are indirect or induced changes that may occur as a result of the activity. These types of impacts include all the potential impacts that do not manifest immediately when the activity is undertaken or which occur at a different place as a result of the activity.
- **Cumulative impacts** in relation to an activity, means the past, current and reasonably foreseeable future impact of an activity, considered together with the impact of activities associated with that activity, that in itself may not be significant, but may become significant when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts eventuating from similar or diverse activities.

In order to identify potential impacts (both positive and negative) the nature of the proposed projects is interrogated so that the impacts associated with the projects can be assessed. The process of identification and assessment of impacts included:

1. Determining the current environmental conditions in sufficient detail so that there is a baseline against which impacts can be identified and measured, including by:
 - Determination of site conditions via a visual inspection;
 - Review of recent and historical aerial imagery; and
 - Specialist assessments as required.
2. Determining future changes to the environment that will occur if the activity does not proceed, based on knowledge of local conditions, trends, and processes and on specialist assessment;
3. Developing an understanding of the activity in sufficient detail to understand its consequences; and
4. The determination of significant impacts which are likely to occur if the activity is undertaken.

As per the DEAT Guideline the following criteria have been applied to the prediction and assessment of impacts. Potential impacts are rated in terms of their:

- **Spatial extent** – The size of the area that will be affected by the impact:
 - Immediate (site only);

- Local (<2 km from site);
- Regional (within 30 km of site);
- National; or
- International.
- **Intensity** – The anticipated severity of the impact:
 - High (severe alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes);
 - Medium (notable alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes); or
 - Low (negligible alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes).
- **Duration** – The timeframe during which the impact will be experienced:
 - Temporary (less than 1 year);
 - Short term (1 to 6 years);
 - Medium term (6 to 15 years);
 - Long term (the impact will cease after the operational life of the activity); or
 - Permanent (reversal will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient).
- **Reversibility** – The extent to which the impacts will be reversible when the project has reached the end of its life cycle (decommissioning phase, if applicable):
 - High reversibility of impacts (impact is highly reversible at end of project life);
 - Moderate reversibility of impacts;
 - Low reversibility of impacts; or
 - Impacts are non-reversible (impact is permanent).
- **Irreplaceability of resources lost** – the degree to which the impact causes irreplaceable loss of resources:
 - High irreplaceability of resources (project will destroy unique resources that cannot be replaced);
 - Moderate irreplaceability of resources;
 - Low irreplaceability of resources; or
 - Resources are replaceable (the affected resource is easy to replace/rehabilitate).

Using the criteria above, the impacts are further assessed in terms of the following:

Probability – The probability of the impact occurring:

- Improbable;
- Unlikely;
- Probable; or
- Very likely.

Significance – Will the impact cause a notable alteration of the environment?

- Low to very low (the impact may result in minor alterations of the environment and can be easily avoided by implementing appropriate mitigation measures, and will not have an influence on decision-making);
- Medium (the impact will result in moderate alteration of the environment and can be reduced or avoided by implementing the appropriate mitigation measures, and will only have an influence on the decision-making if not mitigated); or
- High (the impacts will result in major alteration to the environment even with the implementation on the appropriate mitigation measures and will have an influence on decision-making).

Status – Whether the impact on the overall environment will be:

- Positive - environment will benefit from the impact;

- Negative - environment will be adversely affected by the impact; or
- Neutral - environment will not be affected.

Confidence – The degree of confidence in predictions based on available information and specialist knowledge:

- Low;
- Medium; or
- High.

Impact mitigation measures have been incorporated into the EMPr, which includes where appropriate:

- Standards for measuring and monitoring mitigatory measures and enhancements, and a programme for monitoring and reviewing the recommendations to ensure their ongoing effectiveness; and
- Mitigation and management measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts.

Other aspects taken into consideration in the assessment of impact significance are:

- Impacts are evaluated for the construction and operation phases of the development.
- Impacts are evaluated with and without mitigation, stating the effectiveness of mitigation measures to reduce the significance of a particular impact;
- The impact evaluation takes into consideration the cumulative effects associated with this and other projects which are either developed or in the process of being developed in the local area; and

The impact assessment attempts to quantify the magnitude of potential impacts (direct and cumulative) and outline the rationale used. Where appropriate, national standards are used as a measure of the level of impact.

Assessment of each impact and risk identified for each alternative

Note: The following table serves as a guide for summarising each alternative. The table should be repeated for each alternative to ensure a comparative assessment. The EAP may decide to include this section as Appendix J to this BAR.

