Western Cape Government

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

APRIL 2024

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(For official use only)	
Pre-application Reference Number (if applicable):	16/3/3/6/7/1/E4/5/1513/24
EIA Application Reference Number:	16/3/3/1/E4/5/1079/25
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)

BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL POULTRY REARING FACILITY ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GROOTVLEI NO. 225, CALEDON

Bapchix (Pty) Ltd, the proponent, plans to expand the existing chicken farm located on Farm Grootvlei No. 225, Caledon, by constructing an additional poultry rearing facility onsite. The proposed development property is approximately 317ha in extent and is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Caledon and approximately 3 kilometres north of the N2 with access via a dirt road (Figure 1). The proposed development area is located in the northeastern portion of the property and is approximately 5,5ha in extent (Figure 2).

The following development is proposed:

1) Ten new chicken houses with free range grazing between houses
2) Staff housing and ablution facilities with a conservancy tank system
3) An office
4) A loading bay
5) A shavings shed
6) A water treatment facility
7) A generator room
8) Internal access routes <8m wide
9) A biosecurity access control point

The new chicken houses will accommodate a maximum of 16 500 chickens per house and each house will be approximately 1000 m^2 in extent with free range pasture located between the houses. The chicken pens will be fenced off from the surrounding area for biosecurity purposes. The location and layout of the preferred alternative has been developed based on existing access routes, service availability, prevailing wind directions,

environmental sensitivities and biosecurity requirements and has attempted to avoid environmental impacts as far as possible (Figure 3).

An existing poultry rearing facility is located approximately 2km southwest of the new proposed development site on the same property (RE/225, Grootvlei, Caledon) (Figure 2). The existing facility was developed between 2005 and 2011, without prior authorization. A voluntary S24G process was undertaken resulting in retrospective environmental authorisation which was granted in 2025.

Access - Access to the property is existing. Access to the farm will be gained via District Road DR01294. District roads are higher-order rural roads that provide access between towns and farms and are primarily intended to support agricultural activities in the region. DR01294 has been recently maintained, is in adequate condition to safely accommodate the additional vehicle loads associated with the new proposed development. The road directly adjacent to the proposed development site is Minor Road 4123, which is currently in the process of being deproclaimed. Servitudes will be registered in favour of neighbouring landowners. Additional internal dirt roads will, however, be required for access between the chicken houses. The new dirt roads will be entirely within the proposed development footprint and will consist of a perimeter road (approx. 840 m) and a central access road (approx. 230 m). All roads will be approximately 4m wide.

Electricity – Electricity supply to the proposed development will be provided either through an upgrade of the existing Eskom supply or via supplementary rooftop solar installed on existing buildings. The development requires approximately 60 kVA of additional supply. Eskom is the current Network Service Provider, and the existing 200 kVA transformer confirms that an increase from the current 150 kVA supply to 200 kVA can be accommodated, with only administrative steps remaining (refer Appendix E16). This would provide sufficient additional capacity for the proposed development. Alternatively, the applicant may install rooftop solar panels on existing infrastructure, providing approximately 0.054 MW of additional capacity. This installation would not trigger any NEMA-listed activities and can be implemented immediately if required. Regardless of the electricity supply option ultimately used, new underground step-up/step-down cable with a transmission capacity of 3,3 kV will be installed to the proposed development site. Given this transmission capacity, the supply line does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. In all cases, the underground electrical line will follow the same route adjacent to Minor Road 4123, along the periphery of existing agricultural fields, and it will be placed underground. The proposed route does not intersect any environmental sensitivities. A services plan indicating the route of the proposed electrical supply line and its start, middle and end coordinates is included as Appendix B3 to the BAR.

Water – The verified registered water use is sufficient for the proposed development activities (Refer Appendix E16). The facility will connect to an existing 200 mm PVC pipeline via a 125 mm PVC branch. The new section of the supply line will extend approximately 1,300 m. The peak throughput capacity of the water pipeline will be 1,16l/s. Given that the water supply pipeline has an internal diameter of less than 0,36m and a peak throughput of less than 120l/s, the proposed expansion of the water pipeline does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. The water pipeline is proposed adjacent to Minor Road 4123, along the periphery of existing agricultural fields, and it will be placed underground. The proposed route does not intersect any environmental sensitivities. As such there is no anticipated biophysical impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the water pipeline A services plan indicating the route of the proposed electrical supply line and its start, middle and end coordinates is included as Appendix B3 to the BAR.

Stormwater Management – A stormwater collection channel will be constructed around the perimeter of the developed chicken houses. Collected stormwater will be directed to a designated vegetated ingress area,

where natural settling and infiltration can occur. The stormwater ingress area will have an estimated capacity of approximately ±45 m³ and a footprint of about ±150 m². Cleaning using water will only occur after thorough dry sweeping to remove all manure, and high-pressure hoses using minimal water will be used. The chicken houses are cleaned at the end of each production cycle (approximately once every two months), requiring an estimated total of approximately 35 m³ of water. This water use is spread over a one-week period following each production cycle. As a result, notable wash-water runoff is not expected, and the stormwater controls function mainly as an additional precautionary pollution-prevention measure.

Water treatment - A water treatment facility with a footprint of approximately 400 m² and capacity of approximately 100 000l will be developed for the purification of incoming fresh water. The treatment process will include flocculation and antibacterial steps to ensure water quality suitable for poultry rearing.

Sewage – Two 4000l conservancy tanks with a footprint of approximately 4m² each will be installed to manage sewage effluent as indicated on the SDP (refer Appendix B1 and Figure 2 below). The conservancy tank system will be serviced by TWK Municipality, with effluent disposed of at a registered facility. Please refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation of service provision.

Wastewater Management – No wastewater treatment plant is proposed. Instead:

- Domestic wastewater: Managed via the conservancy tank system described above.
- Wash water: Pens will be dry-swept to remove litter and solids before being cleaned with high-pressure hoses. Wash water use will be strictly limited to allow residual moisture to evaporate naturally.

Mortality – Non-infectious mortalities will be disposed of via the registered onsite composting facility, which has sufficient capacity for the anticipated volumes. Infectious mortalities will be managed under the strict guidance of the State Veterinarian through immediate quarantine, safe containment and disposal. Should it be required Nunn 2 Waste will be able to accept and suitably dispose of hazardous waste from the facility (refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation). The facility operates under stringent biosecurity protocols, audited by the EFRC, Woolworths, and State Veterinarians.

Manure - Approximately 450 m³ of manure will be generated every two months. Manure will be partly directed to the registered onsite composting facility, while the remainder will be used as an agricultural composting additive. This practice is well established both onsite and in the surrounding farming area. Manure not used onsite will be collected by pre-identified buyers at the end of each production cycle. Due to strong regional demand, the applicant has already secured committed buyers for the expected manure volumes.

Operations and Cleaning – Poultry houses will be cleaned at the end of each production cycle, i.e., every two months. Manure will be dry-swept, and pens washed with high-pressure hoses, Chicken pens will be thoroughly dry-cleaned prior to washing. High-pressure hoses will be used, resulting in extremely small volumes of water use with any residual water lost through evaporation. Under normal operating conditions, no runoff is expected. and seasonal reductions in evaporation, including during winter, will not affect wash water management.

Domestic waste – Biodegradable materials will be composted within the onsite composting facility, plastic containers will be recycled, and the remainder of the waste will be buried in a demarcated camped off area. Given the size of the area (<50m2), the estimated volume of waste to be disposed of (<500kg per month) and the location of the disposal site, this activity does not trigger the NEMA or NEM:WA.

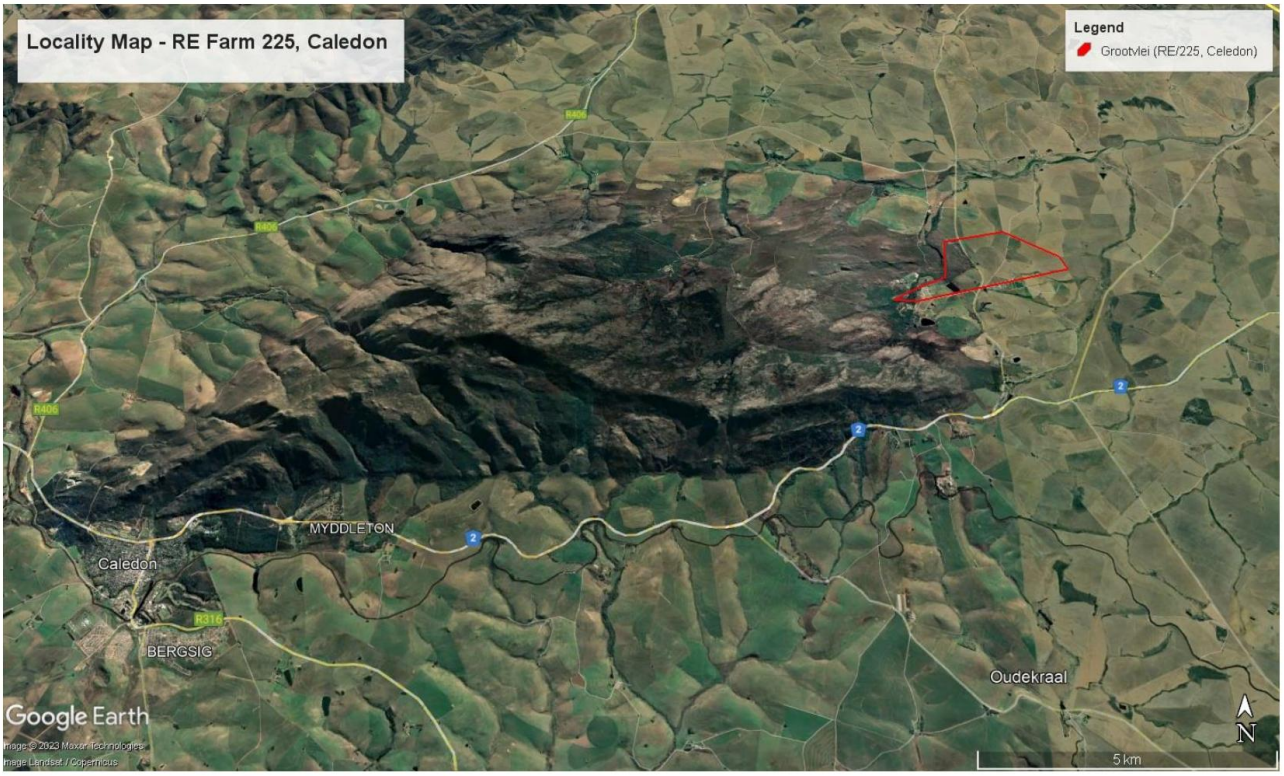


Figure 1: Locality Map

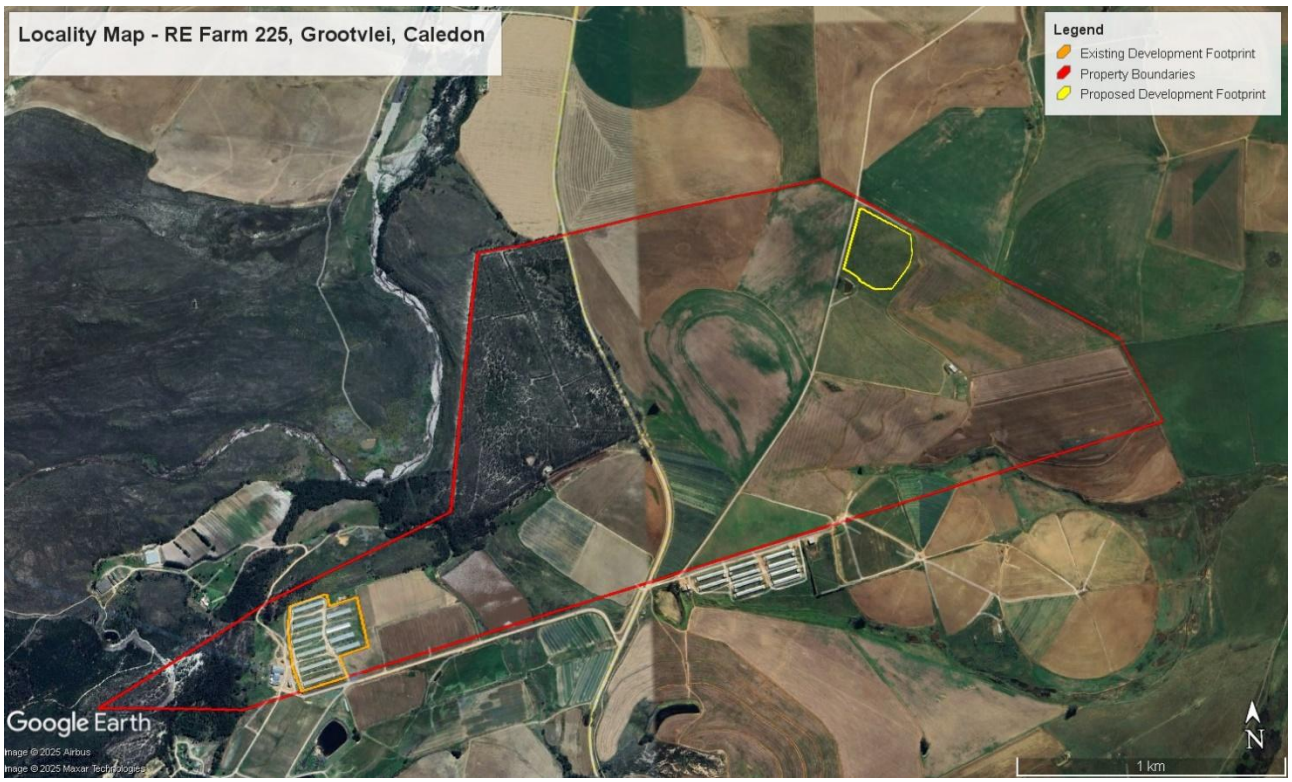


Figure 2: Proposed Development Footprint

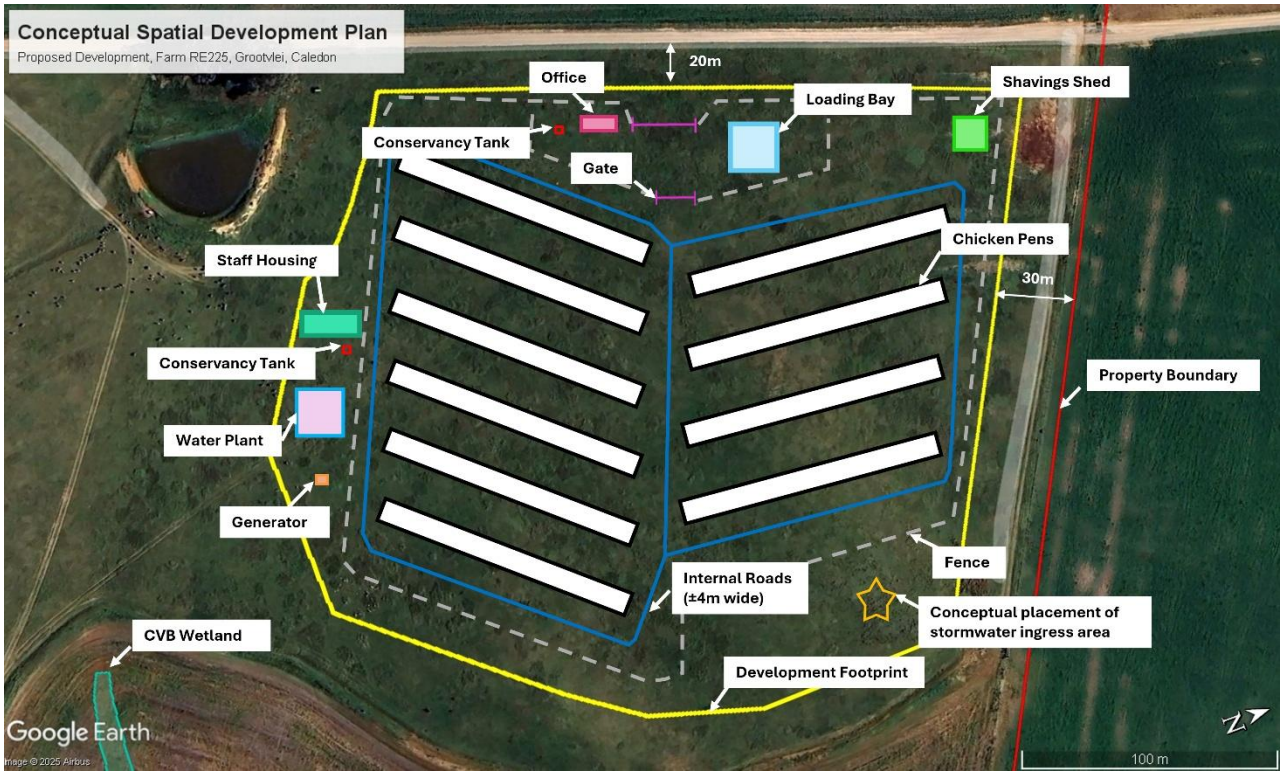


Figure 3: Conceptual Spatial Development Plan for the additional poultry rearing facility proposed on the RE of Farm no. 225, Grootvlei, Caledon [Please note, design changes may occur within the proposed development footprint] (PHS Consulting, September 2025)

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, 19998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") hereinafter referred to as the "NEMA EIA Regulations".

