

15 March 2021

DEA&DP REF: 16/3/3/1/E2/37/1033/20

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 FOR THE PROPOSED REHABILITATION AND UPGRADING OF TRUNK ROAD 28 SECTION 2 (TR28/2) (R43) AND RELATED EXISTING DEGRADED STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE (CULVERTS), FROM KM 23.83 TO KM 43.88, BETWEEN STANFORD AND GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE.

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) was appointed by EFG Engineers (Pty) Ltd that has been appointed by Western Cape Government (WCG), Department of Transport and Public Works: Roads Branch, for the proposed rehabilitation/upgrading of Trunk Road 28 Section 2 (TR28/2) and the proposed upgrade of the existing degraded storm water infrastructure (culverts) along the road within the road reserve, between Stanford and Gansbaai from Km 23.83 to Km 43.88.

Project Description

Road rehabilitation and upgrade:

- The narrow existing road cross-section is substandard and is to be upgraded to a Class 1 rural cross section. The lanes will be widened from 3.2 m to 3.7 m each and 2 m surfaced shoulders will be added to the carriageway;
- Ensure compliance to the 100 km/h design speed guidelines;
- Allow passing opportunities along the road. (High accident risk currently);
- Upgrade of deteriorating pavement structure;
- Improve unsafe access locations in terms of insufficient shoulder sight distances and access spacing;

- Improving the existing destination, tourism and road warning signage and road markings; and
- Concrete lined side drains.

Storm Water Infrastructure (Culverts) upgrade:

It was found that the existing degraded culverts within the road reserve do not have the required minimum diameter and according to the Rational method, the existing minor culverts cannot accommodate the design flood peaks. Therefore, larger storm water infrastructure (culverts) are proposed at existing culvert positions, as well as at new locations where additional culverts are required.

Severe damage and degradation has been identified at the storm water infrastructure (culverts).

It is evident that the areas at the storm water infrastructure (culverts) have been previously disturbed due to road construction, road maintenance, and ongoing erosion.

Degradation and erosion to the storm water infrastructure (culverts) and related environment is an ongoing event and poses a safety hazard to people using this road. Due to the disturbance of erosion, loss of topsoil and vegetation, invasive species are establishing in these areas, negatively impacting on the ecological and biodiversity value of the areas. The original character of the area at the culverts has been changed due to these activities. The areas at the storm water infrastructure show signs of alien infestation.

It's highly recommended that the degraded storm water infrastructure (culverts) be upgraded to ensure adequate flow and eliminate/minimise further erosion to these structures and related environment.

The proposed repair and upgrade of the existing degraded storm water infrastructure (culverts) will positively contribute to the road infrastructure.

The triggered existing degraded storm water infrastructure (culverts) to be upgrade is situated within the previously disturbed road reserve of TR28/2 at:

- Culvert at Km 24.088 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 24.138 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 24.198 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.092 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.115 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.138 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.161 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.184 (Upgrade of existing degraded culvert)
- Culvert at Km 25.200 (Installation of a new Culvert)

Proposed work to be done at the triggered culverts:

The proposed construction footprint of the new culvert structures will remain within the existing 30 m road reserve. The infested and degraded flow line leading towards these culverts have been disturbed over the years due to insufficient culvert capacity and alien infestation. It is necessary that these areas be alien cleared and shaped in such a way as to ensure effective flows to and through the upgraded culverts.

- Km 24.088; x1 existing 450mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 Box Culvert 2.4mx1.2m.
- Km 24.138; x2 1800mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x2 Box Culverts 2.4m x 1.5m.
- Km 24.198; x1 600mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 Box Culvert 2.4m x 1.2m.
- Km 25.092; x1 400mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 600mm pipe culvert.
- Km 25.155; x1 400mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 600mm pipe culvert.
- Km 25.138; x1 400mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 600mm pipe culvert.
- Km 25.161; x1 400mm pipe culvert to be replaced with x1 600mm pipe culvert.
- Km 25.184; x1 400mm pipe culvert to be placed with x1 600mm pipe culvert.
- Km 25.200; Proposed installation of x1 600mm new pipe culvert.

New apron slabs will be constructed at each of the upgraded culverts and erosion protection (gabions/reno-mattresses) will be constructed where required (according to WCG standard).

Due to the presence of the Western Leopard Toad within the watercourse/wetland between Km 24.088 and Km 24.198, it is recommended by the freshwater and faunal specialist that additional culverts be installed within this section.

The upgrade of the R43 road creates a unique opportunity to improve the survival of The Western Leopard Toad.

The current culverts are woefully inadequate and inappropriate for the safe and free passage of the toads and probably also other animals like the Cape Clawless Otter, genets and porcupines which also occupy the catchment area.

