

26 March 2025

Jeremy Rose  
Director: Infinity Environmental  
Observatory, Cape Town

Dear Jeremy

**Basic Assessment for the proposed dredging of the lower Milnerton Lagoon, Milnerton,  
Cape Town: Avifauna Compliance Statement**

With reference to your correspondence of 13 March 2025, herewith an avifauna Compliance Statement to supplement a basic assessment for the proposed City of Cape Town pollution remediation project in the lower Milnerton Lagoon, Milnerton, Cape Town. The proposed site is erf 20315, between Loxton Road, Woodbridge Island, and lagoon beach.

The proposed activity includes the dredging of the Milnerton Lagoon between the Loxton Road bridge and the estuary mouth. A dredger will be used to move sand within the lagoon and create a deeper scour channel to improve tidal flushing of the lagoon. The channel will be dredged in the unconsolidated sediments deposited in the lower lagoon by river flows and marine inputs, and material will be placed in berms on either side of the channel, within the lagoon.

Following a review of the existing estuarine impact assessment (Anchor Environmental Consultants 2024, Report no. 2214/1, that includes references to avifauna), and a brief site visit (hour-long visual inspection of the inclusive impact area) conducted on 21 March 2025, I can confirm that the post-mitigation impacts of this project on the local birdlife are likely to be of **Low** significance.

The impacts on birds of the dredging project are likely to include disturbance and degradation of habitat during the construction phase (negative), and ultimately the improvement of habitat in the long-term during operation (positive), as identified in the original estuarine impact assessment. Possible mitigation of negative impacts (construction) should include minimising the effective footprint of the project, minimising sources of noise and visual disturbance, and minimising the introduction of contaminants into the water system.

The affected avifauna could include at least 14 regionally and/or globally red-listed species (Table 1), the most likely and significant of which are Hartlaub's Gull *Chroicephalus hartlaubii*, Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, and Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*. Three species – African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*, Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, and Caspian Tern - are identified as species of conservation concern (SCC) by the DFFE screening tool.

**Table 1.** Red-listed bird species potentially affected by the proposed dredging project.

Common name	Regional Red Data status 2025	Global Red Data status 2025	Likelihood of occurrence	Post-mitigation construction impacts	Post-mitigation operational impacts
Hartlaub's Gull	VU	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Cape Cormorant	EN	EN	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Greater Flamingo	NT	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Lesser Flamingo	VU	NT	Moderate	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
African Marsh Harrier	VU	-	Low	Low -ve	-
Great White Pelican	VU	-	Moderate	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Caspian Tern	VU	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Cape Shoveler	NT	-	Moderate	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Great Crested Grebe	VU	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Grey Plover	NT	VU	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Red-billed Teal	NT	-	Moderate	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Yellow-billed Duck	NT	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Curlew Sandpiper	VU	VU	Moderate	Low -ve	Moderate +ve
Sanderling	NT	-	High	Low -ve	Moderate +ve

Provided that the mitigation measures set out in the estuarine impact assessment are fully adhered to, there is no reason to suspect that residual impacts of the dredging exercise will affect birdlife in an unsustainable way, and from a bird impact perspective I recommend that the project be authorised.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Jenkins

### **Declaration of independence**

Andrew Jenkins (AVISENSE Africa) is an independent consultant and has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity, application or appeal in respect of which the individual / company was appointed other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with the activity, application or appeal. No circumstances arose during the course of the project that compromised the objectivity of the specialists that performed the work.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jenkins', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Andrew Jenkins

### **Qualification of specialist**

**Dr Andrew Jenkins** has a PhD in ornithology from the University of Cape Town, and has been involved in ecology and conservation-driven research on birds for over 30 years. He has been doing bird impact assessment work in sub-Saharan Africa for over 20 years. Andrew has published widely, in both peer-reviewed scientific journals and in the popular literature, on aspects of raptor biology and conservation, and avian collision ecology (particularly concerning large terrestrial birds such as bustards and cranes). He is a registered scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Zoology, Ecology; SACNASP Reg No: 400117/14).