The proposed rehabilitation of watercourses does not follow the typical phased structure of design, construction, operation and decommissioning. Instead, this project is structured as design and rehabilitation phase and maintenance phase, whereby the design and rehabilitation phase corresponds to the construction phase, and the maintenance phase corresponds to the operational phase.

1.1 Design and Rehabilitation Phase

1.1.1 Impacts associated with the improvement in wetland condition and extent

Information extracted from the Aquatic Impact Assessment (**Appendix G1**).

The proposed rehabilitation interventions would be expected to result in an (unquantified) improvement in wetland extent, while wetland condition in affected reaches should improve by at least one ecological category, provided that the mitigation and additional measures outlined below were implemented. These should thus be requirements of any authorisation for these interventions.

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
DESIGN AND REHABILITATION PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Improvement in wetland condition and extent	
Nature of impact:	Positive	None
Extent and duration of impact:	Local and long-term	Not applicable
Consequence of impact or risk:	This impact is expected to improve watercourse hydrological function; reduce erosion and associated sedimentation risk; improve the functioning of a longitudinal ecological corridor along the main valley bottom wetland; improve biodiversity through the establishment of appropriate locally indigenous plants; and through these measures, improve watercourse resilience to impacts such as floods, droughts and fire.	Wetland extent and function would continue to decline, channel incision and erosion would continue, invasive alien vegetation would continue to spread and displace indigenous vegetation, and downstream flow persistence and water quality would not improve.
Probability of occurrence:	Highly probable	Not applicable

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
DESIGN AND REHABILITATION PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Improvement in wetland condition and extent	
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	None, the activity overtly seeks to improve ecosystem integrity	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Not required	Not applicable
Indirect impacts:	Improved downstream flow regime	Not applicable
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low to Medium Positive	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	N/A: Positive impact from a voluntary implementation measure	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	N/A: Positive impact from a voluntary implementation measure	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	N/A: Positive impact from a voluntary implementation measure	Not applicable
Proposed enhancement measures:	The enhancement measures include: - Rehabilitation interventions should be phased, with major risks prioritised where funding is constrained. - Allowance must be made for engineering interventions that could potentially compromise dam safety. - Allowance should be made for monitoring, with flow-recording devices installed. Where these are not available, monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with the aquatic specialist's specifications (see the EMPr). - Planning must allow for adequate, appropriate plant stock to be available for establishment in cleared watercourse areas before any mechanical or manual shaping or removal of fill commences. - Raised walkways must be constructed so that the support structures beneath them do not create barriers to the movement of small to medium fauna.	Not applicable

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
DESIGN AND REHABILITATION PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Improvement in wetland condition and extent	
	Monitoring of watercourse condition, alien invasion extent, indigenous vegetation establishment, and wetland extent and condition is recommended on an annual to at least three-yearly basis. Please see the EMPr (Appendix H) for additional detail.	
Residual impacts:	Low to medium positive	Not applicable
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Medium (positive)	Not applicable

1.1.2 Short-term impact on the watercourse associated with rehabilitation activities

Information extracted from the Aquatic Impact Assessment (**Appendix G1**).

Watercourse degradation could potentially take the form of increased sedimentation as a result of disturbed areas both within the watercourse (e.g. during gabion construction, installation of reno mattresses, alterations to spillways, watercourse bank and bed reshaping, removal of fill, alien clearing, boardwalk installation. Clearing of areas for new orchards outside of the watercourses might also generate sediment as a result of unmanaged runoff into the adjacent watercourse(s).

These activities would also be likely to be associated with trampling and compaction of watercourses and their riparian areas, increasing short-term vulnerability to erosion and impacting on water quality (increased suspended solids) and sedimentation in downstream areas including dams. Recent sediment in watercourses often provides areas for rapid establishment of IAPs, and if unmanaged, this would further contribute to potential construction phase degradation of watercourses, exacerbated by localized impacts such as remnant construction materials (gabion baskets, rocks, solid waste from site camps) left in or near the watercourses.

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
DESIGN AND REHABILITATION PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Short term impact on watercourse associated with rehabilitation activities	
Nature of impact:	Negative	Not applicable
Extent and duration of impact:	Immediate and short-term	Not applicable
Consequence of impact or risk:	Short-term watercourse degradation from sedimentation and erosion.	No short-term watercourse degradation from sedimentation and erosion.
Probability of occurrence:	Probable	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low to none	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Not applicable
Indirect impacts:	Positive: improved ecosystem function	Not applicable
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low-medium negative	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	Low	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	Medium	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High	Not applicable
Proposed mitigation:	- Reshaping and removal of sediment from dams should be timed for the dry season; - Revegetation and planting should be aligned with the autumn-winter rainfall period; - Best practice construction measures must be followed (see the EMPr, Appendix H). - Measures (including budget) must be set in place to address sedimentation, erosion, and/or damage to infrastructure through shaping, planting or other interventions as deemed necessary. Any new intervention required to address significant damage would need to be approved by an aquatic ecologist and an engineer (if infrastructure damage has occurred); and	Not applicable

