PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OUDRIFT FARM DAM ON REMAINDER PORTION 3 AND REMAINDER PORTION 13 OF FARM 143, KLIPHEUVEL IN KLEIN BRAK RIVER, WESTERN CAPE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO PRE-APPLICATION SCOPING REPORT

DEA&DP REF: 16/3/3/6/7/1/D6/25/0115/20)

Submitted to:

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

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Date: 07 December 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

Kapp Environmental Consultants (KAPPEC), as independent environmental consultants and impact assessors, has been appointed by Klipheuwel Trust, to facilitate the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process for the proposed development of Oudrift Farm Dam on Remainder Portion 13 and Remainder Portion 3 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel in Klein Brak River.

The proposed Oudrift farm dam will encompass two cadastral entities Remainder Portion 13 and Remainder Portion 3 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel. Remainder Portion 3 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel comprises 28.15ha in extent and is registered to the applicant Klipheuwel Trust. Remainder Portion 3 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel comprises 21.17ha in extent and is registered to Walter Robertson. The dam wall will be constructed and a section of this property and consent has been obtained from the landowner. Both these properties are currently zoned Agriculture I.

Remainder Portion 3 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel is currently lying dormant and contains indigenous vegetation, fallow agricultural fields and 3 seasonal watercourses. The farm is fenced with game fencing and forms part of a larger camp which is utilized for grazing of several antelope species. The applicant undertook significant alien clearing on the farm to eradicate Blue Gum and Port Jackson infestations during 2011 and 2012. Ongoing alien management is undertaken which was evidenced during the site visit conducted in August 2020. Remainder Portion 13 of Farm 143 Klipheuvel is covered mostly in grass species and utilized as grazing for dairy cattle.

The site is located adjacent and directly north of the existing Klipheuwel Dam which covers an area of approximately 37Ha. The proposed dam is furthermore located approximately 300 metres (at nearest point) east of the Moordkuil River.

Surrounding land uses comprise mostly dairy farming, as dairy farms have transformed much of the surrounding landscape north of the N2, with only the hilly areas and steeper slopes remaining untransformed. Botlierskop Private Game Reserve is located to the immediate north and east of the site. Dairy farms are located further east and south east of the site. Toward the west is the Moordkuil River and opposite the River are fallow agricultural land with varying levels of alien infestation. South west and opposite the Moordkuil River is one smallholding with several structures present. Further south and downstream are more irrigated grazing areas for dairy cattle as well as significant guava orchards.

The topography of the site can be described as a small, naturally vegetated valley forming a basin which slopes from the north, east and south towards the west. As per the 2012 South African Vegetation Map, the site is mapped as Groot Brak Dune Strandveld, while on the 2018 SA Vegetation Map it is mapped as Garden Route Granite Fynbos and a small portion as

South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos. Both Groot Brak Dune Strandveld and Garden Route Granite Fynbos are listed as endangered. It also forms part of the local biodiversity network and has been mapped as a critical biodiversity area (CBA).

The site contains 3 seasonal watercourses which meanders west toward the Moordkuil River. The drainage lines have confluence at the location where the dam wall will be constructed and encompasses a small catchment. It is proposed that the minor runoff into the Oudrift Dam from this small upstream catchment will be determined and accordingly released with the proposed "Compensation Water Releases" back to the Moordkuil River in order to ensure that the impacts on the Ecological Water Requirements are neglible. One wetland is mapped toward the south east of the dam extent.

The proposed Oudrift Dam site is located adjacent to the lower reaches of the Moordkuil River. According to the Cape Farm Mapper GIS mapping, this section of the Moordkuil River forms part of the Estuarine functional zone. A Freshwater Impact Assessment and the Ecological Reserve Determination be undertaken to inform the Ecological Reserve and the possible impacts the construction might have on achieving the Ecological Water Requirement for the Klein Brak River Estuary.

It is proposed that the dam area will comprise 72 960m² and the total development footprint will comprise 10.5Ha. The Full Supply Level (FSL) volume for the dam is 472 109m³. The dam wall will have a total height of 19 metres resulting in a maximum dam depth of 18 metres. The development of the dam will further include the construction of a dam wall with a crest of approximately 121m in length.

