



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2226

Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube

Telephone: 012 399 9368 E-mail: BNcube@environment.gov.za

Mr Johannes Neethling
Western Cape Government: Department of Transport and Public Works
P.O. Box 2603
CAPE TOWN
8000

Telephone Number : 021 483 0537
Email Address : Johannes.Neethling2@westerncape.gov.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Neethling

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES OF TRUNK ROAD 33/4 BETWEEN KM 4.6 AND KM 14.4, ALONG THE MEIRINGSPOORT PASS, WITHIN THE PRINCE ALBERT AND OUDTSHOORN LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was

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sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Date: 18/02/2021

CC:	Sharples Environmental Services cc	Michael Bennett	Email: michael@sescs.net
	WCDEA&DP: George	Gavin Benjamin	Email: Bruce.Benjamin@westerncape.gov.za
	Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	Ambrose Carelse	Email: ambrose@oudtmun.gov.za
	Prince Albert Local Municipality	Anneleen Vorster	Email: anneleen@pamun.gov.za





environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

The maintenance activities of Trunk Road 33/4 between Km 4.6 and Km 14.4, along the Meiringspoort Pass, within the Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn Local Municipalities, Western Cape Province

Central Karoo and Garden Route District Municipalities

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2226
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Western Cape Government: Department of Transport and Public Works
Location of activity:	Farm ERIN 180; Farm ERIN 14; Portion 1 of Farm Betergevonden 19; and Farm de Uitvlugt 20; Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn Local Municipalities; Central Karoo and Garden Route District Municipalities; Western Cape Province.

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

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Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Johannes Neethling

Western Cape Government: Department of Transport and Public Works

P.O. Box 2603

CAPE TOWN

8000

Telephone Number : 021 483 0537

Email Address : Johannes.Neethling2@westerncape.gov.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity Number	Activity Description
<u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u> <i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</i>	The removal of deposited material within the river blocking the flow of water through the structures will trigger this activity.
<u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12(i)(iv) & (v):</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation,</i> <i>i. Western Cape</i> <i>(iv) On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</i> <i>(v) On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.</i>	The clearing of vegetation along sections of the road shoulders in addition to the clearing of vegetation impeding the structures.
<u>Listing Notice 3, Item 23(ii)(c)(i)(i)(cc):</u> <i>The expansion of-</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such expansion occurs—</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> <i>(i) Western Cape</i> <i>(i) Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(cc) World Heritage Sites</i>	This activity may be triggered through the construction of new side drains, where needed along the stretch.

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as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated September 2020 at:

Farm Description	SG 21 Code
Farm ERIN 180	C06100000000018000000
Farm ERIN 14	C054000000000001400000
Portion 1 of Farm Betergevonden 19	C054000000000001900001
Farm De Uitvlugt 20	C054000000000002000000

Coordinates

	Location of Maintenance Activity	Latitude	Longitude
1.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 4 B2689 at Km 5.80	33°26'39.98"S	22°33'57.90"E
2.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 5 B2698A at Km 6.03	33°26'39.98"S	22°33'57.90"E
3.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 6 B2698B at Km 6.31	33°26'30.38"S	22°33'51.67"E
4.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 7 B2698C at Km 6.82	33°26'23.35"S	22°33'34.64"E
5.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 8 B2690 at Km 7.73	33°26'00.69"S	22°33'30.98"E
6.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 9 B2690A at Km 8.49	33°25'46.65"S	22°33'16.01"E
7.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 10 B2691 at Km 8.76	33°25'43.02"S	22°33'06.17"E
8.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 11 B2691A at Km 9.25	33°25'29.88"S	22°32'57.08"E
9.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 12 B2692 at Km 9.54	33°25'21.95"S	22°32'55.44"E
10.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 13 B2692A at Km 9.85	33°25'13.30"S	22°33'02.75"E
11.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 14 B2693 at Km 10.15	33°25'07.22"S	22°32'58.70"E
12.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 15 B2694 at Km 11.05	33°24'38.96"S	22°33'08.87"E
13.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 16 B2695 at Km 11.43	33°24'32.81"S	22°33'19.63"E
14.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 17 B2695A at Km 11.70	33°24'28.31"S	22°33'28.84"E
15.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 18 B2696 at Km 14.10	33°23'20.73"S	22°33'28.76"E