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
DESIGN AND REHABILITATION PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Short term impact on watercourse associated with rehabilitation activities	
	Minimum ecological setbacks of 30 m from all wetlands and 20m from the full supply level of all dams are recommended.	
Residual impacts:	Low-medium negative	Not applicable
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low negative	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low (negative)	Not applicable

1.2 Maintenance Phase

1.2.1 Impacts on the watercourse associated with maintenance activities

Information extracted from the Aquatic Impact Assessment (**Appendix G1**).

Maintenance activities would be likely to be associated with trampling and compaction of watercourses and their riparian areas, increasing short-term vulnerability to erosion and impacting on water quality (increased suspended solids) and sedimentation in downstream areas including dams, and increasing the vulnerability of impacted areas to IAP establishment.

The following interventions are assumed to be required on an ongoing, occasionally emergency, but not necessarily frequent basis in watercourses on the site, and would potentially be associated with short-term disturbance and watercourse degradation:

- Ongoing manual clearing of invasive alien vegetation from watercourses;
- Repairs to gabion baskets, reno mattresses, spillways, dam walls;
- Periodic (mechanical or manual) sediment removal from dams;
- Erosion repair, through (mechanical or manual) re-shaping of eroded areas, with the potential introduction of additional gabion weirs or protection devices as required;
- Replacement of eroded, dead or senescent watercourse and riparian plants;
- Repairs to boardwalks;
- Repairs / adjustments to dam outlet mechanisms (in line with providing wet season flows into downstream watercourses to sustain high-quality watercourse vegetation.

Alternative:	Rehabilitation Project (preferred alternative)	No-Go Alternative
MAINTENANCE PHASE		
Potential impact and risk:	Impacts on watercourse associated with maintenance	
Nature of impact:	Negative	Not applicable
Extent and duration of impact:	Immediate and short-term	Not applicable
Consequence of impact or risk:	Short-term trampling and compaction of watercourses and their riparian areas.	No short-term trampling and compaction of watercourses and their riparian areas.
Probability of occurrence:	Probable	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources:	Low to none	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be reversed:	Medium	Not applicable
Indirect impacts:	Positive: improved ecosystem function	Not applicable
Cumulative impact prior to mitigation:	Low-medium negative	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact prior to mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be avoided:	Low	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be managed:	Medium	Not applicable
Degree to which the impact can be mitigated:	High	Not applicable
Proposed mitigation:	Where new infrastructure is required to address new erosion in watercourses, it is recommended that such interventions should be authorised as part of this application, subject to approval of both the need for, and the design of, the structures, which should be limited to structures made using bidim-lined, rock-filled gabion or reno mattress structures only.	Not applicable
Residual impacts:	Low negative	Not applicable
Cumulative impact post mitigation:	Low negative	Not applicable
Significance rating of impact after mitigation (e.g. Low, Medium, Medium-High, High, or Very-High)	Low (negative)	Not applicable

SECTION I: FINDINGS, IMPACT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1.	Provide a summary of the findings and impact management measures identified by all Specialists and an indication of how these findings and recommendations have influenced the proposed development.
Aquatic assessment The aquatic impact assessment was undertaken by Dr Liz Day of Liz Day consulting (Day, 2026), found that the site falls within the upper Kuilders River catchment and that most of wetlands on site are degraded (PES Category D to D/E) due to historical agriculture, impoundment, alien invasion, and channelisation. The natural wetland types identified comprised valley bottom and seep wetlands, with Threat Status of endangered. The rehabilitation measures were developed through an iterative process in consultation with aquatic specialist. Assessment of the ecological impacts associated with the Implementation of the proposed activities was assessed as associated with overall positive impacts to aquatic ecosystems, despite short-term negative impacts associated with the rehabilitation and maintenance phase of each intervention. The short-term impacts are considered readily remediable through best practice measures, and impact mitigation and management measures, that are assumed to underpin any authorised interventions in the study area. From an aquatic ecosystems perspective, the proposed interventions are themselves rehabilitation measures rather than a conventional development, so negative impacts are expected to arise primarily during construction, rather than from the intended operation of the completed works (Day, 2026). Impact 1: improvement in wetland condition and extent. The specialist assesses that the combined interventions, including erosion-control gabion weirs, controlled low-flow releases from Dams 1, 3 and 4, dam and spillway reinforcement, wetland reshaping in Reach D, and boardwalk construction to manage human movement through rehabilitated areas, would improve watercourse hydrological function, reduce erosion and sedimentation risk, strengthen the ecological corridor along the valley bottom, and increase resilience to floods, droughts and fire. Wetland condition in affected reaches is expected to improve by at least one PES category, and wetland extent to increase, subject to the mitigation measures below being implemented and treated as conditions of any authorisation. Risks to achieving this outcome include funding shortfalls, inadequate ongoing alien plant control, unforeseen fire, flood or drought during construction, and boardwalks constructed without sufficient clearance to allow small and medium fauna to pass beneath them. Impact 2: construction-phase watercourse degradation. Earthworks, gabion and reno mattress installation, spillway alteration, sediment removal from the dams, alien clearing and the proposed orchard development near Reach A2, Dam 3, Reach C and Reach D could increase sedimentation, trampling and compaction, and introduce nutrients or pollutants, particularly if disturbed areas coincide with storms, flooding, drought or fire during construction. The specialist rates this impact as manageable through best-practice construction management. Impact 3: operational-phase watercourse degradation. Ongoing but infrequent maintenance activity (alien clearing, repairs to gabions, reno mattresses, spillways and dam walls, periodic	