3. *Submission of documentation, reports and other correspondence:*

   The Department has adopted a digital format for corresponding with proponents/applicants or the general public. If there is a conflict between this approach and any provision in the legislation, then the provisions in the legislation prevail. If there is any uncertainty about the requirements or arrangements, the relevant Competent Authority must be consulted.

   The Directorate: Development Management has created generic e-mail addresses for the respective Regions, to centralise their administration. Please make use of the relevant general administration e-mail address below when submitting documents:

   DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za
   Directorate: Development Management (Region 1):
   City of Cape Town; West Coast District Municipal area;
   Cape Winelands District Municipal area and Overberg District Municipal area.

   DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za
   Directorate: Development Management (Region 3):
   Garden Route District Municipal area and Central Karoo District Municipal area

General queries must be submitted via the general administration e-mail for EIA related queries. Where a case-officer of DEA&DP has been assigned, correspondence may be directed to such official and copied to the relevant general administration e-mail for record purposes.

All correspondence, comments, requests and decisions in terms of applications, will be issued to either the applicant/requester in a digital format via email, with digital signatures, and copied to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") (where applicable).

4. 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.

5. All applicable sections of this BAR must be completed.

6. 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.

7. This BAR is current as of **April 2024**. 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 to check for the latest version of this BAR.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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: **DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)** (City of Cape Town, West Coast District, Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)	**GEORGE REGIONAL OFFICE:** **DIRECTORATE: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 3)** (Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)
The completed Form must be sent via electronic mail to: DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) at: E-mail: DEADPEIAAdmin@westerncape.gov.za Tel: (021) 483-5829 Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) Private Bag X 9086 Cape Town, 8000	The completed Form must be sent via electronic mail to: DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za Queries should be directed to the Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) at: E-mail: DEADPEIAAdmin.George@westerncape.gov.za Tel: (044) 814-2006 Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Directorate: Development Management (Region 3) Private Bag X 6509 George, 6530

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): o Watercourses / Rivers / Wetlands o Flood lines (*i.e.,* 1:100 year, 1:50 year and 1:10 year where applicable); o Coastal Risk Zones as delineated for the Western Cape by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("DEA&DP"): o Ridges; o Cultural and historical features/landscapes; o 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 A2:	Coastal Risk Zones as delineated in terms of ICMA for the Western Cape by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	n/a
	Appendix A3:	Map with the GPS co-ordinates for linear activities	n/a
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 B3	Services Plan	✓
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 (BGCMA is the Competent Authority on behalf of DWS.)	✓
	Appendix E4:	Comment from the DEA: Oceans and Coast	n/a
	Appendix E5:	Comment from the DAFF	n/a
	Appendix E6:	Comment from WCG: Transport and Public Works	✓
	Appendix E7:	Comment from WCG: DoA Comment from WCG DOA Veterinary Services	No comment provided to date
	Appendix E8:	Comment from WCG: DHS	n/a
	Appendix E9:	Comment from WCG: DoH	n/a

	Appendix E10:	**Comment from DEA&DP: Pollution Management**	✓
	Appendix E11:	**Comment from DEA&DP: Waste Management**	No comment provided to date
	Appendix E12:	**Comment from DEA&DP: Biodiversity**	✓
	Appendix E13:	**Comment from DEA&DP: Air Quality**	✓
	Appendix E14:	**Comment from DEA&DP: Coastal Management**	n/a
	Appendix E15:	**Comment from the local authority** (Theewaterskloof Local Municipality)	No comment provided to date
	Appendix E16:	**Confirmation of all services (water, electricity, sewage, solid waste management)**	✓
	Appendix E17:	**Comment from the District Municipality** (Overberg District Municipality)	✓
	Appendix E18:	**Copy of an exemption notice**	n/a
	Appendix E19	**Pre-approval for the reclamation of land**	n/a
	Appendix E20:	**Proof of agreement/TOR of the specialist studies conducted.**	Included in specialist reports in Appendix G
	Appendix E21:	**Proof of land use rights**	✓
	Appendix E22:	**Proof of public participation agreement for linear activities**	n/a
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.** **F1: Public Participation Information** **F2: Comments and Response Report**		✓ ✓
Appendix G:	**G1: Heritage Screener** **G2: Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and RAM** **G3: Visual Statement** **G4: Faunal**		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Appendix H:	**H1: CEMPr** **H2: OEMPr**		✓ ✓
Appendix I:	**I1: Screening Tool Report** **I2: Site Sensitivity Verification Report**		✓ ✓
Appendix J:	**The impact and risk assessment for each alternative**		✓
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:	**Water Use Registrations for Zonderend Valley Farm (Pty) Ltd**	✓
Appendix M:	**Confirmation of water use licensing process**	✓
Appendix N:	**EAP CV**	✓

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Highlight the Departmental Region in which the intended application will fall	CAPE TOWN OFFICE: REGION 1		GEORGE OFFICE: BEGION 3
	(City of Cape Town, West Coast District	**(Cape Winelands District & Overberg District)**	(Central Karoo District & Garden Route District)

Name of Applicant/Proponent:	Bapchix (Pty) Ltd	
Name of contact person for Applicant/Proponent (if other):	Mr Ross Philip	
Company/ Trading name/State Department/Organ of State:	Bapchix (Pty) Ltd	
Company Registration Number:	2005/030249/07	
Postal address:	PO BOX 599, Caledon, 7280	
		Postal code: 7280
Telephone:	021 200 9928	Cell: 083 273 8376
E-mail:	rossphilip@mweb.co.za	Fax: n/a
Company of EAP:	PHS Consulting	
EAP name:	Paul Slabbert (EAP) & Olivia Brunings (Candidate EAP)	
Postal address:	PO Box 1752, Hermanus	
		Postal code: 7200
Telephone:	028 312 1734	Cell: 082 740 8046
E-mail:	paul@phsconsulting.co.za olivia@phsconsulting.co.za	Fax: 086 508 3249
Qualifications:	Paul Slabbert B Art Et Science	Olivia Brunings BSc Conservation Ecology
EAP registration no:	EAPASA Reg 2019-1036 (EAP)	EAPASA Reg 2023/6743 (Candidate EAP)
Name of landowner:	Zonderend Valley Farm (Pty) Ltd	
Name of contact person for landowner (if other):	Mr Ross Philip	
Postal address:	PO BOX 599, Caledon, 7280	
		Postal code: 7280
Telephone:	021 200 9928	Cell: 083 273 8376
E-mail:	rossphilip@mweb.co.za	Fax: n/a
Name of Person in control of the land:	Mr Ross Philip	
Name of contact person for person in control of the land:	Mr Ross Philip	
Postal address:	PO BOX 599, Caledon, 7280	
		Postal code: 7280
Telephone:	021 200 9928	Cell: 083 273 8376
E-mail:	rossphilip@mweb.co.za	Fax: n/a

Municipality in whose area of jurisdiction the proposed activity will fall:	Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	
Contact person:	Municipal manager - Mr Wilfred Solomons-Johannes (attention: Johan Viljoen)	
Postal address:	PO Box 24, Caledon, 7230	
		Postal code: 7230
Telephone	028 214 3300	Cell: 082 499 5024
E-mail:	johanvi@twk.org.za	Fax: ( )

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

1.	Is the proposed development (please tick):	New		**Expansion**	**X**
The development activity is new; however, it is an expansion of the existing onsite poultry rearing operation.					
2.	Is the proposed site(s) a brownfield of greenfield site? Please explain.				

The proposed site is classified as a brownfield site. Aerial imagery from the CD: NGI database indicates that the land area proposed for development has been under cultivation since before 1983 (Figure 4). The proposed development footprint is currently fallow (Figure 5). The site's agricultural use makes it a brownfields site.

Figure 4: Aerial Imagery from 1983 indicates that the proposed development site has been under cultivation for several decades. The approximate location for the proposed chicken houses is indicated by the red circle.

Figure 5: Aerial Imagery from 2023 indicates that the land area proposed for development is currently fallow. The proposed development footprint is indicated in yellow.

3.	**For Linear activities or developments –** PLEASE NOTE: The linear activities associated with electricity and water supply are not listed activities in terms of NEMA. However, DEADP has requested that the start middle and end coordinates are provided. These have accordingly been indicated below as well as within Appendix B3.	
3.1.	Provide the Farm(s)/Farm Portion(s)/Erf number(s) for all routes:	
3.2.	Development footprint of the proposed development for all alternatives.	m²
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.	

Linear infrastructure associated with the proposed development (not listed activities in terms of NEMA):

Internal electricity supply line:

- Length: 1,3km
- Transmission Capacity: 3,3 kV

Internal water pipeline:

- Lenth: 1,25km
- Diameter: 0,2m
- Peak throughput capacity: 1,16l/s

3.4.	Indicate how access to the proposed routes will be obtained for all alternatives.	
3.5.	SG Digit codes of the Farms/Farm Portions/Erf numbers for all alternatives	

3.6.	**Starting point co-ordinates for Electricity Supply Line**			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**'10**	**°36.02**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"19.36**
	Middle point co-ordinates for Electricity Supply Line			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**10'**	**"19.86**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"34.60**
	End point co-ordinates for Electricity Supply Line			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**'10**	**"0/67**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"44.93**
3.6.	**Starting point co-ordinates for Water Pipeline**			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**'10**	**"35.07**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"20.02**
	Middle point co-ordinates Electricity Supply Line			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**'10**	**"18.79**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"35.19**
	End point co-ordinates Electricity Supply Line			
	Latitude (S)	**°34**	**'10**	**"0.66**
	Longitude (E)	**°19**	**'36**	**"44.65**

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):	317,3705 ha

4.2.	Developed footprint of the existing facility and associated infrastructure (if applicable): An existing poultry facility with a development footprint of approximately 6,1ha is located on the proposed development property (RE/225, Grootvlei, Caledon). The existing poultry facility is located approximately 2km southwest of the new proposed development site. The existing facility was developed between 2005 and 2011, without prior authorization. A S24G process was undertaken, and retrospective environmental authorisation was granted in July 2025.	6,1ha
4.3.	Development footprint of the proposed development and associated infrastructure size(s) for all alternatives:	±5,5ha
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).	

The proposed development entails the development of an additional poultry rearing facility within the northeastern portion of Farm Grootvlei No.225, Caledon.

The following development is proposed:

1) Ten new chicken houses with free range grazing between houses
2) Staff housing and ablution facilities with a conservancy tank system
3) An office
4) A loading bay
5) A shavings shed
6) A water treatment facility
7) A generator room
8) Internal access routes <8m wide
9) A biosecurity access control point

The new chicken houses will accommodate a maximum of 16 500 chickens per house and each house will be 1000 m^2 in extent with free range pasture located at the side of each house. The chicken pens will be fenced off from the surrounding area for biosecurity purposes. The location and layout of the preferred alternative has been developed based on existing access routes, service availability, prevailing wind directions, environmental sensitivities and biosecurity requirements (Figure 3).

Access - Access to the property is existing. Existing internal dirt roads provide access to the proposed development site. Additional internal dirt roads will, however, be required for access between the chicken houses. The new dirt roads will be entirely within the proposed development footprint and will consist of a perimeter road (approx. 840 m) and a central access road (approx. 230 m). All roads will be approximately 4m wide.

Electricity – Electricity supply to the proposed development will be provided either through an upgrade of the existing Eskom supply or via supplementary rooftop solar installed on existing buildings. The development requires approximately 60 kVA of additional supply. Eskom is the current Network Service Provider, and the existing 200 kVA transformer confirms that an increase from 150 kVA to 200 kVA can be accommodated, with only administrative steps remaining (refer Appendix E16). This would provide sufficient additional capacity for the proposed development. Alternatively, the applicant may install rooftop solar panels on existing infrastructure, providing approximately 0.054 MW of additional capacity. This installation would not trigger any NEMA-listed activities and can be implemented immediately if required. Regardless of the electricity supply option ultimately used, new underground step-up/step-down cable with a transmission capacity of 3,3 kV will be installed to the proposed development site. Given this transmission capacity, the supply line does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. In all cases, the underground electrical line will follow the same route along the periphery of existing agricultural fields and avoid environmental sensitivities, with no biophysical impacts anticipated.

Water – The verified registered water use is sufficient for the proposed development activities (Refer Appendix E16). The facility will connect to an existing 200 mm PVC pipeline via a 125 mm PVC branch. The new section of the supply line will extend approximately 1,300 m. The peak throughput capacity of the water pipeline will be 1,16l/s. Given that the water supply pipeline has an internal diameter of less than 0,36m and a peak throughput of less than 120l/s, the proposed expansion of the water pipeline does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. The water pipeline is proposed adjacent to Minor Road 4123, along the periphery of existing agricultural fields, and it will be placed underground. The proposed route does not intersect any environmental sensitivities. As such there is no anticipated biophysical impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the water pipeline A services plan indicating the route of the proposed electrical supply line and its start, middle and end coordinates is included as Appendix B3 to the BAR.

Stormwater Management – A stormwater collection channel will be constructed around the perimeter of the developed chicken houses. Collected stormwater will be directed to a designated vegetated ingress area, where natural settling and infiltration can

occur. Cleaning using water will only occur after thorough dry sweeping to remove all manure, and high-pressure hoses using minimal water will be used. As a result, notable wash-water runoff is not expected, and the stormwater controls function mainly as an additional precautionary pollution-prevention measure.

Water treatment - A water treatment facility with a footprint of approximately 400 m² and capacity of approximately 100 000l will be developed for the purification of incoming fresh water. The treatment process will include flocculation and antibacterial steps to ensure water quality suitable for poultry rearing.

Sewage – Two 4000l conservancy tanks with a footprint of approximately 4m² each will be installed to manage sewage effluent. The conservancy tank system will be serviced by TWK Municipality, with effluent disposed of at a registered facility. Please refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation of service provision.

Wastewater Management – No wastewater treatment plant is proposed. Instead:

- *Domestic wastewater*: Managed via the conservancy tank system described above.
- *Wash water*: Pens will be swept to remove litter and solids before being cleaned with high-pressure hoses. Wash water use will be strictly limited to allow residual moisture to evaporate naturally.

Mortality – Non-infectious mortalities will be disposed of via the registered onsite composting facility, which has sufficient capacity for the anticipated volumes. Infected mortalities will be managed under the strict supervision of the State Veterinarian. Should it be required Nunn 2 Waste will be able to accept and suitably dispose of hazardous waste from the facility (refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation). Safe disposal certificates for hazardous waste will be kept on record for a minimum of five years. The facility operates under stringent biosecurity protocols, audited by the EFRC, Woolworths, and State Veterinarians.

Manure - Approximately 450 m³ of manure will be generated every two months. Manure will be partly directed to the registered onsite composting facility, while the remainder will be used as an agricultural composting additive. This practice is well established both onsite and in the surrounding farming area. Manure not used onsite will be collected by pre-identified buyers at the end of each production cycle. Due to strong regional demand, the applicant has already secured committed buyers for the expected manure volumes.

Operations and Cleaning – Poultry houses will be cleaned at the end of each production cycle, i.e., every two months. Manure will be dry-swept, and pens washed with high-pressure hoses, Chicken pens will be thoroughly dry-cleaned prior to washing. High-pressure hoses will be used, resulting in extremely small volumes of water use with any residual water lost through evaporation. Under normal operating conditions, no runoff is expected. and seasonal reductions in evaporation, including during winter, will not affect wash water management.

Domestic waste – Biodegradable materials will be composted within the onsite composting facility, plastic containers will be recycled, and the remainder of the waste will be buried in a demarcated camped off area. Given the size of the area in use (<50m2), the estimated volume of waste to be disposed of (<500kg per month) and the location of the disposal site, this activity does not trigger the NEMA or NEM:WA.