The applicant is in need of storage capacity as changing precipitation patterns not only dictate the need for an increase in assurance of yield but also as protection to the increased taking of water for irrigation in the upper reaches of the Moorkuil River (K10E and K10F quaternary catchments).

It is proposed that the dam will be filled by pumping from the Moordkuil River where the applicant has an existing lawful installation (34° 3'11.31"S 22° 8'6.68"E) in place on the eastern bank of the river. The pump installation was verified and lawful in terms of sec 35(4) of the NWA, Act 36 of 1998. In this regard please refer to the relevant letters detailing the determination and issued by Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Association, herewith attached as Annexure C. The applicant furthermore has existing water rights in place in terms of section 21 (a) - taking water from a water resource. Thus, no new water uses are being applied for in terms of section 21 (a).

A water use license application will be submitted in terms of, section 21 (b) - storing water, section 21 (c) - impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, and section 21 (i) - altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse. The proposed dam has

already been submitted to be registered and classified with the Department of Water and Sanitation Dam Safety Office. A probable risk category of “Category 2, Medium in Size and High Risk” will be awarded.

The applicant has an existing irrigation water distribution network along the stretches of the Moordkuil Sint Road and the Gonnakraal gravel road. Two pipeline route alternatives are available to connect the Oudrift Dam to the existing irrigation network. These are outlined in Section G-7 of the report.

2. NEMA EIA PROCESS AND RELEVANT EIA REGULATIONS (2014), AS AMENDED

The proposed development involves ‘listed activities’, as defined by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended). Listed activities are activities, which may have potentially detrimental impacts on the environment and therefore require environmental authorisation from the relevant authorising body. The proposed development occurs in the Western Cape and thus the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) is the responsible regulatory and competent authority.

The proposed development triggers activities listed in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended) including an activity listed in GN No. R984 (Activity 16). As such the proposed development requires prior environmental authorisation and a Full Scoping and EIA process must be undertaken. EIA Regulations were promulgated under Section 24 of NEMA and came into effect on 8 December 2014 and were subsequently amended in April 2017. Also, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must undertake the process on behalf of the applicant. Kapp Environmental Consultants (KAPPEC) has been appointed by the applicant as the EAP responsible for the EIA.

An Application for Environmental Authorization (EA) to be issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) is currently being undertaken in order to authorize the following “Listed Activities” in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (“NEMA”) (Act No. 107 of 1998).

GN No. R983: **Listing Notice 1**

- Activity 12, 17, 19, 19A and 27

GN No. R984 **Listing Notice 2**

- Activity No: 16

GN No. R985 **Listing Notice 3**

- Activity No: 12

Application is therefore made to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) under the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations. The EAP and the applicant must ensure that the required Full Scoping and EIA process complies

3. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Topography

The topography of the site can be described as a small, naturally vegetated valley forming a basin which slopes from the north, east and south towards the west. As per the 2012 South African Vegetation Map, the site is mapped as Groot Brak Dune Strandveld, while on the 2018 SA Vegetation Map it is mapped as Garden Route Granite Fynbos and a small portion as South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos. Both Groot Brak Dune Strandveld and Garden Route Granite Fynbos are listed as endangered. It also forms part of the local biodiversity network and has been mapped as a critical biodiversity area (CBA).

The hillslopes above the site rise to 168 m above sea level, while the landscape flattens out downstream towards the south and the confluence with the Brandwag River. The site is covered by significant tracts of renosterveld, fynbos and thicket, but also fallow land and previously alien (black wattle and gum) infested areas. Two small steap koppies are present on the western section of the site which will be utilized for the construction of the dam wall.

The site furthermore contains 3 seasonal watercourses which meanders west toward the Moordkuil River. One wetland is mapped toward the south east of the dam extent. The drainage lines have confluence at the location where the dam wall will be constructed and encompasses a small catchment.

Freshwater and Hydrology

An existing deep drainage channel leads along the west of the southern koppie on site whereby the water flows into the Moordkuil River. This drainage channel will be retained as part of the dam overflow.