sediment removal, boardwalk repairs) carries similar but lower-frequency risks of short-term trampling, compaction and sedimentation. The specialist considers the greater long-term risk to lie in failure to carry out this maintenance, particularly ongoing alien plant control.

Cumulative impact. Considered together with the broader terrestrial rehabilitation planned for the site, the cumulative impact of the watercourse interventions is assessed as positive and consistent with the site's Phase 2 FEPA status.

No-development alternative. The specialist assesses that maintaining the status quo would produce no positive outcomes and carries some likelihood of a stepwise decline in aquatic ecosystem condition, given the site's reduced resilience to drought, fire and flood risk under projected climate change for the region (Jack et al., 2022; Vos et al., 2016).

Botanical

The botanical specialist (Helme, 2026) found that the proposed wetland rehabilitation measures are likely to result in a long-term Medium positive impact on flora and terrestrial ecology on the site, and supports the project proceeding on this basis. Recommended mitigation includes continued removal of alien invasive plant species using appropriate methodology, revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous species propagated from surrounding vegetation, and a programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, which has not burned in more than 25 years against an optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this vegetation type. The specialist notes this fire deficit as a current threat to surrounding Species of Conservation Concern and as a wildfire risk to the site and its infrastructure, independent of the proposed rehabilitation works.

2. List the impact management measures that were identified by all Specialists that will be included in the EMPr

The following impact management measures identified by the specialists are included in the EMPr.

- Ecological buffers of at least 30 m around delineated wetlands and 20 m around dams, for any activities not directly related to the rehabilitation work.
- Demarcation of all no-go areas, including intact natural vegetation, environmentally sensitive features and areas outside the approved working footprint.
- Confinement of disturbance footprints within wetland and riparian areas to the minimum required to achieve the rehabilitation outcome, with machinery access to saturated wetland areas avoided unless specifically required to achieve those outcomes.
- Use of existing access routes and approved crossing points only; no new crossing points to be created, and boardwalk alignments limited strictly to the footprint of existing informal crossings.
- Marking out of each structure alignment and confirmation by the ecologist before any ground preparation, with final placement of the gabion weirs determined on site by the restoration ecologist and the aquatic ecologist.
- Boardwalk structures raised to leave at least 300 mm between the underside of the deck and ground level, to allow natural water movement and the passage of small fauna beneath the structure.
- Herbicide application only by suitably qualified personnel and in accordance with registered label requirements.
- On-site management of cleared biomass through chipping, composting or reuse as erosion-control material, with no invasive propagule-bearing material stockpiled adjacent to wetlands or drainage lines.