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

The development is proposed on the RE of Farm 225 Grootvlei. The farm is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Caledon and approximately 3 kilometres north of the N2 with access via a dirt access road. Access to the farm will be gained via District Road DR01294. DR01294 has been recently maintained, is in adequate condition to safely accommodate the additional vehicle loads associated with the new proposed development. Minor Road 4123 provides access directly to the proposed development site. Minor Road 4123 is currently in the process of being deproclaimed. Servitudes will be registered in favour of neighbouring landowners. Should any road widening be required to facilitate safe vehicle passing, it will be limited to selected safe passing points , with the actual widening not exceeding 4 m at any location and a final road width of no more than 8m. Such adjustments will not trigger any NEMA-listed activities. The precise locations of the safe-passing widening points will be confirmed in consultation with relevant role-players, including other users of the road. These widening points will be confined to Minor Road 4123, which is already an established agricultural access road bordered by existing cultivated fields. The proposed road-widening areas will not intersect any environmental

sensitive areas, and as such no biophysical impacts are anticipated. The impact of the proposed widening at key points has been clarified in Appendix J to the BAR.																						
4.6.	SG Digit code(s) of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:	C	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	0	0	0

4.7.	Coordinates of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:			
	Latitude (S)	34°	9'	58.02"
	Longitude (E)	19°	36'	50.70"

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 X**

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 X**
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 X**	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 X**	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 X**
The National Environmental Management Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) ("NEM:WA")	YES	**NO X**
The National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004 ("NEMBA").	YES	**NO X**
The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) ("NEMPAA").	YES	**NO X**
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 X**

3. Other legislation

List any other legislation that is applicable to the proposed activity or development.
NEM: AQA, National Dust Control Regulations (Government Notice No. R. 827) of 1 November 2013 and the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations (P.N. 200/2013) must be adhered to.

4. Policies

Explain which policies were considered and how the proposed activity or development complies and responds to these policies.
The following policies were considered: • Theewaterskloof Municipality IDP 2022 – 2027 • Theewaterskloof Municipality SDF 2020 • Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) (2014) • Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017) • Environmental Management Policy for the Overberg District Municipality The **Western Cape PSDF** is a planning document that guides district and local spatial initiatives such as IDP's and SDF's. It aims to create a coherent framework for the province's urban and rural areas. The PSDF aims to guide the location and form of public investment in the western cape's urban and rural areas. Whilst it cannot influence private sector investment patterns, it has an important contribution in terms of reducing business risk by providing clarity and certainty on where public Infrastructure investment will be targeted, thereby opening new economic opportunities in these areas. The current economic state with increasing levels of unemployment, and recent job losses in agriculture, all add to the high levels of

rural poverty and unemployment. The provincial SDF emphasizes the importance and need for economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. The proposed development will create new direct and indirect job opportunities during the construction and operational phase of the development.

Agricultural output is foundational to the rural economy in the Western Cape. However, there is limited suitable land available for the expansion of agricultural activities and using these land areas without compromising biodiversity, heritage, and scenic resources, remains a key challenge. The property on which the development activities are proposed, is a working farm located in a broader agricultural landscape. The location of the proposed new development is on old agricultural fields, set back from public roads, does not coincide with archaeological and cultural heritage resources and given the development location, it is unlikely that any palaeontological resources will be impacted. There are existing water use rights for the property and sufficient water is available to support the proposed development. The development activity is thus in line with the PSDF in that it will allow feasible expansion of agriculture within the Western Cape and facilitate job creation within this sector.

Furthermore, the PSDF promotes sustainable development which requires that economic, social, and environmental aspects relating to a development proposal are considered. The development will play an important role in increasing the agricultural potential of the property and the long-term economic viability of the existing farming operation – which will help to sustain existing and future employment opportunities. Through implementation of suitable mitigation and management measures, the establishment and operation of the proposed development will also not negatively impact the natural environment or surrounding land users. As such, all three pillars of sustainability can be promoted within the development proposal.

The **Theewaterskloof municipality IDP** encourages local economic development with a focus on creating employment opportunities for residents. Agricultural development is one of the 4 strategic pillars that has been outlined to support local economic development. The objective for agriculture within the region is to improve agricultural diversity, including participants and offerings. The IDP recognises that employment within the agricultural sector is largely seasonal and recently, the sector has been affected by drought (& at a macro level, climate change). The main commodities in the region include fruit (apples, pears & grapes), vegetables and grains.

The proposed development site is a working farm located within an agriculturally dominated landscape. The location of the property is thus suitable for the expansion of agricultural activities that will support local economic development and generate employment opportunities within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the proposed agricultural activities (poultry production) are not currently a main commodity in the region and will assist in diversification of the local agricultural sector. The proposed agricultural development will also run year-round and provide more permanent job opportunities compared to the traditional forms of agriculture in the region. Lastly, poultry rearing facilities produce a valuable byproduct in the form of nutrient rich manure which can be used in the existing vegetable and grain farming on the property thereby facilitating sustainable, circular agricultural practices. The proposed activities are thus well aligned with the IDP of the local municipality.

The **Theewaterskloof SDF** states that the agricultural sector is the largest source of employment in the Theewaterskloof municipality, and this sector has traditionally been the basis of economic development within the region. Objectives of the SDF therefore include the following as is relevant to the proposed development:

- protect agriculture as the primary land use in the rural landscape,
- protect, maintain, and enhance viable agricultural units and encourage sustainable farming practices,
- improve the economic viability of farms through the intensification and diversification of agricultural production and improve enterprise opportunities within the food system.

From the SDF it is clear that agricultural development is encouraged. However, it is also clear that the development should be both economically viable and environmentally sustainable. The development site is already a working farm and the addition of poultry rearing facilities on non-productive land within the farm will maintain, enhance, and diversify,

sustainable onsite agricultural activities. The proposed development thus aligns well with the objectives outlined in the Theewaterskloof SDF.

While no specific **Environmental Management Framework (EMF)** has been outlined for the region, several strategic documents for the area include environmental management aspects. The Theewaterskloof IDP outlines sustainable environmental management as an important planning objective. The proposed development allows for intensification of agricultural practices on non-productive land within an existing farm and thus minimises the transformation of additional land, whilst protecting and promoting food production.

The Theewaterskloof IDP also highlights the importance of alien invasive vegetation clearing. The owner of the property contributes substantially to clearing efforts and has carried out numerous alien vegetation clearing operations within the mountainous terrain to the west of the development site. Systematic clearing from upper catchment areas is essential to ensure sustainable removal of alien invasive vegetation.

The Environmental Management Policy for the Overberg District Municipality also highlights the importance of Alien Invasive Species Monitoring, Control and Eradication to which the property owner is already contributing. This policy also highlights the importance of addressing waste management challenges in the district. Given the onsite presence of a registered composting facility that can accept and process a portion the waste generated by the proposed development in an environmentally sustainable manner and the overall re-usable nature of the waste produced within the agricultural sector, no additional pressure will be placed on the public waste management facilities.

The **Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP) (2017)** aims to guide sustainable development by providing a synthesis of biodiversity information to decision-makers. The main map categories are Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs - Terrestrial and Aquatic), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs - Critical and Other), Other Natural Remaining Areas and No Natural Remaining Areas. The first two mentioned categories represent the biodiversity priority areas which should be maintained in a natural to near-natural state. The last two mentioned categories are not considered as priority areas and a loss of biodiversity within these areas may be acceptable.

The WCBSP does not indicate any aquatic or terrestrial CBAs or ESAs within the proposed development footprint. A terrestrial CBA is indicated to the southwest of the proposed development site. This land area was confirmed to coincide with a farm dam and is therefore likely incorrectly mapped.

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.

- Guidelines for EMPs (June 2015)
- Guideline on Alternatives (March 2013)
- Guideline for the Review of Specialist Input in the EIA process (June 2005).
- Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) (2014)
- Guideline on Public Participation (2017)
- Guideline for involving a Heritage Specialist in an EIA process (2005)
- Guideline for the review of Specialist Input in the EIA process (June 2005)
- Guideline on Need and Desirability (2017)
- BGIS
- Theewaterskloof SDF (November 2019)
- Theewaterskloof IDP (2022 – 2027)
- National Water Act 36 of 1998 (NWA)

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 following environmental sensitivity themes were identified in the Screening Tool Report:

i. Agriculture Theme (High Sensitivity)

The report generated for the proposed development area identified the site as having a 'very high' agricultural sensitivity (**See Figure 6**). According to the screening tool this theme is identified as ' very high' due to the presence of Rainfed Annual Crop Cultivation and the location within the 'Overberg PAA'.

Figure 6: Agricultural Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

The development is proposed on an old, unproductive agricultural field. The proposed activity is in line with the current permissible land use (Agriculture with consent use for intensive feed farming) and the development will complement the agricultural productivity on the farm, therefore having a high positive impact to the operation. Given that the development will contribute to agriculture onsite and in the region, it is the opinion of the EAP that no further input will be required from an agricultural specialist.

The Department of Agriculture will be included as a commenting authority.

ii. Animal Species Theme (Medium Sensitivity)

The proposed development site was assigned a 'medium' sensitivity rating for the 'Animal Species Theme' based on the invertebrate species *Aneuryphymus* montanus (**See Figure 7**). In addition, comments provided by the Endangered Wildlife Trust indicated that there are three Blue Cran breeding sites located on the adjacent farm. Based on comments received during the pre-application Public Participation Process a faunal specialist study was undertaken. As confirmed by a site visit, the proposed development will be located on cleared area used for agricultural purposes. No natural vegetation occurs within the development site and it is considered from a faunal perspective as very low sensitivity. The specialist sensitivity study found that the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. It is the specialists' opinion that the proposed development will have an overall low significance on the insect and Blue Crane.

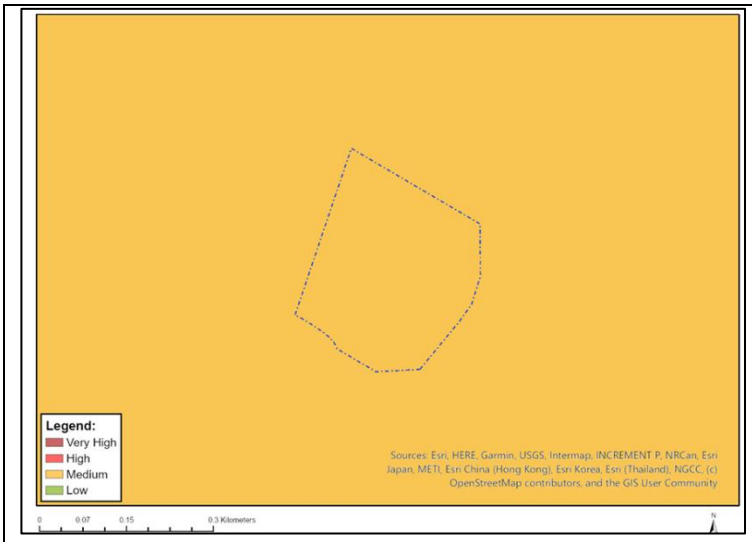


Figure 7: Animal Species Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

iii. Aquatic Biodiversity Theme (Low Sensitivity)

This theme is identified and mapped as 'low' however a high sensitivity mapped directly to the south of the proposed development site (**See Figure 8**). As such, an Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment has been undertaken for the proposed development. This assessment has confirmed that while no aquatic features occur within the area earmarked for development a channelled valley bottom wetland is located approximately 80m south of the site. The proposed development footprint will be located more than 32 m from the nearest watercourse. The low sensitivity rating for the site is therefore accurate, and no further specialist assessment is required in terms of NEMA. The Risk Assessment undertaken found that the proposed development activities pose a low risk to the watercourse. Accoridngly a General Authorisation has been registered in terms of the National Water Act. The mitigation measures detailed in the Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement have been incorporated into the impact assessment for the proposed development, as well as into both the CEMP and OEMP.

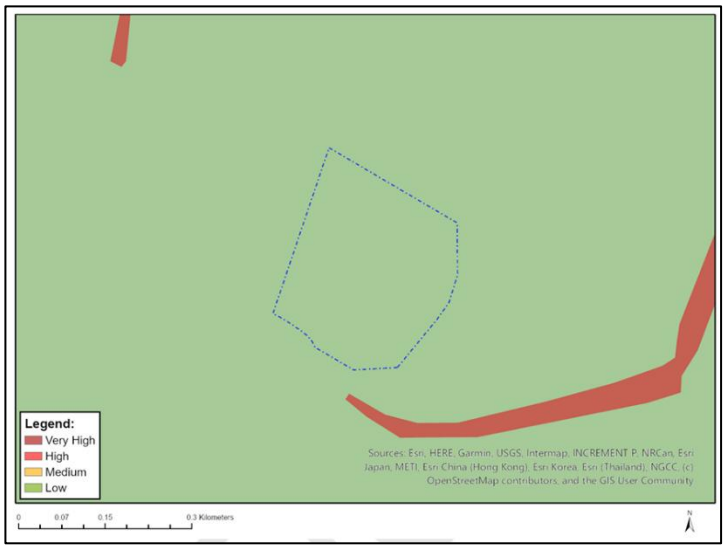


Figure 8: Aquatic Biodiversity Sensitivity. Approximate location of the proposed development shown as blue dotted line.

iv. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme (Low Sensitivity)

This theme is identified and mapped as 'low' (**See Figure 9**). A NID and screener has confirmed this and was submitted to HWC for comment. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required.

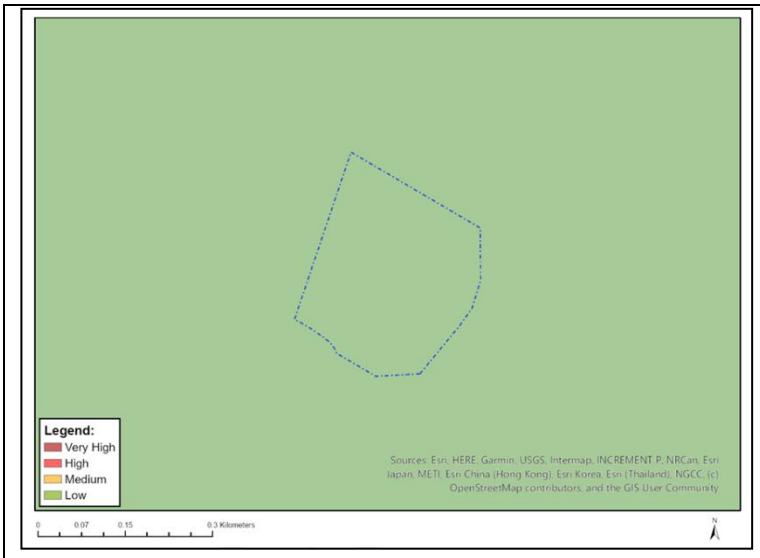


Figure 9: Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

v. Civil Aviation Theme (High Sensitivity)

The Civil Aviation theme is identified as 'high' due to the following: '*Within 8 km of other civil aviation aerodrome'* (**See Figure 10**).

The Caledon informal airfield is located approximately 2,5 km south of Caledon and 20 km from the proposed development site. A private airstrip is also located approximately 2 km southwest of Caledon and 17 km from the proposed development site. Both airfields are not regularly used and only used for small privately owned planes. The airfields are far from the site and not visible from the development footprint. Due to the distance of the proposed development from the airfield and seeing that no tall structures or any aviation activities that could interfere with the airfields are proposed; no impacts on the airfield are anticipated. No triggers for this theme were noted within an 8km radius. The EAP is therefore of the opinion that the sensitivity rating for this theme should be decreased to 'low'. Due consideration has been given to the potential impact of the proposed development on civil aviation and it is determined that the proposed development will have an insignificant impact on civil aviation. No specialist input will be required.

Figure 10:Civil Aviation Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

vi. Defence Theme (Low Sensitivity)

A 'low' sensitivity has been assigned to the existing development footprint (**See Figure 11**). Due to the nature of the proposed development, it is determined that it will have an insignificant impact on Defence. No specialist input will be required.

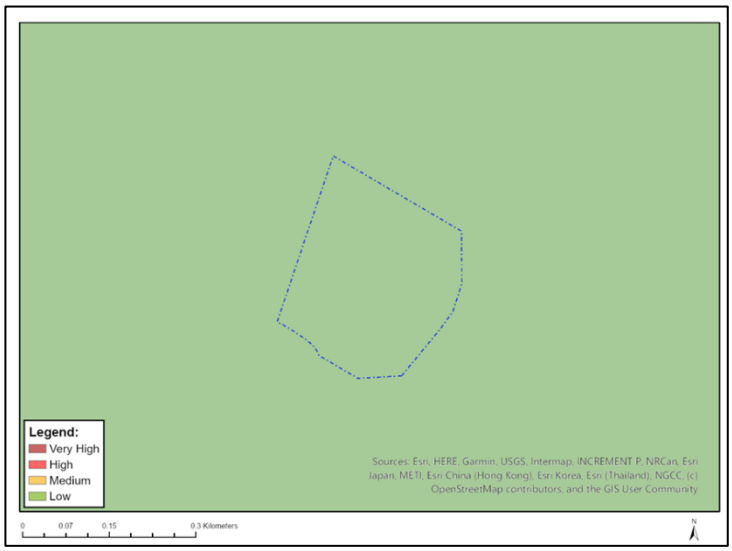


Figure 11:Defence Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

vii. Palaeontology Theme (Very High Sensitivity)

A 'very high' sensitivity has been assigned to the proposed development site due to *''Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity'* (**See Figure 12**). A Specialist Heritage screener was completed for input at an early stage. The screener confirmed that it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on heritage resources, provided that the recommended Fossil Finds Procedure is implemented. A NID has been submitted to HWC. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required.