The site is drained by three seasonal watercourses, all of which were dry at the time of site visit conducted. A NFEPA wetland (channelled valley-bottom wetland) is mapped on the south-eastern side of the site. However, no evidence of a wetland was found during the site visit. The mapped wetland area lies on a low saddle and watershed separating the proposed

dam site from the Klipheuwel Dam. The National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) project provides strategic spatial priorities for conserving South Africa's freshwater ecosystems and supports sustainable use of water resources. These priority areas are commonly referred to as NFEPA's.

The Klipheuwel Dam is located directly south of the proposed Oudrift Dam site. The dam is administered by the Department of Water and Sanitation and the dam provides potable water to the Klein Brak Water Treatment Works, for reticulation to adjacent urban areas. The dam is filled by existing pump installation on the eastern (left) bank of the Moordkuil River in close proximity to the existing lawful pump installation of the applicant.

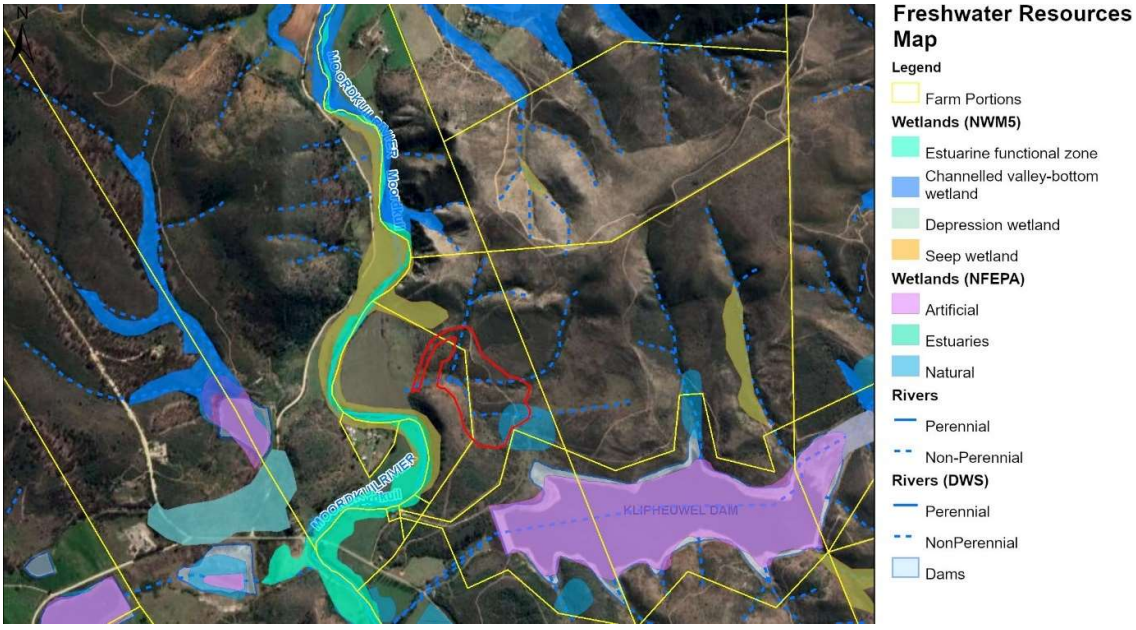


Figure: Water Resources Map

The proposed Oudrift Dam site is located adjacent to the lower reaches of the Moordkuil River. According to the Cape Farm Mapper GIS mapping, this section of the Moordkuil River forms part of the Estuarine functional zone.

It is thus important that the Freshwater Impact Assessment and the Ecological Reserve Determination be undertaken by BlueScience in order to inform the Ecological Reserve and the possible impacts the construction might have on achieving the Ecological Water Requirement for the Klein Brak River Estuary.

It should also be taken into consideration that no application will be lodged in terms of Section 21(a) – for the taking of water from the Moordkuil River and thus the impacts to the Estuary are anticipated to be neglible. Furthermore, the engineering design proposals will allow for water compensation releases whereby the minor runoff from the catchment will be determined and released via a dedicated pipeline to the Moordkuil River.