	• Progressive stabilisation and revegetation of disturbed areas as works proceed, using locally appropriate indigenous species sourced from the on-site nursery or verified suppliers. • Sediment and erosion control throughout, with removal of accumulated dam sediment undertaken without increasing dam storage capacity. • Retention of existing indigenous wetland and riparian vegetation wherever feasible. • Management of construction waste and surplus material, with no waste disposed of within wetland systems or drainage lines. • Monitoring and reporting per intervention, including inspection of installed structures for stability and integrity, assessment of indigenous plant establishment and survival, monitoring for alien reinvasion with scheduled follow-up treatment, fixed-point photographic monitoring and drone surveys before and after each winter rainfall season, and recording of all non-compliance incidents and corrective actions. • Appointment of an independent Environmental Control Officer for the duration of the construction phase.
3.	List the specialist investigations and the impact management measures that will not be implemented and provide an explanation as to why these measures will not be implemented. All specialist investigations identified as necessary through the site sensitivity verification in Section C have been undertaken, and no impact management measures are excluded from the EMPr. Should the outstanding aquatic biodiversity and botanical assessments recommend any measure that cannot practicably be implemented, that measure and the reasons for its exclusion will be recorded in this item in the final BAR.
4.	Explain how the proposed development will impact the surrounding communities. The site is well buffered from surrounding communities by distance and topography. The nearest settlement is Aurora, adjoining the property to the south-west, and the rehabilitation areas lie within the upper valley of the property, out of view from surrounding land and reached by the existing internal farm road network. No construction camp or worker accommodation is proposed on the site. No community is dependent on the property for grazing, water abstraction or access, and no relocation, loss of access or loss of livelihood arises from the proposed activities. The clearing, planting and nursery operations are labour-intensive and present an opportunity for local employment, and the on-site nursery is to include training of local staff and community members in propagation, seed collection and nursery management. Over the longer term, rehabilitation of the Kuilders River headwaters, which drain into the Boesmans River and thence the Berg River, is expected to improve flow persistence and water quality to the benefit of downstream water users.
5.	Explain how the risk of climate change may influence the proposed activity or development and how has the potential impacts of climate change been considered and addressed. The proposed rehabilitation is a nature-based intervention whose purpose is to increase the resilience of the upper Kuilders River catchment to climate change, and the activity itself is not materially vulnerable to climate risk. Climate projections for the Berg River catchment indicate higher temperatures, increased evaporative demand, more variable winter rainfall and a greater frequency of intense rainfall events. These projections influenced the rehabilitation design. The proposed erosion-control and flow-spreading structures are intended to dissipate and spread high flows, reducing the erosion risk that more intense rainfall would otherwise focus in the incised channel. The clearing of invasive alien vegetation and the rehabilitation of wetland water-retention capacity directly reduce catchment water losses through evapotranspiration and improve the persistence of baseflow through longer and drier summers. Revegetation is phased to coincide with the winter rainfall season and uses locally appropriate indigenous species propagated on site, to improve establishment success under variable rainfall. The principal climate-related risk to the project is the failure of newly installed structures or plantings in an extreme rainfall event before they have stabilised. This is managed through progressive stabilisation

of disturbed areas as works proceed, timing of earthworks outside the peak rainfall period where practicable, and the monitoring and maintenance requirements of the EMPr.	
6.	Explain whether there are any conflicting recommendations between the specialists. If so, explain how these have been addressed and resolved.
No conflicting recommendations have been identified between the freshwater and botanical specialists.	
7.	Explain how the findings and recommendations of the different specialist studies have been integrated to inform the most appropriate mitigation measures that should be implemented to manage the potential impacts of the proposed activity or development.
The findings of freshwater and botanical specialist studies have been incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (See Appendix H). During the rehabilitation and maintenance phases these recommendations will be implemented. Helme recommends: Revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous plant species, propagated from surrounding indigenous vegetation. A programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, at the optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this fynbos type, to reduce senescence risk to Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) and reduce the risk of an uncontrolled wildfire affecting the site and its infrastructure.	
8.	Explain how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied to arrive at the best practicable environmental option.
The proposed rehabilitation activities for Environmental Authorisation must be consistent with the principles of environmental management as codified in the National Environmental Management Act. These principles include the following: » Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably. » Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. » Sustainable development requires the consideration of all relevant factors including [...] that negative impacts on the environment and on people's environmental rights be anticipated and prevented, and where they cannot be altogether prevented, are minimised and remedied. Environmental impact assessment addresses the latter principle of the management of environmental impacts through the mitigation hierarchy (Figure 19). Simply put, impacts must be 'avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied.' The DEA 2013 guideline on Need and Desirability formalises this hierarchy as follows: » Firstly, alternatives must be investigated to avoid negative impacts altogether. » Secondly, after it has been found that the negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives must be investigated to reduce (mitigate and manage) unavoidable negative impact. » Thirdly, alternatives must be investigated to remediate (rehabilitate and restore). » Fourthly, unavoidable impact that remain after mitigation and remediation must be compensated for through investigating options to offset the negative impacts. » While throughout, alternatives must be investigated to optimise positive impacts.	