Figure 12: Planetology Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

viii. Plant Species Theme (Low Sensitivity)

This theme is identified and mapped as 'low' sensitivity (**See Figure 13**). Terrestrial Flora Specialist input will not be required. As confirmed by a site visit, the proposed development will be located in a field used for agricultural purposes. No natural vegetation occurs on the development site and thus it is improbable that the flora species listed in the screening tool would be present on the development site. The 'low' sensitivity classification is therefore confirmed.

Figure 13:Plant Species Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

ix. Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme (Very High Sensitivity)

A 'very high' sensitivity has been assigned to the existing development footprint (**See Figure 14**) due to:

- *'Critically Endangered ecosystem -Western Ruens Shale Renosterveld'*

Terrestrial Flora Specialist input will not be required. As confirmed by a site visit, the proposed development will be located in a field occasionally used for agricultural purposes. No natural vegetation occurs on the development site, and it is thus improbable that the Terrestrial Biodiversity mapped in the screening tool would be present on the development site. The onsite sensitivity was therefore determined to be 'low'.

Figure 14:Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity. The proposed development footprint is indicated by the blue dotted line.

The following specialist assessments were identified:

1) Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment - A visual statement was prepared for the proposed development. The land use of the property and surrounding area is primarily Agricultural in nature. The proposed development on Farm No. 225 is not expected to be visually intrusive. The nearest existing farm homesteads are approximately 1.6 km to the northwest and 2.5 km to the north of the site. Views from these receptors, as well as from the broader surrounding area, are restricted by the undulating terrain and distance from the development. The primary view corridor is from the gravel road running alongside the site. As recommended in the visual statement, potential visual impacts associated with this minor road can be mitigated by implementing a tree screen. The site is also visible from the

two district roads. The two district gravel roads are mainly used for agricultural purposes and access leading into the countryside and small towns of Greyton and Genadendal, however the users can only see the site at approx. 2 km out, traveling at speed resulting in limited impact on the receptor. Overall, the visual assessment indicates that the proposed development presents limited to no visual constraints for the broader landscape. In summary, the project will have low visual exposure, a high capacity for visual absorption following mitigation measures, strong compatibility with the surrounding agricultural setting, and only marginal visibility given the limited number of potential receptors.

2) Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment - A Notification of Intent to Develop Screener report was submitted to Heritage WC for comment by a specialist. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required. A chance fossil finds procedure will however be implemented onsite.

3) Palaeontology Impact Assessment - A Notification of Intent to Develop Screener report was submitted to Heritage WC for comment by a specialist. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required. A chance fossil finds procedure will however be implemented onsite.

4) Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment - The EAP is of the opinion that Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist input will not be required based on the following: i) the proposed development will be located in a cleared area used for agricultural purposes; ii) as no natural vegetation currently occurs within the proposed development site, it is improbable that the Terrestrial Biodiversity mapped in the screening tool is present on the development site.

5) Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment The proposed development will be located more than 32m from the nearest watercourse. No further specialist assessment is therefore required in terms of NEMA as confirmed by an Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment.

6) Hydrology Assessment - No hydrological features will be impacted on by the proposed development. The proposed development will be located more than 32m from the nearest watercourse. No further specialist assessment is therefore required in terms of NEMA.

7) Traffic Impact Assessment - The existing access to the farm and existing internal access roads will be used. The proposed development will somewhat increase the current number of vehicles entering and exiting the farm; however, given the surrounding land use and the fact that access to the development areas is direct and existing, the potential traffic impact is anticipated to be low. Comment from the Western Cape department of Transport and Public Works indicated no objections to the proposed development. No further specialist studies will be required.

8) Socio-Economic Assessment - Theewaterskloof Municipality is the largest local authority in the Overberg District with an area of approximately 3231km² and houses 13 wards. It is the most populous municipality in the Overberg district with 42% of the total district population. Theewaterskloof Municipality can be categorised as a rural area with open spaces and farming activities as it is clear from the land and areas occupied by agriculture, small holdings, and other land uses. The farm proposed for development is surrounded by agricultural functions on three sides and the associated socio-economic environment. The farming community in the area is a mix of landowners, management, and labour. The farm borders an undeveloped mountainous area to the east that is currently significantly impacted by alien invasive trees. The landowner is actively involved in operations to clear these trees and restore natural systems in this mountainous area. No potential negative socio-economic impacts are anticipated for the proposed development of the chicken farm. On the contrary, proposed development provides socio-economic benefits for the region in terms of job creation and food security. The intention is facilitating production of free-range chickens in response to the growing market need for free range chicken. No specialist input will be required.

9) Ambient Air Quality Impact Assessment - There will be no impacts on ambient air quality and the Air Quality Act is not applicable. It should however be noted that the NEM: AQA, National Dust Control Regulations (Government

Notice No. R. 827) do apply and must be adhered to. No specialist input will be required. DEADP: Air Quality is included as a commenting authority.

10) Plant Species Assessment - Terrestrial Flora Specialist input will not be required. The proposed development will be located in a cleared area used for agricultural purposes. No natural vegetation currently occurs within the proposed development site. It is improbable that the Terrestrial Biodiversity mapped in the screening tool would be present within the proposed development footprint.

11) Animal Species Assessment - A faunal specialist study was undertaken for the proposed development. As confirmed by a site visit, the proposed development will be located on cleared area used for agricultural purposes. No natural vegetation occurs within the development site and it is considered from a faunal perspective as very low sensitivity. The specialist sensitivity study found that the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. It is the specialists' opinion that the proposed development will have an overall low significance on the insect and Blue Crane.

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 40	*The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of poultry, excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by-* *i. more than 1 000 poultry where the facility is situated within an urban area; or* ii. *more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area.;*	The proposed development entails the construction of an additional poultry rearing facility comprising 10 single pens each housing approximately 16500 birds in northeastern portion of the property. The development activity is new; however, it is an expansion of the existing onsite poultry operation.
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.
Not Applicable		

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.
Not Applicable		

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.
Not Applicable		

SECTION E: PLANNING CONTEXT AND NEED AND DESIRABILITY

1.	Provide a description of the preferred alternative.

The preferred development alternative entails the development of an additional poultry rearing facility within the northeastern portion of Farm Grootvlei No.225, Caledon.

The following development is proposed (refer to Figure 3):

1) Ten new chicken houses with free range grazing between houses
2) Staff housing and ablution facilities with a conservancy tank system
3) An office
4) A loading bay
5) A shavings shed
6) A water treatment facility
7) A generator room
8) Internal access routes <8m wide
9) A biosecurity access control point

The proposed development footprint is approximately 5,5ha in extent and is located within an old agricultural field that has been under cultivation since before 1983. The new chicken houses will accommodate a maximum of 16 500 chickens per house and each house will be 1000 m^2 in extent with free range pasture located at the side of each house. The chicken pens will be fenced off from the surrounding area for biosecurity purposes. The location and layout of the preferred development alternative has been developed based on existing access routes, service availability, prevailing wind directions, environmental sensitivities and biosecurity requirements.

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 proposed development site is zoned Agriculture 1. The application is for agricultural purposes and is therefore in line with current land use zoning for the site. In terms of the Theewaterskloof Municipality Zoning Scheme By-Law, a Consent Use on Agriculture for 'Intensive Animal farming', is required. Approval for consent use (intensive feed farming) is still to be obtained.

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 will not be in conflict with any existing approvals for the proposed development site. The proposed additional poultry rearing facility will complement the existing development activities onsite.

4.	Explain how the proposed development will be in line with the following?
4.1	The Provincial Spatial Development Framework.

The Western Cape PSDF is a planning document that guides district and local spatial initiatives such as IDP's and SDF's. It aims to create a coherent framework for the province's urban and rural areas. The PSDF aims to guide the location and form of public investment in the western cape's urban and rural areas. Whilst it cannot influence private sector investment patterns, it has an important contribution in terms of reducing business risk by providing clarity and certainty on where public infrastructure investment will be targeted, thereby opening new economic opportunities in these areas. The current economic state with increasing levels of unemployment, and recent job losses in agriculture, all add to the high levels of rural poverty and unemployment. The provincial SDF emphasizes the importance and need for economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. The proposed development will create new direct and indirect job opportunities during the construction and operational phase of the development.

Agricultural output is foundational to the rural economy in the Western Cape. However, there is limited suitable land available for the expansion of agricultural activities and using these land areas without compromising biodiversity, heritage, and scenic resources, remains a key challenge. The property on which the development

activities are proposed, is a working farm located in a broader agricultural landscape. The location of the proposed new development is on old agricultural fields, does not coincide with archaeological and cultural heritage resources and given the development location, it is unlikely that any palaeontological resources will be impacted. There are existing water use rights for the property and sufficient water is available to support the proposed development. The development activity is thus in line with the PSDF in that it will allow feasible expansion of agriculture within the Western Cape and facilitate job creation within this sector.

Furthermore, the PSDF promotes sustainable development which requires that economic, social, and environmental aspects relating to a development proposal are considered. The development will play an important role in increasing the agricultural potential of the property and the long-term economic viability of the existing farming operation – which will help to sustain existing and future employment opportunities. Through implementation of suitable mitigation and management measures, the establishment and operation of the proposed development will also not negatively impact the natural environment or surrounding land users. As such, all three pillars of sustainability can be promoted within the development proposal.

4.2	The Integrated Development Plan of the local municipality.

The Theewaterskloof municipality IDP encourages local economic development with a focus on creating employment opportunities for residents. Agricultural development is one of the 4 strategic pillars that has been outlined to support local economic development. The objective for agriculture within the region is to improve agricultural diversity, including participants and offerings. The IDP recognises that employment within the agricultural sector is largely seasonal and recently, the sector has been affected by drought (& at a macro level, climate change). The main commodities in the region include fruit (apples, pears & grapes), vegetables and grains. The proposed development site is a working farm located within an agriculturally dominated landscape. The location of the property is thus suitable for the expansion of agricultural activities that will support local economic development and generate employment opportunities within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the proposed agricultural activities (poultry production) are not currently a main commodity in the region and will assist in diversification of the local agricultural sector. The proposed agricultural development will also run year-round and provide more permanent job opportunities compared to the traditional forms of agriculture in the region. Lastly, poultry rearing facilities produce a valuable byproduct in the form of nutrient rich manure which can be used in the existing vegetable and grain farming on the property thereby facilitating sustainable, circular agricultural practices. The proposed activities are thus well aligned with the IDP of the local municipality.

4.3.	The Spatial Development Framework of the local municipality.

The Theewaterskloof SDF states that the agricultural sector is the largest source of employment in the Theewaterskloof municipality, and this sector has traditionally been the basis of economic development within the region. Objectives of the SDF therefore include the following as is relevant to the proposed development:

- protect agriculture as the primary land use in the rural landscape,
- protect, maintain, and enhance viable agricultural units and encourage sustainable farming practices,
- improve the economic viability of farms through the intensification and diversification of agricultural production and improve enterprise opportunities within the food system.

From the SDF it is clear that agricultural development is encouraged. However, it is also clear that the development should be both economically viable and environmentally sustainable. The development site is

already a working farm and the addition of poultry rearing facilities on non-productive land within the farm will maintain, enhance, and diversify, sustainable onsite agricultural activities. The proposed development thus aligns well with the objectives outlined in the Theewaterskloof SDF.

4.4.	The Environmental Management Framework applicable to the area.

While no specific EMF has been outlined for the region, several strategic documents for the area include environmental management aspects. The Theewaterskloof IDP outlines sustainable environmental management as an important planning objective. The proposed development allows for intensification of agricultural practices on non-productive land within an existing farm and thus minimises the transformation of additional land, whilst protecting and promoting food production.

The Theewaterskloof IDP also highlights the importance of alien invasive vegetation clearing. The owner of the property contributes substantially to clearing efforts and has carried out numerous alien vegetation clearing operations within the mountainous terrain to the west of the development site. Systematic clearing from upper catchment areas is essential to ensure sustainable removal of alien invasive vegetation.

The Environmental Management Policy for the Overberg District Municipality also highlights the importance of Alien Invasive Species Monitoring, Control and Eradication to which the property owner is already contributing. This policy also highlights the importance of addressing waste management challenges in the district. Given the onsite presence of a registered composting facility that can accept and process a portion of the waste generated by the proposed development in an environmentally sustainable manner, no additional pressure will be placed on the public waste management facilities.

5.	Explain how comments from the relevant authorities and/or specialist(s) with respect to biodiversity have influenced the proposed development.

Comments from relevant authorities have been obtained and integrated accordingly. Please refer to the Comments and Response Report (Appendix F2).

A heritage screener was conducted for the proposed development by CTS Heritage (refer Appendix G1). The assessment determined that the proposed development is unlikely to negatively impact significant heritage resources, provided that a chance fossil finds procedure is implemented. In accordance with this specialist recommendation, a chance fossil finds procedure has been included in the CEMPr for the proposed development.

An Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment was undertaken to clarify potential aquatic constraints associated with the proposed development site (refer Appendix G2). This assessment identified and delineated a non-perennial drainage line approximately 300m northwest of the proposed development site and a channelled valley bottom wetland approximately 80m to the southeast of the site. The delineated watercourses are located more than 32m from the proposed development site and the development site itself was found to be of 'low' sensitivity for aquatic biodiversity. However, as the delineated wetland falls within the 500-metre regulated zone in terms of the National Water Act, the Risk Assessment Matrix prescribed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) was applied to determine the level of risk posed by the development. The results confirmed that the proposed development poses a low risk to the identified watercourse, provided that the recommended mitigation measures as outlined in the report are effectively implemented. These mitigation measures have been included within the EMPr (Appendix H1 and H2).

Based on comments received during the pre-application public participation phase, a visual statement was prepared for the proposed development. The assessment found that the proposed chicken pen development

would have a negligible visual impact on the surrounding landscape. This was attributed to the distance of nearby homesteads, the natural screening effect of the undulating topography, and the prevalence of existing agricultural infrastructure in the area. It was noted that although the site may be visible to occasional road users traveling directly past, such views would be consistent with the existing rural context, where similar farm structures are already present. Mitigation measures, including tree screening, the use of earth-tone colours, and charcoal roofing, were identified as further reducing visual prominence. In addition, views from district gravel roads were expected to be distant and brief, with minimal influence on receptors due to travel speed and distance. Overall, the study found the development to be compatible with the agricultural character of the area, with low visual exposure, high absorption capacity, and only marginal visibility. The recommended mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

Based on the comments received during the pre-application public participation a faunal screening was also undertaken for the proposed development. The specialist study found that the project area consists of completely disturbed natural habitat, and it is considered from a faunal perspective as very low sensitivity. The flagged grasshopper SCC for the project site has a wide distributional range occurring across several different vegetation types; the heavily disturbed and completely transformed vegetation at the project site excludes this grasshopper SCC from occurring there. Considering the small size of the project area, the relatively large distance of the project area to the three breeding sites (> 1 km to the closest site, and almost 2 km to the furthest site), together with the likely high intensity of agricultural activities at the breeding site and in the immediate agricultural fields adjacent to the breeding sites during the summer months, it seems unlikely that the construction phase of the proposed project would impact the Blue Crane breeding. The Blue Crane breeding areas are more likely to be directly affected by practices on the farm itself where they breed. Overall, the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. It is the specialists' opinion that the proposed development will have an overall low significance on the insect and Blue Crane.

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

The 2023 WCBSP map aims to guide sustainable development by providing a synthesis of biodiversity information to decision-makers. No CBAs or ESAs were identified to coincide with the proposed development site. A terrestrial CBA is indicated to the southwest of the proposed development site. This area water confirmed to coincide with a stock watering dam.