- for maintenance activities of Trunk Road 33/4 between Km 4.6 and Km 14.4, along the Meiringspoort Pass, within the Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert Local Municipalities, Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The maintenance activities will include the following:

- Edge Break repairs
- Shoulder reconstruction

- New stone pitching side drains
- Bitumen treated Base and asphalt repairs
- Clear watercourse flow path
- Repair concrete spalling and cracking
- Repair damaged concrete deck soffit
- Reinstate previous poor concrete repairs
- Protect Alkali- Silica Reaction (ASR) Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces
- Seal deck expansion joints

Details of maintenance activities specific to each causeway:

No.	Causeway	Maintenance Activity
1.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 4 B2689 at Km 5.80	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect Alkali- Silica Reaction (ASR) Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
2.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 5 B2698A at Km 6.03	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
3.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 6 B2698B at Km 6.31	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
4.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 7 B2698C at Km 6.82	• Clear watercourse flow path • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
5.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 8 B2690 at Km 7.73	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
6.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 9 B2690A at Km 8.49	• Repair concrete spalling and cracking

		• Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
7.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 10 B2691 at Km 8.76	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
8.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 11 B2691A at Km 9.25	• Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
9.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 12 B2692 at Km 9.54	• Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Reinstate previous poor concrete repairs • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
10.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 13 B2692A at Km 9.85	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
11.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 14 B2693 at Km 10.15	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling • Seal deck expansion joints
12.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 15 B2694 at Km 11.05	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete cracking • Repair damaged concrete deck soffit • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
13.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 16 B2695 at Km 11.43	• Repair concrete spalling • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints
14.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 17 B2695A at Km 11.70	• Clear watercourse flow path • Repair concrete spalling • Reinstate previous poor concrete repairs • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces

		• Seal deck expansion joints
15.	Meiringspoort Causeway No 18 B2696 at Km 14.10	• Repair concrete spalling and cracking • Protect ASR Damaged and/or weathered concrete surfaces • Seal deck expansion joints

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The maintenance activities of Trunk Road 33/4 between Km 4.6 and Km 14.4, along the Meiringspoort Pass, within the Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert Local Municipalities, Western Cape Province are approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the properties as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of **ten (10) years** from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within **five (05) years** of the commencement of the activity on site.

9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
- 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. The Site Maintenance Plan by Element Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, attached as Appendix B of the BAR dated September 2020 is approved.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated September 2020 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.

16. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
21. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
22. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

23. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the

mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.

- 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

24. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
25. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
26. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
27. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
28. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
29. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

30. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

31. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

32. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

Specific conditions

Conditions for Non-operational aspects

33. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species.
34. The relocation of fish from work areas must be in accordance with the approved method statement for the Fish Relocation Plan, which is attached at Appendix E of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated September 2020.
35. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during maintenance work, construction must be stopped immediately. The relevant heritage resource agency must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage practitioner must be contacted as soon as possible for further investigation.
36. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

37. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 37.1. to anyone on request; and
- 37.2. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
38. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 18/02/2021


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 25 August 2020.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated September 2020.
- c) The comments received from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) included in the BAR dated September 2020;
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated September 2020 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Freshwater Habitat Impact Assessment	Sharples Environmental Services CC	July 2019
Botanical Impact Assessment	Mark Berry Environmental Consultants	February 2020
EMPr	Sharples Environmental Services CC	July 2020

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) Location of the development area within the Swartberg Complex World Heritage Site in terms of Section 50(5) of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (NEM:PAA) (Act 57 of 2003).
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- a) The need for the proposed road maintenance activities which will maintain Trunk Road as a key entry point to Oudtshoorn and serve as an economic enabler.
- c) The BAR dated September 2020 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated September 2020 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.

- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings:

- a) On 16 April 2020, CapeNature as the managing authority for the Swartberg Complex World Heritage Site, authorised the applicant to carry out the maintenance activities in terms of Section 50(5) of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (NEM: PAA) (Act 57 of 2003) as amended.
- b) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated September 2020 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- c) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated September 2020 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- f) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan