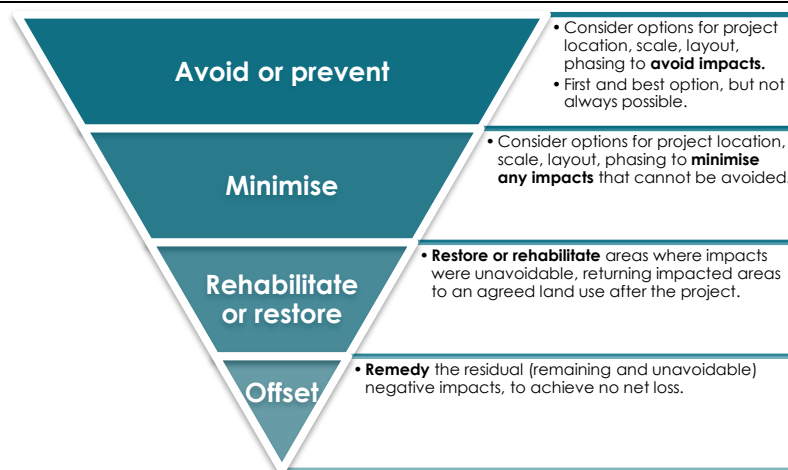


Figure 19: Mitigation hierarchy (based on DEA 2013 guideline on Need and Desirability)

The mitigation hierarchy has been central to the design process followed to date.

Avoidance of impacts was pursued by designing the proposed rehabilitation interventions to prevent further loss of natural habitat, retain intact fynbos vegetation and focus rehabilitation within existing degraded areas. In addition, no go areas and ecological buffers were identified through the specialist studies to protect environmental features. Minimisation was pursued through restricting the rehabilitation interventions to the smallest practical footprint, utilising existing access routes and disturbed areas.

Rehabilitation and rehabilitation of areas disturbed during implementation of rehabilitation works will be restored through erosion control, reprofiling of disturbed areas and revegetation with indigenous species to ensure that the affected areas are returned to a stable, ecologically functioning condition. Environmental offsets were not considered because the proposed rehabilitation activities are expected to result in a net positive environmental outcome through rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, improved hydrological functioning, enhanced ecological resilience.

SECTION J: GENERAL

1. Environmental Impact Statement

1.1.	Provide a summary of the key findings of the EIA.
The key findings of the Basic Assessment are as follows. The upper Kuilders River catchment on the site supports a connected aquatic system of headwater seep wetlands, valley-bottom wetlands, riparian habitat, a foothill stream reach and five in-channel dams, falling within an Aquatic Ecological Support Area with surrounding slopes classified as Critical Biodiversity Area. That system has been substantially degraded by historical cultivation and forestry, the construction of the in-channel dams, drainage and channelisation, and invasive alien plant infestation, with Present Ecological State across the reaches ranging from Category C to Category D/E. The proposed activity is a rehabilitation intervention: it transforms no intact natural habitat, requires no change in land use rights, creates no new crossing points and does not increase the storage capacity of any dam. Its purpose and expected outcome are a net improvement in wetland extent and hydrological function, reduced erosion and sedimentation, reduced invasive alien plant cover and improved downstream flow persistence and water quality. The negative impacts identified are localised and temporary and arise during implementation rather than operation: disturbance of wetland soils and vegetation at structure locations and working areas, short-term vegetation loss, temporary disturbance to fauna, a risk of erosion and sediment mobilisation before revegetation establishes, and a risk of hydrocarbon or herbicide contamination if control measures are not applied. The botanical specialist (Helme, 2026) found that the proposed wetland rehabilitation measures are likely to result in a long-term Medium positive impact on flora and terrestrial ecology on the site and supports the project proceeding on this basis. Recommended mitigation includes continued removal of alien invasive plant species using appropriate methodology (Martens et al., 2021), revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous species propagated from surrounding vegetation, and a programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, which has not burned in more than 25 years against an optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this vegetation type. The specialist notes this fire deficit as a current threat to surrounding Species of Conservation Concern and as a wildfire risk to the site and its infrastructure, independent of the proposed rehabilitation works. No heritage, palaeontological, agricultural, visual, civil aviation or defence sensitivity was confirmed as requiring specialist assessment.	
1.2.	Provide a map that that superimposes the preferred activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers. (Attach map to this BAR as Appendix B2)
Appendix B2 includes the required sensitivity map.	

1.3.

Provide a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks that the proposed activity or development and alternatives will have on the environment and community.

Specialist impact assessments are summarised in the table below.