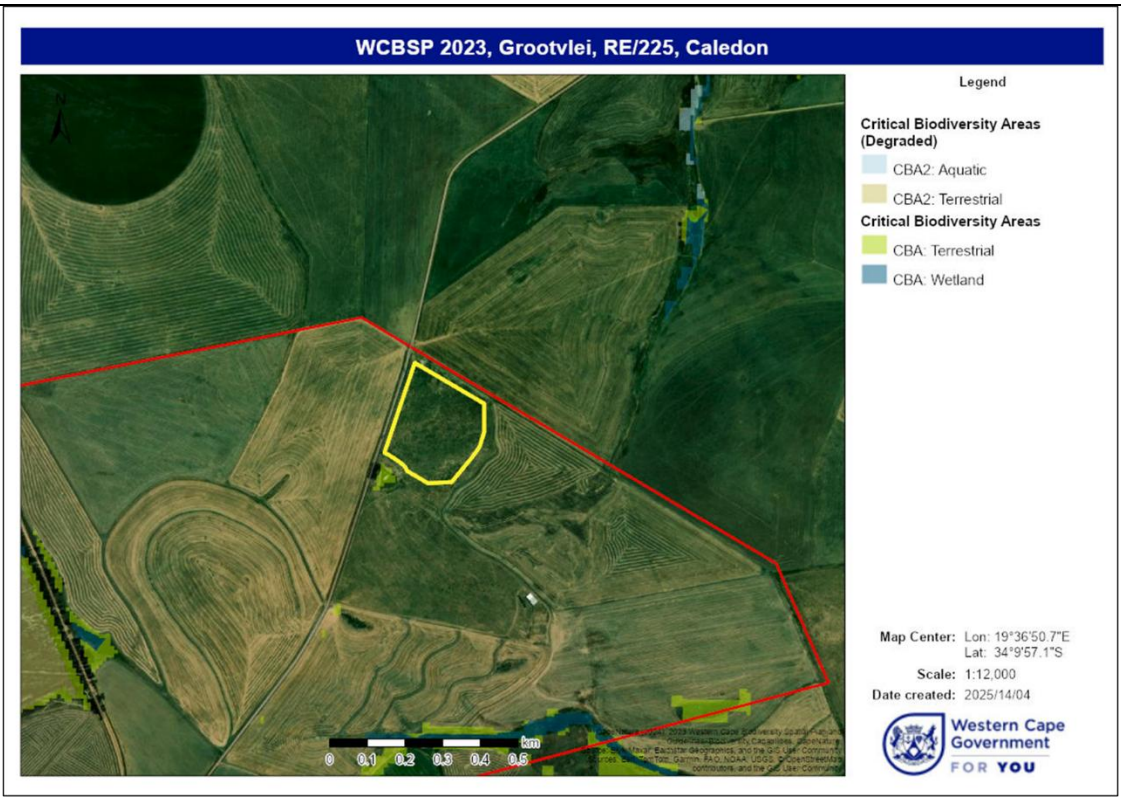


Figure 15: CBAs and ESA's in the vicinity of the proposed development

7.	Explain how the proposed development is in line with the intention/purpose of the relevant zones as defined in the ICMA.
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.
No updates to the screening report submitted together with the application form.	
9.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise vacant land available within an urban area.
Not Applicable - Located outside the urban area	
10.	Explain how the proposed development will optimise the use of existing resources and infrastructure.
The proposed development will utilize established access roads, eliminating the need for new road construction. It is planned on previously disturbed, unproductive agricultural land, repurposing an area no longer viable for high-yield farming. This approach avoids impacting undisturbed ecosystems and makes efficient use of degraded land. Strategically located near essential service infrastructure, including water, electricity, and waste management, the development can integrate into existing networks, reducing the need for extensive new installations. The proposed development will also operate within existing registered water allocations, utilizing water made available through land use changes onsite (please refer to Appendix E16).	
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).
Electricity – Electricity supply to the proposed development will be provided either through an upgrade of the existing Eskom supply or via supplementary rooftop solar installed on existing buildings. The development requires approximately 60 kVA of additional supply. Eskom is the current Network Service Provider, and the existing 200 kVA transformer confirms that an increase from the existing 150 kVA supply to 200 kVA can be accommodated, with only administrative steps remaining (refer Appendix E16). This would provide sufficient	

additional capacity for the proposed development. Alternatively, the applicant may install rooftop solar panels on existing infrastructure, providing approximately 0.054 MW of additional capacity. This installation would not trigger any NEMA-listed activities and can be implemented immediately if required. Regardless of the electricity supply option ultimately used, new underground step-up/step-down cable with a transmission capacity of 3,3 kV will be installed to the proposed development site. Given this transmission capacity, the supply line does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. In all cases, the underground electrical line will follow the same route along the periphery of existing agricultural fields and avoid environmental sensitivities, with no biophysical impacts anticipated.

Water – The verified registered water use is sufficient for the proposed development activities (Refer Appendix E16). The facility will connect to an existing 200 mm PVC pipeline via a 125 mm PVC branch. The new section of the supply line will extend approximately 1,300 m. The peak throughput capacity of the water pipeline will be 1,16l/s. Given that the water supply pipeline has an internal diameter of less than 0,36m and a peak throughput of less than 120l/s, the proposed expansion of the water pipeline does not constitute a NEMA listed activity in its own right, it is associated infrastructure. The water pipeline is proposed adjacent to Minor Road 4123, along the periphery of existing agricultural fields, and it will be placed underground. The proposed route does not intersect any environmental sensitivities. As such there is no anticipated biophysical impacts associated with the proposed expansion of the water pipeline A services plan indicating the route of the proposed electrical supply line and its start, middle and end coordinates is included as Appendix B3 to the BAR.

Stormwater Management – A stormwater collection channel will be constructed around the perimeter of the developed chicken houses. Collected stormwater will be directed to a designated vegetated ingress area, where natural settling and infiltration can occur. Cleaning using water will only occur after thorough dry sweeping to remove all manure, and high-pressure hoses using minimal water will be used. As a result, notable wash-water runoff is not expected, and the stormwater controls function mainly as an additional precautionary pollution-prevention measure.

Water treatment - A water treatment facility with a footprint of approximately 400 m² and capacity of approximately 100 000l will be developed for the purification of incoming fresh water. The treatment process will include flocculation and antibacterial steps to ensure water quality suitable for poultry rearing.

Sewage – Two 4000l conservancy tanks with a footprint of approximately 4m² each will be installed to manage sewage effluent as indicated on the SDP (refer Appendix B1 and Figure 2 below). The conservancy tank system will be serviced by TWK Municipality, with effluent disposed of at a registered facility. Please refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation of service provision.

Wastewater Management – No wastewater treatment plant is proposed. Instead:

- *Domestic wastewater*: Managed via the conservancy tank system described above.
- *Wash water*: Pens will be dry-swept to remove litter and solids before being cleaned with high-pressure hoses. Wash water use will be strictly limited to allow residual moisture to evaporate naturally.

Mortality – Non-infectious mortalities will be disposed of via the registered onsite composting facility, which has sufficient capacity for the anticipated volumes. Infectious mortalities will be managed under the strict guidance of the State Veterinarian through immediate quarantine, safe containment and disposal. Should it be required Nunn 2 Waste will be able to accept and suitably dispose of hazardous waste from the facility

(refer to Appendix E16 for confirmation). The facility operates under stringent biosecurity protocols, audited by the EFRC, Woolworths, and State Veterinarians.

Manure - Approximately 450 m³ of manure will be generated every two months. Manure will be partly directed to the registered onsite composting facility, while the remainder will be used as an agricultural composting additive. This practice is well established both onsite and in the surrounding farming area. Manure not used onsite will be collected by pre-identified buyers at the end of each production cycle. Due to strong regional demand, the applicant has already secured committed buyers for the expected manure volumes.

Domestic waste – Biodegradable materials will be composted within the onsite composting facility, plastic containers will be recycled, and the remainder of the waste will be buried in a demarcated camped off area. Given the size of the area (<50m2), the estimated volume of waste to be disposed of (<500kg per month) and the location of the disposal site, this activity does not trigger the NEMA or NEM:WA.

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.

Refer Appendix K.

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.

No Linear NEMA Listed Activities are being applied for.

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

All PPP as indicated in the Application Form will be complied with. All PPP will be attached to the BAR as Appendix F. The first pre-application PPP was undertaken from 16 April 2025 – 21 May 2025 and the first in-process PPP was undertaken from 21 October 2025 - 19 November 2025. A final 30-days of PPP was undertaken from 2 December 2025 – 23 January 2026. In accordance with DEADP's festive-period requirements, the period from 15 December 2025 to 5 January 2026 was excluded and did not count toward the statutory commenting period. Therefore, the overall final commenting timeframe of 30 days was split over the festive season.

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

The following State departments and organs of State are included in the PPP:

- DEA&DP,
- BOCMA,
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture,
- Overberg District Municipality,
- Theewaterskloof Local Municipality,
- CapeNature,
- Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works,
- DEADP Directorate: Waste Management
- DEADP Directorate: Pollution and Chemical Management
- DEADP Directorate: Air Quality
- Provincial Dept Agriculture: Veterinary Services
- Heritage Western Cape

- Councillor for local ward

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

Not Applicable

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

The first pre-application PPP was undertaken from 16 April 2025 – 21 May 2025 and the in process PPP was undertaken from 21 October 2025 – 19 November 2025. A final round of PPP was undertaken from 2 December 2025 to 23 January 2026. The following Organs of State were consulted during all three PPP opportunities but did not provide comment:

- Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Theewaterskloof Local Municipality
- DEADP Directorate: Waste Management
- Provincial Dept Agriculture: Veterinary Services
- Councillor for local ward

During the pre-application PPP DEADP requested that the directorate air quality management be consulted for comment. This directorate has been consulted and has provided comments.

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.

The first pre-application PPP was run from 16 April 2025 – 21 May 2025 and the in-process PPP was run from 21 October 2025 – 19 November 2025. A final PPP was run from 2 December 2025 – 23 January 2026. Please refer to Appendix F2 for the Comments and Response Report.

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 X**
1.2.	Provide the name and or company who conducted the specialist study.		
1.3.	Indicate above which aquifer your proposed development will be located and explain how this has influenced your proposed development.		
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.		

2. Surface water

2.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	**YES X**	NO
2.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
Olivia Brunings (PHS Consulting) & Kimberly Perry (Delta Ecology)			
2.3.	Explain how the presence of watercourse(s) and/or wetlands on the property(ies) has influenced your proposed development.		

The site under evaluation is located within the Breede-Olifants Water Management Area (DWS, 2023), quaternary catchment H60G. Desktop resources indicated the presence of watercourses within the vicinity of the proposed development site (Figure 16). As a result, an Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment (refer Appendix E2) were undertaken to determine any aquatic biodiversity constraints relevant to the proposed development. The aquatic assessment identified two watercourses within 500 m of the site: a non-perennial drainage line located approximately 300 m northwest, and a channelled valley bottom (CVB) wetland approximately 80 m southeast of the site (Figure 17).

Although the proposed development footprint is entirely terrestrial and does not intersect any delineated aquatic features, the proximity of these watercourses necessitated a precautionary approach to site planning and layout. Of particular importance is the CVB wetland, which, despite its degraded condition, retains some hydrological functionality. This feature falls within the 500 m regulated area defined under the National Water Act and was therefore assessed in detail. To minimise potential environmental impacts, the development footprint was deliberately positioned away from this wetland, which has been designated as a no-go area.

In accordance with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) requirements, the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) was applied. The assessment concluded that, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures—including the establishment of no-go areas, erosion control, effective stormwater management, and strict waste management protocols—the proposed development falls within the Low-Risk category. This classification permits a General Authorisation under the National Water Act.

Accordingly, the proposed poultry rearing facility may proceed from an aquatic biodiversity perspective, provided all recommended mitigation and management measures are fully implemented and a Water Use Authorisation is obtained. These mitigation measures, as outlined in the Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and RAM, have been incorporated into the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the project and will be implemented in full.

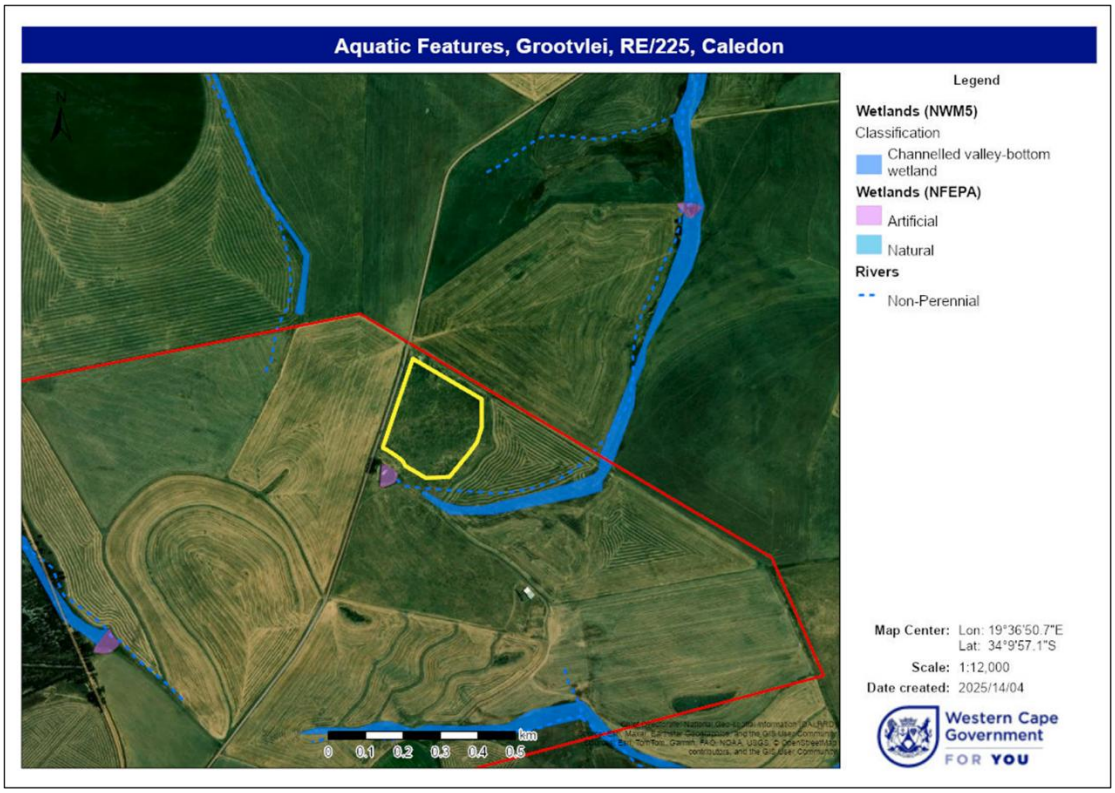


Figure 16: Desktop indicated watercourses within RE/225 Grootvlei, Caledon. The property boundaries are indicated in red while the proposed development site is indicated in yellow.

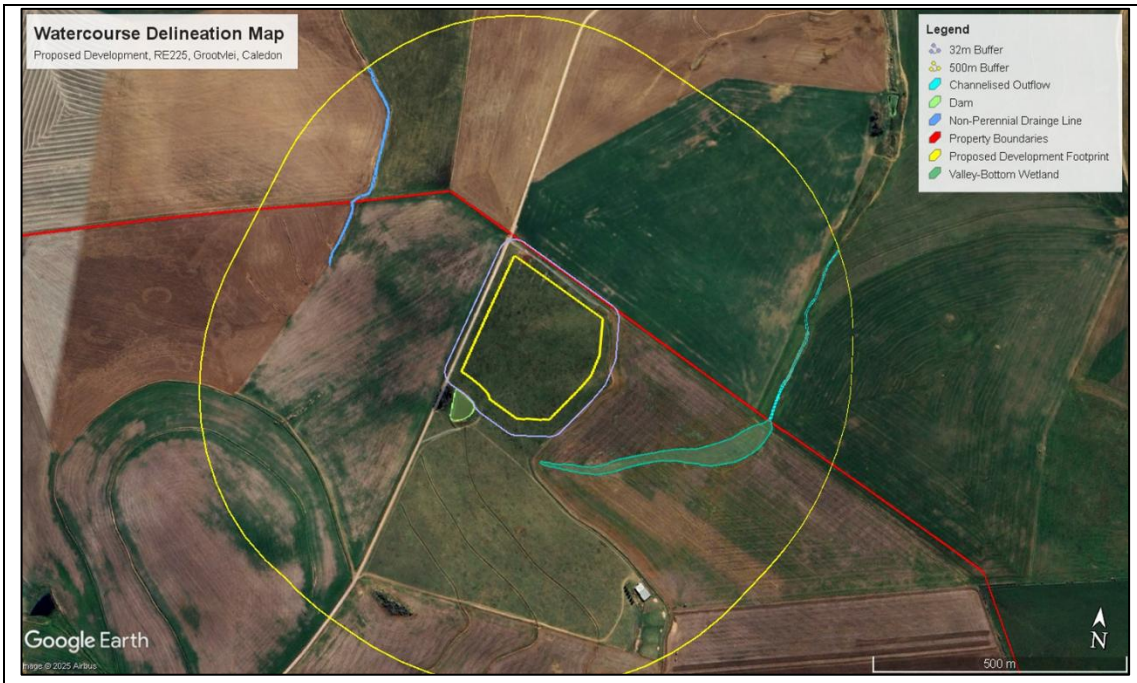


Figure 17: Watercourse Delineation Map: Proposed development on RE/225, Grootvlei Caledon

3. Coastal Environment

3.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	YES	**NO X**
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 X**	NO
4.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist studies.		
A faunal screening was undertaken by Jonathan Colville (PhD) (Terrestrial Ecologist & Faunal Surveys) and Callan Cohen (PhD) (Birding Africa)			
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 following conservation planning and biodiversity informants were used to guide the proposed development location and layout:

- Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017
- Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017 The Ecosystem Threat Status
- The Vegetation Map of South Africa (Vegmap 2018)
- The revised national list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection. Government Gazette No. 2747 (2022)
- Wetland Freshwater Priority Areas (FEPAs) database (2011)
- The river line vector data of the 1:50,000 topo maps for the Western Cape (CD:NGI)
- National web based environmental screening tool (2020).