Flora

The study site is located in a coastal fynbos-renosterveld-thicket environment on the Southern Cape coastal plain. The indigenous species recorded on site are typical fynbos, renosterveld and coastal thicket species, such as Erica peltata, Leucadendron salignum, Elytropappus rhinocerotis, Eriocephalus africanus, Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus, Mystroxylon aethiopicum and Cussonia thyrsiflora. The 2012 Vegetation Map of South Africa classifies the main vegetation types found on site as Groot Brak Dune Strandveld and South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos (see Map 5). The mapped area of Groot Brak Dune Strandveld is, however, incorrect for the area north of the N2. In the latest (2018) beta version Vegetation Map, the area on site previously mapped as Groot Brak Dune Strandveld has been (still incorrectly) remapped as Garden Route Granite Fynbos. Vlok has mapped it more correctly as Brandwag Fynbos-Renoster-Thicket1. Groot Brak Dune Strandveld, described as a dense and tall, spiny, sclerophyllous scrub, occurs on stabilised dunes much closer to the coastline south of the N2.

In reality, the site lies on the boundary between South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos and Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld. A strong thicket component is present in the latter, mainly along the watercourses and smaller patches inside the renosterveld. South Outeniqua Sandstone Fynbos, which is found on the south-facing sandstone slopes above the site, occurs on the southern slopes of the Outeniquas from Cloetesberg northeast of Albertinia in the west to the upper reaches of the Keurbooms River in the east (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). It is described as a tall, open to medium dense shrubland with medium dense, medium tall shrub understorey, mainly proteoid and restioid fynbos (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld occurs on the coastal plains (undulating hills) and valleys from the Kruisrivier near Riversdale to Botterberg, west of the Robinson Pass, centred on the Gouritz River (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). The renosterveld is mainly a medium dense, medium tall cupressoid-leaved shrubland dominated by renosterbos. Thicket patches are common.

The study site and the area earmarked for the dam in particular, has been disturbed by past farming activities. Fallow land was recorded on the site, notably on the south-facing slope on northern side. Historical Google Earth photographs also show significant alien infestation in the lower parts of the site. Most of the latter was subsequently cleared by the applicant. Despite the above past disturbances, significant tracts of renosterveld (albeit degraded) and fynbos remain. The fallow land portions also show different stages of succession with the return of fynbos and renosterveld species. The site is located on the boundary between renosterveld and fynbos. (Berry, 2020)

The site falls inside the Mossel Bay Biodiversity Network, with almost the entire site and surrounding area mapped as a critical biodiversity area (CBA). Reasons for this are multifold, including the importance of the area as a climate adaption corridor, the presence of threatened vegetation types and water resource protection. It was previously noted that most of the intact vegetation in the Mossel Bay interior is found on the steeper hill slopes. These areas are thus considered of great value in the biodiversity network.