Impact	Phase	Nature	Significance before mitigation	Significance after mitigation
Improvement in wetland condition and extent	Design and layout	Positive	Low to Medium (positive)	Medium (positive)
Watercourse degradation / disturbance	Rehabilitation	Negative	Low (negative)	Low (negative)
Watercourse degradation / disturbance	Operational (maintenance)	Negative	Low (negative)	Low (negative)
Impact on terrestrial flora and vegetation	Rehabilitation	Positive	Not rated	Not rated

2. Recommendation of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”)

2.1.	Provide Impact management outcomes (based on the assessment and where applicable, specialist assessments) for the proposed activity or development for inclusion in the EMPr
The following impact management outcomes are proposed for inclusion in the EMPr:	
• No loss or transformation of intact natural habitat: all remaining natural fynbos, wetland and riparian vegetation outside the approved working footprint is retained. • No increase in the storage capacity of any of the five in-channel dams. • A wider zone of seasonal saturation restored in the valley-bottom wetlands, with channel incision arrested and no active headward erosion remaining on completion of the works. • No deterioration in downstream water quality attributable to the works, and no sediment mobilisation into downstream wetland or river reaches beyond that inherent in the authorised sediment removal. • A sustained reduction in invasive alien plant cover, with follow-up treatment maintaining cleared areas at or below the agreed residual cover. • Successful establishment of indigenous wetland and riparian vegetation across all revegetated areas, with replacement planting where establishment fails. • All wetland crossings formalised on existing footprints, with the informal crossings they replace closed, stabilised and recovering. • No impact on heritage resources, with work suspended in the area of any chance find and Heritage Western Cape notified. • All installed structures inspected and maintained so that no structure failure results in renewed erosion or channel instability. • Revegetation of degraded and remodelled areas with locally indigenous plant species, propagated from surrounding indigenous vegetation. • A programme of managed burns in the surrounding veld, at the optimal fire-return interval of 12 to 15 years for this fynbos type, to reduce senescence risk to Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) and reduce the risk of an uncontrolled wildfire affecting the site and its infrastructure.	
2.2.	Provide a description of any aspects that were conditional to the findings of the assessment either by the EAP or specialist that must be included as conditions of the authorisation.
The following aspects were conditional to the findings of this assessment and must be included as conditions of any authorisation:	

- The full suite of rehabilitation measures must be implemented. The net positive environmental outcome relied on in this assessment is conditional on implementation of the complete programme.
- The control measures set out in the Environmental Management Programme must be strictly applied.
- Ecological buffers of at least 30 m around delineated wetlands and 20 m around dams must be demarcated and maintained during implementation for any activities not directly related to rehabilitation of those systems.
- The final type, dimensions and placement of the gabion weirs and other in-channel structures must be confirmed on site by the restoration ecologist and the aquatic ecologist before construction of each structure.
- Sediment removed from the dams must be disposed of outside wetlands and drainage lines, and no dam may be deepened or enlarged beyond its existing storage capacity.
- An independent Environmental Control Officer must be appointed for the duration of the construction phase.

2.3. Provide a reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity or development should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be included in the authorisation.

Based on the findings of this Basic Assessment, it is the opinion of the EAP that despite the negative impacts that are unavoidable during the operational and construction phase of the rehabilitation interventions, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures the negative impacts can be reduced to acceptable standards.

Provided that the specified mitigation measures are applied effectively, it is recommended that the project should receive Environmental Authorisation in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended, subject to the following conditions:

- The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) forming part of this EIA Report must be implemented during the design, construction and operational phases of the rehabilitation.
- An independent Environmental Control Officer must be appointed for the duration of the construction phase and must carry out the responsibilities of that role as defined in the EMPr.
- The full suite of rehabilitation measures recommended in the Rehabilitation and Environmental Management Plan must be progressively implemented. The net positive environmental outcome relied on in this assessment depends on implementation of the complete programme.

An EMPr has been included in this Draft Basic Assessment Report (Appendix H) to ensure that mitigation and management measures are implemented. The mitigation measures necessary to ensure that the project is planned, constructed and operated in an environmentally responsible manner are listed in this EMPr. The EMPr should be updated regularly and provide clear and implementable measures for the establishment and operation of the proposed rehabilitation.

2.4. Provide a description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge that relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed.

The rehabilitation plan is based on adaptive management principles. The type, dimensions and final placement of individual structures, and the sequencing of interventions, will be confirmed on site by the restoration ecologist and the aquatic ecologist during implementation.

The extent of the proposed works has been estimated from the typical details prepared for the project. Final quantities, including the deck widths of the proposed boardwalk crossings, will be confirmed in the method statements to be prepared by the implementing agent.

Groundwater levels, aquifer type, yield and groundwater quality are taken from national Department of Water and Sanitation datasets rather than from a site-specific hydrogeological investigation.	
Socio-economic baseline information is drawn from the 2022 Census at Bergrivier local municipal level, which is coarser than the immediate receiving environment.	
2.5.	The period for which the EA is required, the date the activity will be concluded and when the post construction monitoring requirements should be finalised.
It is proposed that environmental authorisation be granted for a period of 5 years and that construction and site preparation should be completed within 5 years after commencement.	
Post construction monitoring requirements should be concluded within six months of the construction phase.	