The property is a working farm that has been under cultivation since before 1983, as such limited areas of biodiversity importance remain onsite.

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 2023 WCBSP does not identify any CBAs or ESAs within the proposed development site (Figure 15). A terrestrial CBA is indicated to the southwest of the proposed development site. This area water confirmed to coincide with a stock watering dam.	
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.
No anticipated impacts on site specific features.	
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 – Not located within a protected area.	
4.7.	Explain how the presence of fauna on and adjacent to the proposed development has influenced your proposed development.
The faunal specialist study undertaken for the proposed development found that the project area consists of completely disturbed natural habitat, and it is considered from a faunal perspective as very low sensitivity. The flagged grasshopper SCC for the project site has a wide distributional range occurring across several different vegetation types; the heavily disturbed and completely transformed vegetation at the project site excludes this grasshopper SCC from occurring there. Considering the small size of the project area, the relatively large distance of the project area to the three breeding sites (> 1 km to the closest site, and almost 2 km to the furthest site), together with the likely high intensity of agricultural activities at the breeding site and in the immediate agricultural fields adjacent to the breeding sites during the summer months, it seems unlikely that the construction phase of the proposed project would impact the Blue Crane breeding. The Blue Crane breeding areas are more likely to be directly affected by practices on the farm itself where they breed. Overall, the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. It is the specialists' opinion that the proposed development will have an overall low significance on the insect and Blue Crane.	

5. Geographical Aspects

Explain whether any geographical aspects will be affected and how has this influenced the proposed activity or development.
None.

6. Heritage Resources

6.1.	Was a specialist study conducted?	**YES X**	NO
6.2.	Provide the name and/or company who conducted the specialist study.		
CTS Heritage			
6.3.	Explain how areas that contain sensitive heritage resources have influenced the proposed development.		
	A Specialist Heritage screener was completed for input at an early stage (Appendix G1). The screener confirmed that it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on heritage resources, provided that the recommended Fossil Finds Procedure is implemented. A NID has been submitted to HWC. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required (Appendix E1).		

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.
None.

8. Socio/Economic Aspects

8.1.	Describe the existing social and economic characteristics of the community in the vicinity of the proposed site.
	The information in this section was sourced from the Theewaterskloof Municipality's IDP 2022-2027. The farm is situated within the Theewaterskloof Local Municipal region. The Theewaterskloof Local Municipality includes the towns of Botriver, Caledon/Myddleton, Genadendal, Grabouw, Greyton, Riviersonderend, Villiersdorp and Tesselaarsdal. The Theewaterskloof Municipality can be categorised as a rural area with open spaces and farming activities. The development site is located approximately 15km northeast of Caledon and approximately 13km south of Greyton within an agriculturally dominated landscape. The farm is surrounded by agricultural functions and the associated socio-economic environment. The farming community in the area is a mix of landowners, management and labour. <u>Demographic Profile:</u> The Theewaterskloof Municipality is the most populus in the Overberg District with approximately 42% of the total district population residing in the Theewaterskloof municipal area. The population totalled approximately 124 050 persons in 2022 and is estimated to increase by 1800 residents per annum. This equates to an estimated average annual growth rate of at least 1,5%. It is estimate that the proportion of young working age people (20-34) will decrease over time while the dependency ratio is predicted to increase over time which will place increased pressure on social systems and basic service delivery. <u>Education:</u> In the Theewaterskloof municipal area, the average learner-teacher ratio for 2021 was estimated at 30.9:1 which is lower than the recommended upper limits of 35:1-40:1, enabling the possibility of higher quality learning opportunities and more individualized teaching. This ratio is however the highest in the Overberg District. Theewaterskloof matric pass rate is variable, declining from 71,2% in 2019 to 67,8% in 2020 and increasing to 74,6% in 2021. <u>Poverty:</u> In 2021, 53,33% of Theewaterskloof's population fell below the Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL). This figure improved slightly from the 54,74% and 54,91% recorded for the periods 2015 and 2018, respectively. <u>Employment:</u> Theewaterskloof had an unemployment rate of 8,8% in 2018, which was lower that the district average of 10,1%. The unemployment rate is however on an increasing trajectory with an estimate unemployment rate of 13,9% in 2021. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries contributed the most to employment opportunities in this municipal region (28,3%), however the proportion has declined from 38,9% in 2008. <u>Local Economy:</u> The primary economic sectors within the Theewaterskloof Municipality are agriculture, tourism, agricultural product processing, and industries. Caledon, which is the nearest, easily accessible town to the development site, is a significant agricultural service centre. Caledon is the centre of a broader agricultural region which produces barley, wheat, and wool. Overberg-Agri, which provides services and support to the farming sector, has its head office located in Caledon. It is also home to the Anheuser Busch InBev world's largest brewer which is the only malt producer for the South African lager beer industry and is the largest in the southern hemisphere.
8.2.	Explain the socio-economic value/contribution of the proposed development.
The property and proposed development activities is well positioned to contribute meaningfully to the agricultural sector of the economy given its ideal location and the fact that it has been under cultivation for several decades. The proposed development will have knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon, facilitate the provision of more affordable protein to local markets, have direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and allow for skills transfers to new employees.	

8.3.	Explain what social initiatives will be implemented by applicant to address the needs of the community and to uplift the area.
n/a	
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 land use of the property and surrounding area is primarily agricultural in nature. The proposed development structures will be visually similar to existing structures within the landscape. As concluded by the visual statement, the proposed development is unlikely to be visually intrusive within the agricultural landscape.

Noise from inside the units will be largely contained as the units are enclosed. Noise from agricultural activities on site is deemed acceptable in the current setting. The proposed land use is agricultural and is compatible with the surrounding rural/ agricultural area

All potential impacts on people's health and wellbeing are anticipated to be low to negligible due to the scale and nature of the development. Please refer to Appendix J for a detailed Impact and Risk Assessment.

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 alternative is to be located on the RE of Farm 225, Grootvlei, Caledon. The prefer property is approximately 317ha in extent and is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Caledon and approximately 3 kilometres north of the N2 with access via a dirt road (Figure 1). The proposed development area is located in the northeast portion of the property and is approximately 5,5ha in extent (Figure 2)

The following development is proposed:

1) Ten new chicken houses with free range grazing between houses
2) Staff housing and ablution facilities with a conservancy tank system
3) An office
4) A loading bay
5) A shavings shed
6) A water treatment facility
7) A generator room
8) Internal access routes <8m wide
9) A biosecurity access control point
10) Additional associated infrastructure (e.g. stormwater management, water supply, energy solutions etc.)

The new chicken houses will accommodate a maximum of 16 500 chickens per house and each house will be 1000 m^2 in extent with free range pasture located at the side of each house. The chicken pens will be fenced off from the surrounding area for biosecurity purposes. The location and layout of the preferred alternative has been developed based on existing access routes, service availability, prevailing wind directions, environmental sensitivities and biosecurity requirements and has attempted to minimize environmental impacts as much as possible (Figure 3).

Provide a description of any other property and site alternatives investigated.

No alternative properties were investigated, as the landowners intend to establish the chicken rearing operation on their existing property. However, alternative locations within the property were considered during the planning and design phases. The current site was chosen for the following key reasons:

- The site is on old, unproductive agricultural land that has been previously disturbed,

- The surrounding areas are also degraded due to agricultural activities, no natural vegetation is present within the site,
- The site is easily accessible with existing access roads in place,
- The site is suitably located in relation to existing onsite facilities (i.e., close enough for ease of management yet sufficiently separated from existing poultry facilities for biosecurity purposes),
- The orientation of the site in relation to prevailing wind directions optimises natural ventilation and airflow,
- The site is located within a suitable proximity to service provision.

The location of the proposed development is suitable from an environmental, social, economic, and biosecurity perspective. Consideration has also been given to the layout of the development to ensure that the space is used efficiently with minimal vegetation disturbance and that all development activities take place a suitable distance away from any sensitive environmental features.

Provide a motivation for the preferred property and site alternative including the outcome of the site selectin matrix.

While alternative site locations within the property were investigated during the planning and design stage, no feasible site alternative was identified. As such no property or site alternative were considered in this application. The proposed development site can effectively accommodate the proposed development. The proposed development is in line with the existing land use rights of the property. The site is easily accessible and existing access roads are present.

The location of the proposed development is suitable from an environmental, social, economic, and biosecurity perspective. Consideration has also been given to the layout of the development to ensure that the space is used efficiently with minimal vegetation disturbance and that all development activities take place a suitable distance away from any sensitive environmental features.

Provide a full description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative within the site.

There is no property alternative and no site alternative currently under assessment. The landowner intends to establish the chicken rearing operation on their existing property. The preferred development site within the property was identified by means of iterative consultation between the landowners and the EAP taking the following factors into account:

- Current land use
- Productivity levels of agricultural areas onsite
- Environmentally sensitive features
- Biosecurity
- Accessibility
- Service availability
- Prevailing wind directions
- Legislated buffers and set-back lines

Once a suitable development site within the property was identified, a concept SDP was outlined taking all the applicants' requirements as well as environmental sensitivities and necessary mitigation measures into account.

Provide a detailed motivation if no property and site alternatives were considered.

The landowners intend to establish the chicken rearing operation on their existing property. The proposed development is in line with the existing land use rights. The development of a poultry rearing facility on the proposed site diversifies and complements the existing agricultural activities undertaken within the property.

List the positive and negative impacts that the property and site alternatives will have on the environment.

<u>Positive Impacts:</u>

- Productive use of currently unproductive agricultural land
- Knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon
- Provision of more affordable protein to local markets
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and skills transfer to new employees.

Negative Impacts:

- Increase in hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Generation of construction and operational waste.
- Dust emissions from construction and operational activities.
- Noise from both construction and operational activities.
- Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.
- Odour-related impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

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 entails the development of a new poultry rearing facility on the RE of Farm 225, Grootvlei, Caledon. The facility will include 10 new chicken houses, staff housing and ablution facilities, an office, a loading bay, a shaving shed, a water treatment facility, a generator room, internal access roads (<8m) and a biosecurity access gate.

Provide a description of any other activity alternatives investigated.

There are no activity alternatives. The development of a poultry rearing facility on the proposed site diversifies and complements the existing agricultural activities undertaken within the property.

Provide a motivation for the preferred activity alternative.

The development of a poultry rearing facility on the proposed site diversifies and complements the existing agricultural activates undertaken within the property and is in line with the existing land use rights. The proposed development site has been cultivating since before 1983 yet is currently unproductive. The proposed development will allow for a productive agricultural use to replace the current unproductive agricultural use of the proposed development footprint.

Provide a detailed motivation if no activity alternatives exist.

The development of a poultry rearing facility on the proposed site diversifies and complements the existing agricultural activates undertaken within the property and is in line with the existing land use rights. The proposed development site has been cultivating since before 1983 yet is currently unproductive. The proposed development will allow for a productive agricultural use to replace the current unproductive agricultural use of the proposed development footprint.

List the positive and negative impacts that the activity alternatives will have on the environment.

Positive Impacts:

- Productive use of currently unproductive agricultural land
- Knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon
- Provision of more affordable protein to local markets
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and skills transfer to new employees.

Negative Impacts:

- Increase in hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Generation of construction and operational waste.
- Dust emissions from construction and operational activities.
- Noise from both construction and operational activities.
- Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.

- Odour-related impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

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 (Conceptual) Spatial Development Plan can be seen in Figure 3 & Appendix B1. The preferred layout alternative comprises 10 single sized chicken houses (approximately 1000 m²) and associated infrastructure (staff housing and ablution facilities, an office, a loading bay, a shaving shed, a water treatment facility, a generator room, internal access roads (<8m) and a biosecurity access gate) located in the northeast of the property.

Provide a description of any other design or layout alternatives investigated.

During the design and planning phase of the poultry rearing facility, several design and layout alternatives were investigated to determine the most economically, practically, and environmentally feasible configuration for the proposed development. Among these alternatives, the primary options considered involved the development of either five new double-sized chicken houses or ten new single-sized chicken houses. From an operational perspective, the development of ten single-sized units was deemed more effective and was carried forward into the layout planning.

In addition to the number and size of the chicken houses, various orientation options were investigated to optimize ventilation, manage solar radiation, and create natural barriers. These considerations contributed to the development of two reasonable and feasible layout alternatives:

1. Proposed Development Layout 1
2. Proposed Development Layout 2 (Preferred)

Figure 18: Proposed Development Layout 1

Figure 19: Proposed Development Layout 2 (preferred)

Both development alternatives include the same development components (10 single sized chicken houses, staff housing and ablution facilities, an office, a loading bay, a shaving shed, a water treatment facility, a generator room, internal access roads (<8m) and a biosecurity access gate). The key distinction between the two alternatives lies in the orientation and spacing of the chicken houses, which in turn affects the size of the overall development footprint. Layout Alternative 1 features a more spread-out configuration, resulting in a larger development footprint of approximately 6,2 hectares. Layout Alternative 2, the preferred option, reflects a more compact and space-efficient design with a reduced footprint of approximately 5,5 hectares.

Layout Alternative 2 was developed through iterative consultation between the applicant and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), with the goal of refining the initial layout to better account for environmental sensitivities and operational requirements. This refined layout places the development further back from property boundaries, internal access roads, and the delineated channelled valley bottom wetland located to the southeast of the site.

The following points informed the preferred layout:

1. Setback from Sensitive Environmental Features: A channelled valley bottom wetland was delineated to the southeast of the proposed development site. The layout was adjusted to ensure that the development remains as far as reasonably possible from this freshwater feature, in line with environmental best practice.
2. Setback from roads and property boundaries: The preferred development site has been positioned in accordance with legislative requirements, ensuring appropriate setbacks from both roads and property boundaries.
3. Biosecurity and Grazing Requirements: Adequate spacing between chicken houses was maintained to meet biosecurity standards and grazing requirements, without compromising the compact nature of the design.

Provide a motivation for the preferred design or layout alternative.

Layout Alternative 2 was selected as the preferred option because it offers a more compact and environmentally responsible design. It reduces the development footprint, maintains greater distance from environmentally sensitive features and complies with regulatory buffer requirements. The orientation of the chicken houses optimises natural ventilation and odour control, while the layout maintains necessary spacing for biosecurity and grazing. The design utilizes existing access roads, and it is located within suitable proximity to existing service provision for water and electricity.

Provide a detailed motivation if no design or layout alternatives exist.

N/A

List the positive and negative impacts that the design alternatives will have on the environment.

Positive:

- Productive use of currently unproductive agricultural land
- Knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon
- Provision of more affordable protein to local markets
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and skills transfer to new employees.

Negative Impacts:

- Increase in hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Generation of construction and operational waste.
- Dust emissions from construction and operational activities.
- Noise from both construction and operational activities.
- Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.
- Odour-related impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

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:

High pressure hoses will be used for cleaning the chicken houses after every 2-month cycle. This will ensure minimal water usage. The applicant is also able to supplement the power supply with solar, should this be required.

Provide a description of any other technology alternatives investigated.

The technology used within the poultry rearing facilities will continue to be upgraded as technology improves to ensure all resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Provide a motivation for the preferred technology alternative.

The technology used within the poultry rearing facilities will continue to be upgraded as technology improves to ensure all resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.

The technology used within the poultry rearing facilities will continue to be upgraded as technology improves to ensure all resources are used as efficiently as possible.

List the positive and negative impacts that the technology alternatives will have on the environment.

Positive:

- Minimal water usage
- Reduced potential for resource contamination

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 entails the operation of 10 chicken houses each approximately 1000 m^2 in size with free range grazing between the hoses. Each chicken pen will be able to house a maximum of 16 500 birds at any given time. Chicken rearing will take place in 2-month cycles whereafter the chickens will be removed from the site, the manure taken to the registered onsite composting facility or relevant use location and the chicken pens cleaned using high pressure hoses.

Provide a description of any other operational alternatives investigated.