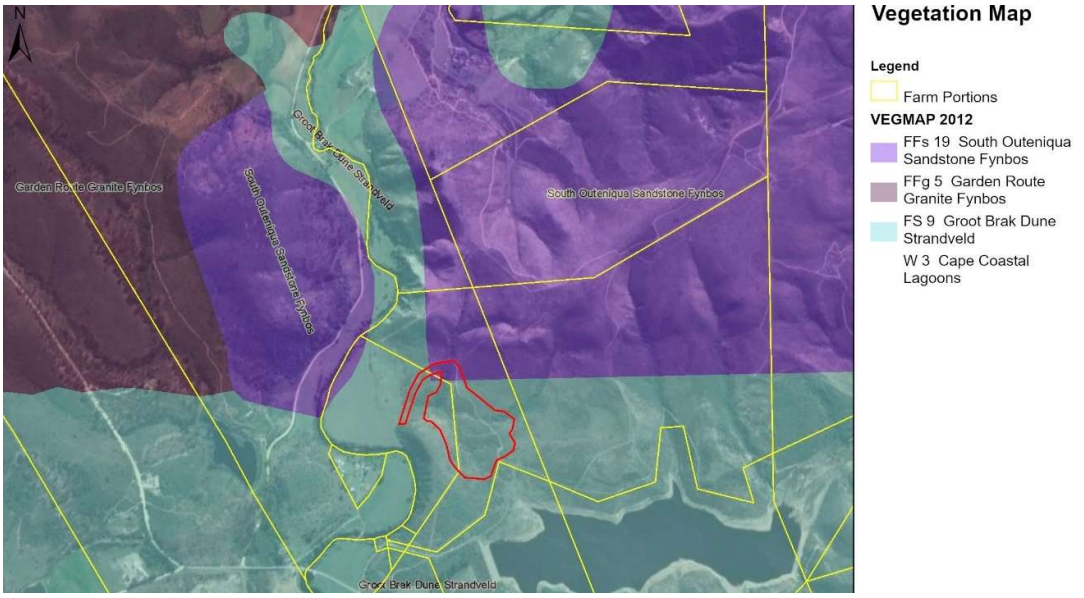


Figure: 2012 SA Vegetation Map

Visual and Cultural Landscape

While the NHRA does not clearly define the term “cultural landscape”, it is briefly referred to in the schedule of definitions. Based on local and international best-practice and within the context of definitions assigned to the terms heritage resource, place and cultural significance, cultural landscape can be defined as “A place of cultural significance, which engenders qualities relating to its aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic, technological, archaeological or palaeontological value” (Winter & Oberholzer 2014).

This landscape tends to be less accessible, hilly and rugged, with limited agriculture along the higher-lying plateaus towards the north and lower-lying river corridors closer to the coastline. Much of this landscape has been incorporated into private game reserves during the last decade or so and is therefore likely to once again revert to a natural landscape over the long term. Areas closer to the coastline have mostly been transformed through low density urban development, which has significantly eroded the quality of the cultural landscape. Whilst retaining natural beauty within the northern half of this area, few if any historic elements, which could provide a sense of historic continuity, seem to have survived until present day. From this perspective therefore, the entire area is considered of low local historic, aesthetic and social cultural significance (Grade IIIC). (Webley, 2016)

It is a landscape with diversity but its rural character and similar agricultural practices create uniformity over the entire area. The region consists of a reasonable percentage of cultivation, but due to the varied topography, natural ecosystems are more readily found.

From a visual perspective the site is most hidden from surrounding viewpoints as the site is located within a small basin. The site is only visible from the adjacent landowners toward the

east as well as the Gonnakraal gravel road leading towards Botlierskop Private Game Reserve. Botlierskop Game Reserve conserves approximately 3500ha of natural and semi-natural ecosystems. These areas are considered natural, although fragmented cultivation occurs between the reserves.

It is anticipated that the introduction of a 19m dam wall will result in some visual impacts from this area. The dam wall is however to be constructed in between two koppies, thus a level of visual absorption capacity is anticipated. Furthermore, it will be required that the dam wall be rehabilitated with indigenous vegetation species which will furthermore reduce the possible visual impacts which may occur.

Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources

The greater Klein Brak River area is known to include numerous areas of archaeological importance. A large portion of the site has previously been ploughed and cultivated.

A few caves and rock shelters have been recorded in rocky outcrops and in incised valleys and gorges inland from the coast. Some contain LSA archaeological material and have the potential to be significant. At Botlierskop a koppie was previously identified by Webley (2016) which may contain archaeological sites and it was noted that others may exist. Ruined farmhouses, including barns, kraals and stone walling are considered colonial archaeology.

Sections in the greater area have conservatively been regarded as moderate to high sensitivity in palaeontological heritage terms. In practice, however, the likelihood of significant negative impacts on fossil heritage on the ground is low because the bedrocks here are often highly weathered, tectonically-deformed or covered by a substantial thickness of fossil-poor superficial deposits (scree, alluvium, soils etc) Webley (2016).

A NID was submitted to the Heritage Western Cape dated **29 July 2020** and was discussed at the Heritage Officers Meeting on the 3rd of August 2020. A response to the NID was issued dated **7 August 2020** with Case Number 20031905SB0728E. The Heritage Western Cape resolved that;

"since there is reason to believe that the proposed dam on portion 13 and portion 3 of Farm 143 Farm Klipheuvel, Kleinbrak, Mossel Bay will impact on heritage resources, HWC requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that satisfies the provisions of section 38(3) of the NHRA be submitted. This HIA must have specific reference to the following:

- palaeontological desktop study and archaeological foot survey

The required HIA must have an integrated set of recommendations.
Please note, should you require the HIA to be submitted as a Phased HIA, a written request must be submitted to HWC prior to submission. HWC reserves the right to determine whether a phased HIA is acceptable on a case by case Basis.