The freshwater specialist recommended the installation of additional culverts to ensure effective movement of the Leopard Toad and other faunal species between the upstream and the downstream of the watercourse.

Additional culverts that will trigger need to be installed at: (For Western Leopard Toad and Faunal Movement)

- Km 24.112; x1 Box Culvert 1.5m x 1.5m
- Km 24.125; x1 Box Culvert 1.5m x 1.5m
- Km 24.163; x2 Box Culvert 2.4m x 1.5m
- Km 24.175; x1 Box Culvert 1.5m x 1.5m
- Km 24.188; x1 Box Culvert 1.5m x 1.5m

The Western Leopard Toads will be diverted to the upgraded culvert by extended wing walls of 0.5m. (Included in the Environmental Management Programme) The key to the protection of the Western Leopard toads is to direct them to culverts and pipes under the road so that they can naturally cross under the road and not over it.

Although not triggered the freshwater specialist also recommended the following upgrade of culverts for faunal movement:

Adjacent to the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve and Walkers Bay Nature Reserve

- 21 (km marker 35.025) – proposed: 1 x 1200mm pipe Amend to: box culvert, dimensions 1200mm x 900mm.
- 24 (km marker 36.405) – proposed: 1 x 600mm pipe Amend to: box culvert, dimensions 900mm x 900mm.
- 26 (km marker 37.846) – proposed 2 x 1200mm pipe Amend to: box culvert, dimensions 1200mm x 900mm.

The proposed rehabilitation of TR28/2 will:

- Ensure a much safer road;
- Ensure compliance with the 100 km/h design speed guidelines;
- Allow passing opportunities along the road. (High accident risk currently);
- Upgrade the deteriorating pavement structure;
- Improve unsafe access locations in terms of insufficient shoulder sight distances and access spacing;
- Improving the existing destination, tourism and road warning signage and road markings; and
- Concrete lined side drains.

The proposed upgrade of the existing degraded storm water infrastructure: will

- Help to reduce/minimise any further erosion and degradation;
- Help to reduce/minimise any further loss of topsoil;
- Help to reduce/minimise any further loss of endemic vegetation;
- Ensure effective faunal and amphibian movement underneath the road;
- Re-introduce endemic vegetation to this eroded areas;
- Improve the ecological and visual value of the areas;
- Ensure a much safer utilization for cars crossing these culverts;
- Ensure effective flow for the peak storm water flow through these culverts; and
- Visually improve the previously disturbed and degraded infrastructure.

This letter serves to inform you that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) has issued the Department of Transport and Public Works with an Environmental Authorization (EA) in order for the holder of the EA to continue with the upgrade of Trunk Road 28/2 and related storm water infrastructures.

The date of the decision and issue is 12 March 2021 (and received by GNEC on the same day).

Please note that the holder of the Environmental Authorization is:

- Department of Transport and Public Works.
- Responsible Person : Ms Melanie Hofmeyr
- Private Bag x9185, Cape Town, 8000
- Tel: (021) 483 5713
- Fax : (021) 483 2205
- Melanie.hofmeyr@westerncape.gov.za

Additionally, please also see the contact details of the decision-maker below:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)
- Directorate: Development Management (Region 1)
- Enquiries: Mr D'mitri Matthews
- 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8000
- Tel: (021) 483 8350
- Fax: (021) 483 3633
- D'mitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za

Should you as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) not agree with the DEA&DP's decision herewith attached, and would like to lodge an appeal, the appeal procedure in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended), detailed in Section G of the EA, needs to be followed.

Should you wish to appeal, an appeal must be lodged with the Appeal Administrator **within 20 calendar days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the holder of the EA (i.e. this letter).** The prescribed appeal form as well as assistance

regarding the appeal process is obtainable from the office of the Appeal Authority at Tel: (021) 483 3721, e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or via the URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

The appeal form must be submitted by means of one of the following methods:

- By Post: Attention: Marius Venter
Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs
and Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
Cape Town
8000
- By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or
- By Hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter
(Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001
- By e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za

Herewith please find attached a copy of the Environmental Authorisation which was issued to the Department of Transport and Public Works. Additional information regarding the appeal procedure is available in the attached Environmental Authorisation. Please note that a copy of the Interested and Affected Party Database is also appended to this letter for your perusal. Additional information regarding the reasons for the decision is available in the attached Environmental Authorisation (please refer to Annexure 2). A copy of the Environmental Authorisation will also be uploaded onto GNEC's website (www.gnec.co.za) under Documents on Review.

Meanwhile, should you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself, at:

Tel: (021) 870 1874

Fax: (021) 870 1873

E-mail: christoff@gnec.co.za

Yours sincerely,

Christoff Dippenaar

For GNEC

Guillaume Nel 
environmental consultants

END