There are no operational alternatives. The development site is a working farm. The proposed development will diversify the existing onsite agricultural activities and improve self-sufficiency of the existing farming operation as the chicken manure is used for composting and to fertilise grain and vegetable fields. The following aspects will however be incorporated into the operation of the poultry rearing facilities to avoid and mitigate potential negative impacts:

- Water use onsite will be minimized wherever possible, including irrigation practices.
- Chicken pens will be dry-swept after each production cycle, ensuring that all manure, litter, and feed are removed before high-pressure washing.
- High-pressure washing will only be permitted once dry matter has been cleared, and the use of wash water inside units must be limited such that residual moisture can evaporate naturally.
- All sweepings will be contained and disposed of at the onsite composting facility or another approved reuse location.
- Onsite recycling and waste separation will be maximised, and no waste will be burnt onsite.
- Workers will be educated regarding the onsite recycling and waste minimisation measures.
- During production, any manure on the external apron will be swept back into the houses daily before the pop-holes are closed to avoid external exposure or contamination.
- Based on the existing operations onsite, manure accumulation on the outdoor range will be rare. If it is observed it will be raked up and removed to the designated onsite comporting facility.
- At the end of each cycle, manure will be immediately be removed from the poultry houses and directed to one of the following:
    - The onsite registered composting facility,
    - A pre-determined onsite agricultural use location, or
    - Collection by neighbouring farmers or local buyers, as per existing agreements.
- If manure is disposed of, it must be via a licensed waste disposal facility.
- Manure will be covered during transport to minimise odour, dust, and potential pollution.
- No composting or storage of manure will occur within the development footprint; all composting will take place at the registered facility.
- A strict cleaning schedule will be maintained to ensure ongoing cleanliness and to prevent the accumulation of organic waste

- Infected mortalities arising from the onsite poultry rearing facilities will be managed and disposed of under strict guidance of the state veterinarian. Safe disposal certificates for hazardous waste removed from the facility will be kept on record for a minimum period of 5 years.
- Suitable vegetation will be established within any bare areas onsite.

Provide a motivation for the preferred operational alternative.

The preferred operational alternative will include the implementation of all mitigation measures as outlined in the CEMPr and OEMPR (Appendix H1 and Appendix H2) to ensure potential environmental impacts are avoided.

Provide a detailed motivation if no alternatives exist.

There are no operational alternatives. The development site is a working farm. The proposed development will diversify the existing onsite agricultural activities and improve self-sufficiency of the existing farming operation as the chicken manure is used for composting and to fertilise grain and vegetable fields.

List the positive and negative impacts that the operational alternatives will have on the environment.

Positive:

- Productive use of currently unproductive agricultural land
- Knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon
- Provision of more affordable protein to local markets
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and skills transfer to new employees.

Negative Impacts:

- Increase in hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Generation of construction and operational waste.
- Dust emissions from construction and operational activities.
- Noise from both construction and operational activities.
- Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.
- Odour-related impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

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.

The 'No-Go' option, where the development of the new onsite poultry rearing facility is not pursued, was evaluated. This alternative would result in the loss of positive socio-economic opportunities in the form of income generating and employment opportunities. The company needs to expand its chicken rearing operations to meet the growing demand in the market for more affordable protein, which makes this option not viable.

1.7.	Provide and 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.

The initial proposed development layout (Layout 1) was refined to produce Layout Alternative 2 which is a more compact and environmentally responsible design. It reduces the development footprint, maintains greater distance from environmentally sensitive features and complies with regulatory buffer requirements. The orientation of the chicken houses optimises natural ventilation and odour control, while the layout maintains necessary spacing for biosecurity and grazing. The design utilizes existing access roads, and it is located within suitable proximity to existing service provision for water and electricity.

1.8.	Provide a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including the preferred location of the activity.

The preferred alternative is the development of 10 single-sized chicken houses on the Remaining Extent of Farm 225, Grootvlei, located approximately 15 km northeast of Caledon and 3 km north of the N2. The proposed development site is situated in the northeastern portion of the 317-hectare property and occupies approximately 5,5 hectares of previously disturbed, low-productivity agricultural land. This location was selected based on its alignment with key environmental, social, economic, and biosecurity considerations.

The preferred layout, identified as Layout Alternative 2, was developed through iterative planning and consultation to minimize environmental impact while maximizing operational functionality. It features a reduced development footprint compared to earlier layout options and ensures an appropriate setback from environmentally sensitive features. While the preferred footprint has been clearly defined, it is noted that minor adjustments to the detailed design and internal layout of development components may be accommodated—provided the overall scale the development remains unchanged.

The site benefits from access to existing infrastructure, including internal dirt roads and on-site services, and complies with current land use rights. The development will diversify and enhance the property's agricultural productivity without requiring transformation of previously undisturbed land.

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 "no-go" area of relevance to the proposed development refers to the delineated channelled valley bottom wetland located to the southeast of the proposed development footprint and its associated 32m buffer. No "no-go" areas were identified within the development footprint itself.

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.

IMPACT RATING METHODOLOGY

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH IMPACT IDENTIFIED WAS ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING VARIABLES (EVALUATION COMPONENTS):

SIGNIFICANCE IS THE PRODUCT OF ***PROBABILITY AND SEVERITY***. PROBABILITY DESCRIBES THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE IMPACT ACTUALLY OCCURRING, AND IS RATED AS FOLLOWS:

PROBABILITY

PROBABILITY		
IMPROBABLE	LOW POSSIBILITY OF IMPACT TO OCCUR EITHER BECAUSE OF DESIGN OR HISTORIC EXPERIENCE.	RATING = 1
PROBABLE	DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT IMPACT WILL OCCUR.	RATING = 2
HIGHLY PROBABLE	MOST LIKELY THAT IMPACT WILL OCCUR.	RATING = 3
DEFINITE	IMPACT WILL OCCUR, IN THE CASE OF ADVERSE IMPACTS REGARDLESS OF ANY PREVENTION MEASURES.	RATING = 4

THE ***SEVERITY FACTOR*** IS CALCULATED FROM THE FACTORS GIVEN TO "***INTENSITY" AND "DURATION***". INTENSITY AND DURATION FACTORS ARE AWARDED TO EACH IMPACT, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

THE ***INTENSITY FACTOR*** IS AWARDED TO EACH IMPACT ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING METHOD:

INTENSITY FACTOR		
LOW INTENSITY	NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FUNCTIONS NOT AFFECTED.	FACTOR 1
MEDIUM INTENSITY	ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED BUT NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FUNCTIONS AND PROCESSES CONTINUE.	FACTOR 2
HIGH INTENSITY	ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED - NATURAL OR MAN-MADE FUNCTIONS ARE ALTERED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WILL TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY CEASE OR BECOME DYSFUNCTIONAL.	FACTOR 3

DURATION IS ASSESSED AND A FACTOR AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

DURATION		
SHORT TERM	<1 TO 5 YEARS	FACTOR 1
MEDIUM TERM	5 TO 15 YEARS	FACTOR 2
LONG TERM	IMPACT WILL ONLY CEASE AFTER THE OPERATIONAL LIFE OF THE ACTIVITY, EITHER BECAUSE OF NATURAL PROCESS OR BY HUMAN INTERVENTION	FACTOR 3
PERMANENT	MITIGATION, EITHER BY NATURAL PROCESS OR BY HUMAN INTERVENTION, WILL NOT OCCUR IN SUCH A WAY OR IN SUCH A TIME SPAN THAT THE IMPACT CAN BE CONSIDERED TRANSIENT	FACTOR 4

THE ***SEVERITY RATING*** IS OBTAINED FROM CALCULATING A SEVERITY FACTOR AND COMPARING THE SEVERITY FACTOR TO THE RATING IN THE TABLE BELOW. FOR EXAMPLE:

THE SEVERITY FACTOR = INTENSITY FACTOR X DURATION FACTOR

= 2 X 3

= 6

A ***SEVERITY FACTOR*** OF SIX (6) EQUALS A SEVERITY RATING OF MEDIUM SEVERITY (RATING 3) AS PER TABLE BELOW:

RATING	FACTOR
LOW SEVERITY (RATING 2)	CALCULATED VALUES 2 TO 4
MEDIUM SEVERITY (RATING 3)	CALCULATED VALUES 5 TO 8
HIGH SEVERITY (RATING 4)	CALCULATED VALUES 9 TO 12
VERY HIGH SEVERITY (RATING 5)	CALCULATED VALUES 13 TO 16
SEVERITY FACTORS BELOW 3 INDICATE NO IMPACT	

A SIGNIFICANCE RATING IS CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING THE SEVERITY RATING WITH THE PROBABILITY RATING.

THE ***SIGNIFICANCE RATING*** SHOULD INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

SIGNIFICANCE RATING		
LOW SIGNIFICANCE	CALCULATED SIGNIFICANCE RATING 4 TO 6	POSITIVE IMPACT AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF LOW SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.
MEDIUM SIGNIFICANCE	CALCULATED SIGNIFICANCE RATING >6 TO 15	POSITIVE IMPACT: SHOULD WEIGH TOWARDS A DECISION TO CONTINUE NEGATIVE IMPACT: SHOULD BE MITIGATED TO A LEVEL WHERE THE IMPACT WOULD BE OF MEDIUM SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE PROJECT CAN BE APPROVED.

HIGH SIGNIFICANCE	CALCULATED SIGNIFICANCE RATING 16 AND MORE	POSITIVE IMPACT: SHOULD WEIGH TOWARDS A DECISION TO CONTINUE, SHOULD BE ENHANCED IN FINAL DESIGN. NEGATIVE IMPACT: SHOULD WEIGH TOWARDS A DECISION TO TERMINATE PROPOSAL, OR MITIGATION SHOULD BE PERFORMED TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANCE TO AT LEAST MEDIUM SIGNIFICANCE RATING.

THE IMPACTS WERE ASSESSED FOR THE PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE AND FOR THE "NO - GO" OPTION, WITH AND WITHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT: 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.

4. 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.

Please refer to Appendix J for the impact and risk assessment.

SECTION I: FINDINGS, IMPACT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1.	Provide a summary of the findings and impact management measures identified by all Specialist and an indication of how these findings and recommendations have influenced the proposed development.

Specialist Heritage Screener:

The screening report indicated a "Very High" sensitivity for Palaeontology at the proposed development site. A Specialist Heritage screener was completed for input at an early stage. The screener confirmed that it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on heritage resources, provided that the recommended Fossil Finds Procedure is implemented. A NID has been submitted to HWC. Comment received from HWC confirmed that no Heritage resources are likely to occur on site and that no further studies will be required.

Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment:

Desktop resources indicated the presence of watercourses within the vicinity of the proposed development site (Figure 16). As a result, an Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment (refer Appendix G2) were undertaken to determine any aquatic biodiversity constraints relevant to the proposed development. The aquatic assessment identified two watercourses within 500 m of the site: a non-perennial drainage line located approximately 300 m northwest, and a channelled valley bottom (CVB) wetland approximately 80 m southeast of the site (Figure 17).

Although the proposed development footprint is entirely terrestrial and does not intersect any delineated aquatic features, the proximity of these watercourses necessitated a precautionary approach to site planning and layout. Of particular importance is the CVB wetland, which, despite its degraded condition, retains some hydrological functionality. This feature falls within the 500 m regulated area defined under the National Water Act and was therefore assessed in detail. To minimise potential environmental impacts, the development footprint was deliberately positioned away from this wetland, which has been designated as a no-go area.

In accordance with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) requirements, the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) was applied. The assessment concluded that, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures—including the establishment of no-go areas, erosion control, effective stormwater management, and strict waste management protocols—the proposed development falls within the Low-Risk category. This classification permits a General Authorisation under the National Water Act.

Accordingly, the proposed poultry rearing facility may proceed from an aquatic biodiversity perspective, provided all recommended mitigation and management measures are fully implemented and a Water Use Authorisation is obtained. The following mitigation measures, as outlined in the Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and RAM, have been incorporated into the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the project and will be implemented in full.

- The CVB wetland and buffer area should be demarcated as a No-Go area for the development.
- No polluted stormwater should discharge into the CVB wetland during both the construction and operational phase of the development. Stormwater management must ensure that no runoff or treated wastewater (WW), which will impair the water quality and lead to increased sedimentation, may enter the onsite wetland.
- As far as possible, areas cleared during construction should be revegetated.
- Bunded, impervious areas must be designated by an ECO for temporary toilets, stockpiles, vehicle parking / servicing areas, and for pouring / mixing of concrete / cement, paint, and chemicals (as applicable). These areas should be more than 32 m away from any delineated watercourse.
- Clean up any spillages immediately with the use of a chemical spill kit and dispose of contaminated material at an appropriately registered facility.
- Inspect all facilities, vehicles, and machinery daily for the early detection of deterioration or leaks and strictly prohibit the use of any vehicles or machinery from which leakage has been detected.
- Construction/maintenance vehicles should be regularly serviced.
- Mixing and transferring of chemicals or hazardous substances must take place outside of the No Go area, and must take place on drip trays, shutter boards or other impermeable surfaces.
- Drip trays must be utilised at all fuel dispensing areas, as applicable.
- Vehicles and machinery should preferably be cleaned off site. Should cleaning be required on site it must only take place within designated areas outside of the watercourse and its associated buffer area and should only occur on bunded areas with a water/oil/grease separator.
- Dispose of used oils, wash water from cement and other pollutants at an appropriate licensed landfill site.
- Concrete should preferably be imported as "ready-mix" concrete from a local supplier. Should onsite concrete mixing be required it must not be done on exposed soils. Concrete must be mixed on an impermeable surface in an area of low environmental sensitivity identified by the ECO / EAP outside of the no-go areas. Surplus or waste concrete must be sent back to the supplier who will dispose of it.
- Construct temporary bunds around areas where cement is to be cast in situ.
- Dispose of concrete and cement-related mortars in an environmental sensitive manner (can be toxic to aquatic life). Disposal of any of these waste materials into the No Go areas is strictly prohibited.
- Washout must not be discharged into the no-go area. A washout area should be designated, and wash water should be treated on-site.
- Provide portable toilets where work is being undertaken (1 toilet per 10 workers). These toilets must be located within an area designated by the ECO outside of the no-go area and should preferably be located on level ground. Portable toilets must be regularly serviced and maintained.
- Provide an adequate number of bins on site and encourage construction personnel to dispose of their waste responsibly.
- Waste generated by construction personnel must be removed from the development area and disposed of at a registered waste disposal facility on a weekly basis.
- Prohibit the dumping of excavated material, building materials or removed vegetation within the watercourses or their associated buffer areas. Spoil material must be appropriately disposed of at a registered waste disposal facility.
- Clear and remove any rubble or litter that may have been accidentally deposited into the watercourse and associated buffer area as a result of construction activities and dispose of at an appropriate registered facility.
- Undertake construction related activities during the dry season when flow within the watercourse is at its lowest.
- Implement erosion control measures where required. Examples of erosion control measures include:
    - Covering steep/unstable/erosion prone areas with geotextiles.
    - Covering areas prone to erosion with brush packing, straw bales, mulch.
    - Stabilizing cleared/disturbed areas susceptible to erosion with sandbags.

- Constructing silt fences / traps in areas prone to erosion, to retain sediment-laden runoff. Silt fences must be adequately maintained. Furthermore, the ECO / site manager must monitor sediment fences / traps after every heavy rainfall event and any sediment that has accumulated must be removed by hand.

Visual Statement:

Based on concerns raised during the pre-application public participation process regarding potential visual impacts, a Visual Statement and Constraints Analysis was commissioned. This study was undertaken to identify and assess the key issues and constraints related to the visual environment of the proposed development, ensuring that potential impacts could be clearly understood and appropriately addressed.

The analysis found that the proposed chicken pen development would have a negligible impact on the surrounding landscape. The study attributed this to the distance from nearby homesteads, the natural screening effect of the undulating topography, and the prevalence of existing agricultural infrastructure in the area. It was noted that although the site may be visible to road users traveling directly past, such views would be consistent with the existing rural context, where similar farm structures are already present. Mitigation measures, including tree screening, the use of earth-tone colours, and charcoal roofing, were identified as further reducing visual prominence. In addition, views from district gravel roads were expected to be distant and brief, with minimal influence on receptors due to travel speed and distance. Overall, the study found the development to be compatible with the agricultural character of the area, with low visual exposure, high absorption capacity, and only marginal visibility.

Faunal Screening:

The proposed development site was assigned a 'medium' sensitivity rating for the 'Animal Species Theme' based on the invertebrate species Aneuryphymus montanus (grasshopper spp). In addition, comments provided by the Endangered Wildlife Trust indicated that there are three Blue Cran breeding sites located on the adjacent farm. Based on comments received during the pre-application Public Participation Process a faunal specialist study was undertaken. The specialist study found that the project area consists of completely disturbed natural habitat, and it is considered from a faunal perspective as very low sensitivity. The flagged grasshopper SCC for the project site has a wide distributional range occurring across several different vegetation types; the heavily disturbed and completely transformed vegetation at the project site excludes this grasshopper SCC from occurring there. Considering the small size of the project area, the relatively large distance of the project area to the three breeding sites (> 1 km to the closest site, and almost 2 km to the furthest site), together with the likely high intensity of agricultural activities at the breeding site and in the immediate agricultural fields adjacent to the breeding sites during the summer months, it seems unlikely that the construction phase of the proposed project would impact the Blue Crane breeding. The Blue Crane breeding areas are more likely to be directly affected by practices on the farm itself where they breed. Overall, the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. It is the specialists' opinion that the proposed development will have an overall low significance on the insect and Blue Crane. No mitigation measures were recommended within the specialist study.

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

All the management methods outlined by specialists as well as all impact management measures outlined in the Impact and Risk Assessment (Appendix J) will be included in the EMPr for the development.