The comments of relevant registered conservation bodies; all Interested and Affected parties; and the relevant Municipality must be requested and included in the HIA where provided. Proof of these requests must be supplied."

A suitably qualified Archaeologist have been approached by the EAP to undertake the required Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the requirements from the Heritage Western Cape as outlined above.

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant is in need of storage capacity as changing precipitation patterns not only dictate the need for an increase in assurance of yield but also as protection to the increased taking of water for irrigation in the upper reaches of the Moorkuil River (K10E and K10F quaternary catchments). The applicant wishes to construct a dam on his property to manage his water allocations throughout the year as required.

It is proposed that the dam area will comprise 72 960m² and the total development footprint will comprise 10.5Ha. The Full Supply Level (FSL) volume for the dam is 472 109m³. The dam wall will have a total height of 19 metres resulting in a maximum dam depth of 18 metres. The development of the dam will further include the construction of a dam wall with a crest of approximately 121m in length.

It is proposed that the dam will be filled by pumping from the Moordkuil River where the applicant has an existing lawful installation (34° 3'11.31"S 22° 8'6.68"E) in place on the eastern (left) bank of the river. The pump installation was verified and lawful in terms of section 35(4) of the NWA, Act 36 of 1998. In this regard please refer to the relevant letters detailing the determination and issued by Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Association, herewith attached as Annexure C. Apart from this verification, the abstraction was furthermore recorded lawful in terms of Act 54/56 in section 9B(1C) by the then Department of Water Affairs.

The site contains 3 seasonal watercourses which meanders west toward the Moordkuil River. The drainage lines have confluence at the location where the dam wall will be constructed and encompasses a small catchment. It is proposed that the minor runoff into the Oudrift Dam from this small upstream catchment will be determined and accordingly released with the proposed "Compensation Water Releases" back to the Moordkuil River in order to ensure that the impacts on the Ecological Water Requirements are neglible.

The applicant has an existing irrigation water distribution network along the stretches of the Moordkuil Sint Road and the Gonnakraal gravel road. Two pipeline route alternatives are available to connect the Oudrift Dam to the existing irrigation network. These two pipeline alternatives are shown in **Figure: Schematic Layout of Pipeline Alternatives**. The existing irrigation network comprises 225mm⌀ uPVC pipelines and the proposed new pipelines will be similar pipelines to convey the Section 32 water entitlement.

The preferred connection point to the network will require an additional crossing of the Moordkuil River near the location of the existing drainage channel discharge. This connection point is the applicants preferred alternative due to operational considerations.

Furthermore, two river crossing alternatives have been identified in line with the preferred connection point as described above. The first alternative would entail the open trench construction of the pipeline through the Moordkuil River and reinforcement of the submerged pipe below the riverbed. The alternative river crossing would entail a suspension bridge to be constructed across the river in order to fix the pipeline to. This stretch of the Moordkuil River is approximately 30m wide and dry bed installation is possible during summer months by utilizing the existing DWAFF pumps located downstream.

The open trench construction of the pipeline below the riverbed is the applicants preferred alternative since it will not cause any obstruction during flood events. Due to the narrow stretch of the river in this location the suspension bridge could cause obstruction to debris and require regular replacement.

Access to the proposed Oudrift Dam will be taken via an existing gravel road off Moordkuil Sint Road which leads in an eastern direction past the adjacent Klipheuwel Dam and to the site.