3. Water

Since the Western Cape is a water scarce area explain what measures will be implemented to avoid the use of potable water during the development and operational phase and what measures will be implemented to reduce your water demand, save water and measures to reuse or recycle water.	
No potable water will be used for the rehabilitation works. Water required for dust suppression, gabion and reno mattress construction, concrete repairs to dam spillways and the establishment of revegetated areas will be drawn from the existing in-channel dams or boreholes on the property and applied by hand or bowser directly at the point of use. Water demand will be reduced by phasing revegetation to coincide with the winter rainfall season so that plantings establish on natural rainfall; by selecting locally appropriate indigenous species suited to the site's rainfall regime; and by mulching planted areas with chipped material from alien plant clearing to reduce evaporative loss. No permanent irrigation infrastructure, potable water reticulation or effluent generation is proposed, and no water demand is anticipated during the operational phase beyond follow-up maintenance and irrigation. In the longer term the rehabilitation is intended to increase water availability within the catchment, by removing invasive alien vegetation that currently increases evapotranspiration and by restoring the water-retention capacity of the degraded wetlands.	

4. Waste

Explain what measures have been taken to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.	
Cleared alien vegetation and suitable organic material will be used on site for composting, mulch production, erosion control and rehabilitation purposes. Additional measures include limiting material consumption and avoidance of unnecessary clearing, excavation and earthworks.	
The project is expected to generate limited waste due to its rehabilitation-focused nature.	

5. Energy Efficiency

5.1.	Explain what design measures have been taken to ensure that the development proposal will be energy efficient.
The proposed rehabilitation project has a low energy demand as it does not involve permanent energy intensive infrastructure. Energy efficiency will be promoted using existing farm roads and infrastructure; minimising machinery use and restoring natural ecosystem processes that require limited long-term maintenance.	

SECTION K: DECLARATIONS

DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

Note: Duplicate this section where there is more than one Applicant.

I, **Luca Verbeeck** in my personal capacity or duly authorised thereto hereby declare/affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted as part of this application form is true and correct, and that:

- I am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, and any relevant Specific Environmental Management Act and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute an offence in terms of relevant environmental legislation;
- I am aware of my general duty of care in terms of Section 28 of the NEMA;
- I am aware that it is an offence in terms of Section 24F of the NEMA should I commence with a listed activity prior to obtaining an Environmental Authorisation;
- I appointed the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") (if not exempted from this requirement) which:
 - meets all the requirements in terms of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations; or
 - ~~○ meets all the requirements other than the requirement to be independent in terms of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, but a review EAP has been appointed who does meet all the requirements of Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations;~~
- I will provide the EAP and any specialist, where applicable, and the Competent Authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
- I will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the NEMA EIA Regulations and other environmental legislation including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred for the appointment of the EAP or any legitimately person contracted by the EAP;
 - costs in respect of any fee prescribed by the Minister or MEC in respect of the NEMA EIA Regulations;
 - Legitimate costs in respect of specialist(s) reviews; and
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with applicable management and mitigation measures;
- I am responsible for complying with conditions that may be attached to any decision(s) issued by the Competent Authority, hereby indemnify, the government of the Republic, the Competent Authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any report, any procedure or any action for which I or the EAP is responsible in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations and any Specific Environmental Management Act.

Note: If acting in a representative capacity, a certified copy of the resolution or power of attorney must be attached.

Signature of the Applicant:

Date:

Grootplaat (Pty) Ltd

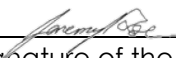
Name of company (if applicable):



DECLARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

I, **Jeremy Rose, EAPASA Registration number 2019/1116**, as the appointed EAP hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the:

- Information provided in this BAR and any other documents/reports submitted in support of this BAR;
- The inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
- The inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
- Any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties, and that:
- In terms of the general requirement to be independent:
 - other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
 - ~~am not independent, but another EAP that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review EAP must be submitted);~~
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for an EAP, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- I have disclosed, to the Applicant, the specialist (if any), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties, all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Competent Authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of this application;
- I have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application was distributed or was made available to registered interested and affected parties and that participation will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- I have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties were considered, recorded, responded to and submitted to the Competent Authority in respect of this application;
- I have ensured the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports in respect of the application, where relevant;
- I have kept a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in the public participation process; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the NEMA EIA Regulations;


Signature of the EAP:

17 Sep 2026
Date:

Infinity Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable):



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ANNEXURES