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 the management methods outlined by specialists as well as all impact management measures outlined in the Impact and Risk Assessment (Appendix J) will be included in the EMPr for the development.

No further specialist studies are required in terms of NEMA, please refer to Appendix I2 for further details.

4.	Explain how the proposed development will impact the surrounding communities.

The proposed development will create jobs amongst low-income families during the construction and operational phases. The development does not result in a loss of amenity or air quality degradation. Potential water quality impacts are manageable and unlikely to extend beyond the immediate site. Any nuisance factors such as dust and noise will be localized with no anticipated health impacts. Visually, the development will integrate into the landscape, being minimally intrusive. Although the development is visible from an internal access road, the visual statement recommends that a tree screen can be implemented

to limit potential visual impact. The project does not alter the area's character or landscape. All identified impacts can be mitigated to acceptable significance rating, thus the negative impacts on surrounding communities during construction and operation is deemed very low.

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.

According to the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning, the province will experience an increase in annual temperatures, increased maximum temperature, more heat waves, fewer frost days, reduced rainfall, sea-level rise, increased fire risks, and increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events. The primary factors that may influence the proposed development is temperature increase and water scarcity. Rising temperatures may increase the risk of heat stress in poultry. The proposed development layout and orientation has been designed to advantage of prevailing wind directions for optimal ventilation and airflow which will help reduce the effects of increased temperatures through maximising natural cooling efficiency. Furthermore, the following measures are in place on site to minimise usage of water on site: Chicken pens are dry-swept; When the pens are washed down it is done with a high-pressure hose and minimal water usage; The bio-security wash down area and its associated showers use water saving devices to minimise the use of water on site.

6.	Explain whether there are any conflicting recommendations between the specialists. If so, explain how these have been addressed and resolved.

No conflicting recommendations.

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.

- A heritage screener and freshwater assessment were undertaken. It was however found that it Is unlikely that the proposed development will negatively impact on significant heritage resources on condition that a Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is implemented. This requirement has been included in the CEMPr.
- The freshwater assessment delineated a non-perennial drainage line approximately 300m northeast of the proposed development site and a channelled valley bottom wetland approximately 80m southeast of the proposed development site. As part of the Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement and Risk Assessment, a range of mitigation measures were recommended to ensure the development remains within the low-risk category. These measures have been fully integrated into the EMPR (Appendix H1 and H2) for both the construction and operational phases of the development to safeguard nearby freshwater ecosystems.
- The Visual Statement and Constraints Analysis found that the proposed chicken pen development would have a negligible impact on the surrounding landscape and recommended that the use of tree planting for screening, the use of earth-tone colours, and charcoal roofing be implemented to further mitigate potential visual impacts. The recommendations have been included in the EMPR (Appendix H1 and H2)
- The Faunal Specialist Study found the proposed development is unlikely to generate significant negative impacts on the grasshopper SCC flagged, or on the breeding activities of the Blue Crane. No mitigation measures were recommended.

8.	Explain how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied to arrive at the best practicable environmental option.

The NEMA EIA regulations require that a hierarchical approach is taken with regards to impact management. Implementation of the mitigation hierarchy requires that potential impact management measures are implemented in order from the most beneficial method of impact mitigation to the least beneficial method of impact mitigation. A visual illustration of the mitigation hierarchy is provided in Figure 20.

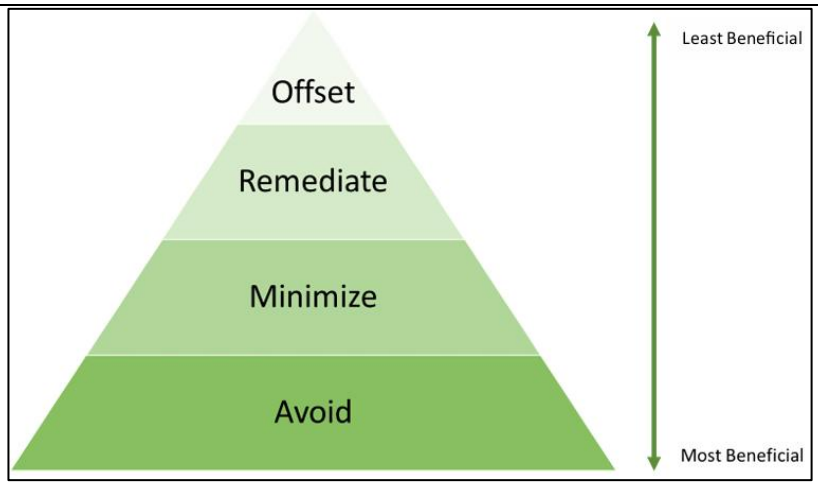


Figure 20: The mitigation hierarchy

This hierarchy was applied to identify the best practicable and environmentally sensitive layout option for the proposed development:

Avoidance: This is the first step of the mitigation hierarchy which comprises measures taken to avoid impacts from the outset, such as careful spatial or temporal placement of infrastructure or disturbance. The preferred development layout takes no-go and sensitive areas into consideration and is placed outside the 32m watercourse buffer.

Minimisation: This entails measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided. All mitigation measures have been included in management documents (OEMPR and CEMPR) for approval and implementation during the various phases of the development management.

Rehabilitation: This entails measures taken to improve degraded or removed ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely avoided or minimised. No rehabilitation will be required for the proposed development.

Offset: this entails measures taken to compensate for any residual, adverse impacts after full implementation of the previous three steps of the mitigation hierarchy. No offset required.

SECTION J: GENERAL

1. Environmental Impact Statement

1.1.	Provide a summary of the key findings of the EIA.

The key findings of the EIA indicate that the proposed development will have both positive and negative impacts, however, all negative impacts can be significantly mitigated through implementation of reasonable and practical mitigation measures.

Positive Impacts:

- Productive use of currently unproductive agricultural land
- Knock-on effect for trade in local economy in Caledon
- Provision of more affordable protein to local markets
- Direct and indirect employment opportunities (temporary and permanent) and skills transfer to new employees.

Negative Impacts:

- Increase in hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Generation of construction and operational waste.
- Dust emissions from construction and operational activities.
- Noise from both construction and operational activities.
- Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.

- Odour-related impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

As per the findings of the impact assessment it has been determined that the proposed development is environmentally and socially acceptable provided that the identified mitigation measures are strictly implemented.

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)
	Refer to Appendix B2
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.

Impacts	Layout 1	Layout 2 (Preferred)
IMPACTS DURING PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PHASES		
Impact 1: Intensification of agriculture and more hardened surfaces in the landscape.	**LOW-MEDIUM (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 2: Adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems (incl. water quality impacts)	**LOW (-ve)**	**VERY LOW (-ve)**
Impact 3: Temporary job creation during construction.	**MEDIUM (+ve)**	**MEDIUM (+ve)**
Impact 4: Generation of construction waste.	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 5: Dust emissions during construction activities.	**VERY LOW (-ve)**	**VERY LOW (-ve)**
Impact 6: Noise from construction activities	**VERY LOW (-ve)**	**VERY LOW (-ve)**
Impact 7: Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.	**LOW-MEDIUM (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 8: Faunal Impacts	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
IMPACTS DURING OPERATIONAL PHASE		
Impact 9: Increased use of access roads	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 10: Generation of operational waste	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 11: Odour related impacts	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 12: Vector related impacts	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 13: Adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems.	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 14: Potential soil and groundwater pollution.	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 15: Risk of infectious mortalities during operations (hazardous waste)	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 16: Ongoing employment opportunities from agricultural operations.	**MEDIUM - HIGH (+ve)**	**MEDIUM - HIGH (+ve)**
Impact 17: Noise and dust from site activities.	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 18: Increased visual intrusion in the agricultural landscape.	**LOW - MEDIUM (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 19: Faunal Impacts	**LOW (-ve)**	**LOW (-ve)**

IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NO-GO ALTERNATIVE	
Impact 1: No new employment opportunities for the local community.	**MEDIUM (-ve)**
Impact 2: No increase in poultry supply to support food availability and price stability.	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 3: Land remains underutilized	**LOW (-ve)**
Impact 4: No additional demand for local suppliers and service providers	**LOW (-ve)**

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

Objective: Protect the surrounding environment

Impacts to avoid:

- Increase runoff from hardened surfaces
- Potential adverse impacts on nearby freshwater systems, including water quality.
- Dust, noise and odour impacts.
- Inappropriate waste management.
- Visual impacts.
- Vector-related impacts (e.g., flies, rodents).
- Potential soil and groundwater pollution.
- Risk of hazardous waste generation from infectious mortalities.
- Increased use of access roads, with associated impacts.
- Potential impacts on local fauna.

Impact management actions:

- Implement mitigation measures outlined in the impact and risk assessment (as included in the CEMPr and OEMPr)
- Ensure that all activities take place within the approved development footprint
- Ensure daily monitoring is implemented onsite
- Ensure that only existing access routes are used
- No chicken manure may be stored within the development footprint, once removed from the chicken pens this material must immediately be taken to the composting facility or relevant use locations

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.

- Mitigation measures outlined in the Impact and Risk Assessment (Appendix J) and Specialist Assessments (Appendix G1, Appendix G2, Appendix G3 and Appendix G4) must be implemented in full.
- The approved Construction and Operational Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) must be implemented in full.
- An Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to monitor compliance and implementation of the approved CEMPr, OEMPr, mitigation measures outlined in Appendix J, and all Environmental Authorisation conditions.
- All requirements in terms of the National Water Act must be met.

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.

The proposed development should be authorised for the following reasons:

- The development is situated on previously cultivated, unproductive agricultural land, avoiding environmentally sensitive areas.

- The proposed activity aligns with the property's zoning as Agriculture 1 and complements the surrounding agricultural landscape.
- The preferred alternative, developed in consultation with the EAP, includes detailed construction and operational guidelines. These measures ensure that potential ecological impacts are effectively managed, mitigated, and monitored.
- All identified impacts can be successfully mitigated, with minimal residual effects on the environment when proper management measures are implemented.
- The proposed development supports local economic growth by creating employment opportunities and contributes to addressing the rising demand for affordable protein.

The following conditions should be included in the authorisation:

- All mitigation measures and management requirements as outlined in the CEMPr and OEMP (Appendix H1 and Appendix H2 to this application) must be implemented in full.
- All mitigation measures and management recommendations as outlined within the Risk and Impact Assessment (Appendix J to this application) must be implemented in full.
- All mitigation and management recommendations as outlined in the specialist assessments (Appendix G1, Appendix G2, Appendix G3 and Appendix G4 to this application) must be implemented in full.
- All requirements of the National Water Act must be adhered to.

2.4.	Provide a description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge that relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed.
	The experience and competency of the EAP, the public participation process currently being undertaken and information gathered during the NEMA processes followed for existing development should ensure that there are very few to no gaps in knowledge regarding the completion of the BA Process.
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.

The development proposal includes operational aspects.

The development is expected to take place in phases, although the exact timing may be influenced by external factors such as the retailer's requirements. On this basis, construction activities are expected to be substantially concluded within the first 3 years, although minor adjustments to this timeline may occur depending on project circumstances.

Post construction monitoring requirements should be finalised: 6 months after the completion of the final works

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.

Construction Phase:

- No running water will be utilized for the cleaning of equipment, buckets will be used instead.
- Rainwater capturing and use onsite will be considered and encouraged.

Operational Phase:

- Chicken pens will be dry-swept.
- When the pens are washed down it will be done with a high pressure hose and minimal water usage.
- The bio-security wash down area and its associated showers will use water saving devices to minimise the use of water on site.
- Waterwise vegetation will be used for landscaping.
- Water used in the facility will be measured by a meter and read monthly.

- The water reticulation system will be checked on a regular basis for leaks in pipes or taps to prevent unnecessary water losses.

4. Waste

Explain what measures have been taken to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.

The poultry rearing operation incorporates sustainable waste management practices, including onsite composting for a portion of chicken manure and non-infectious mortalities, supporting circular agriculture by using the compost onsite or supplying it to growers. The remaining manure is directly applied to agricultural lands or sold to local farmers. The operation prioritizes minimizing new materials brought onsite, maximizing recycling and waste separation, and reusing existing materials where possible. Biodegradable domestic waste is composted, plastics are recycled, and residual waste is disposed of in a small, regulated area that adheres to environmental standards. These measures effectively reduce, reuse, and recycle waste while promoting sustainability.

5. Energy Efficiency

8.1.	Explain what design measures have been taken to ensure that the development proposal will be energy efficient.

The pens have been located in such a manner as to ensure that they optimise the use of the natural elements for cooling and heating in their orientation and layout. The overall designs minimise the need for additional heating and cooling mechanisms and methods.

DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

I, ROSS PHILIP, ID number 5810205046086 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: 22/01/2026

BAPCHIX (PTY) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable):

RESOLUTION – Zonderend Valley Farm (PTY) LTD (Reg 2017/524034/07)

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE DIRECTORS OF

Zonderend Valley Farm (PTY) LTD (Reg 2017/524034/07) ("COMPANY")

PASSED AT Caledon ON 15 April 2024

RESOLVED as a directors' resolution that this Company apply to PHS Consulting and various other departments for all statutory authorisations and permissions in respect of the fixed properties owned by it viz. the Remainder of the Farm no. 225, Grootvlei, Caledon for parts of the aforementioned property to be utilized and developed; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that Mr Ronald Ross Fairbairn Philip (5810205046086), in his capacity as the director of the Company, be and is hereby authorised on behalf of this Company to:

(i) do all such things and sign all such other documents as may be necessary or required to give effect to this resolution.

SIGNED at CALEDON on 15th APRIL 2024.

As directors:

Mr Ronald Ross Fairbairn Philip - Director

Mr Chad Fairbairn Philip - Director

CONSENT

We, the undersigned in our capacity as Directors of **Zonderend Valley Farm** (PTY) LTD (Reg 2017/524034/07) and owner of:

1) The Remainder of the Farm No. 225 Grootvlei, Caledon.

hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint:

1) Mr Ronald Ross Fairbairn Philip (Id:5810205046086) from **Bapchix (PTY) LTD (Reg No 2005/030249/07)**, (the Applicant).
2) Paul Slabbert (Id: 7305235224082) from PHS Consulting registered: **FYNBOSLAND 323 CC** 2005/081216/23 (as Environmental Assessment Practitioners) and various specialist consultants to be nominated by PHS Consulting when required

with power of substitution, to be the duly authorized entity which may be necessary to submit application documents, sign documents and to perform all such acts which may be necessary in connection with the procedures and all statutory regulations, but not limited to the list below, **for the development of poultry houses over the abovementioned properties** in relation to the following legislation as amended:

- **National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)**
- **National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008)**
- **National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 of 2004)**
- **National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) Water Use Licensing and/or General Authorization**
- **Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997)**
- **National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act no. 25 of 1999)**

and generally for effecting the purposes aforesaid, to do or cause to be done whatever shall be requisite, as fully and effectual, for all intents and purposes as I might or could do if personally present and acting herein – hereby ratifying, allowing, confirming, promising and agreeing to ratify, allow and confirm all and whatsoever my said Agent shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, by virtue of these presents.

Signed At CALEDON on this 15th Day of April 2024

R.R.F. PHILIP (DIRECTOR)

C.F. PHILIP (DIRECTOR)

WITNESS

WITNESS

DECLARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

I Paul Slabbert, EAP Registration number 2019/1036
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;

29 January 2026

Signature of the EAP: Date:

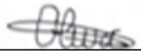
PHS Consulting

Name of company (if applicable):

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

I Olivia Brunings, EAP Registration number 2023/6743
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;



29 January 2026

Signature of the EAP: Date:

PHS Consulting

DECLARATION OF THE FRESHWATER SPECIALIST

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

I …Kimberley van Zyl……, as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, 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 development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
  - am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;
- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.

KvanZyl — 16 April 2025

Signature of the EAP: Date:

Delta Ecology

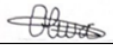
Name of company (if applicable):

DECLARATION OF THE FRESHWATER SPECIALIST

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

I Olivia Brunings, as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, 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 development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
  - ~~am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);~~
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;
- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.



16 April 2025

Signature of the Specialist: Date:

PHS Consulting

Name of company (if applicable):

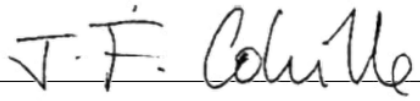
DECLARATION OF THE FAUNAL SPECIALIST

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

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

I Jonathan Colville, as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, 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 development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
  - am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;
- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.



Signature of the EAP: Date: 11 October 2025

Jonathan Colville -- Terrestrial Ecologist & Faunal Surveys

Name of company (if applicable):

DECLARATION OF THE VISUAL SPECIALIST

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

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

I Paul Slabbert ....., as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, 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 development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or

  - ~~am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);~~

- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;

- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and

- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.

27 November 2025

Signature of the Specialist: Date:

PHS Consulting

Name of company (if applicable):