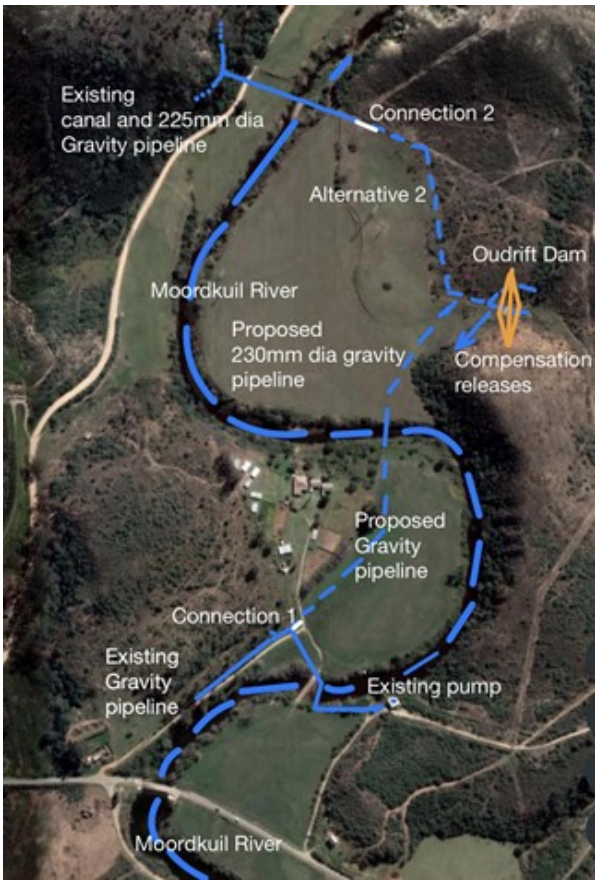
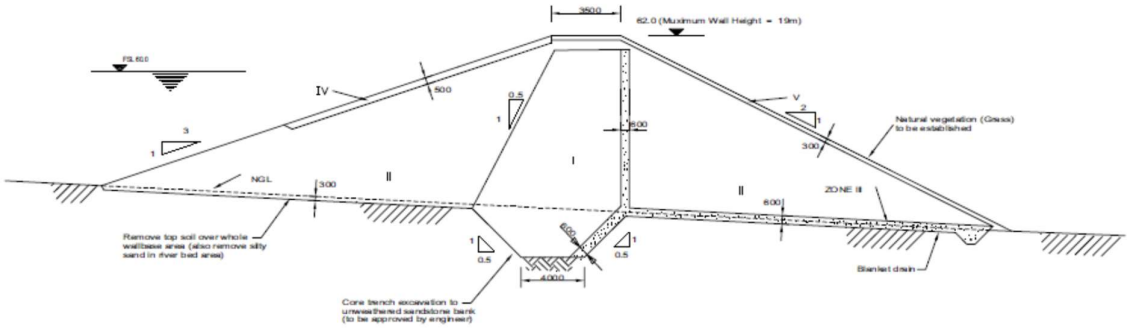


Figure: Schematic Layout of Pipeline Alternatives

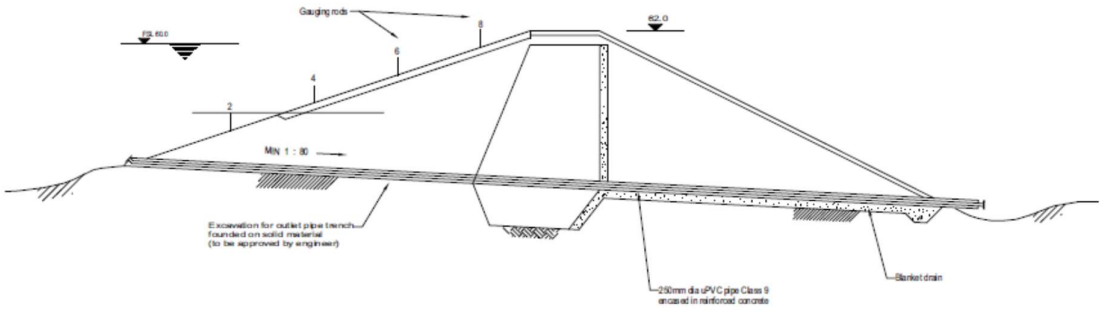
A water use license application will be submitted in terms of, section 21 (b) - storing water, section 21 (c) - impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, and section 21 (i) - altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse. The proposed dam has already been submitted to be registered and classified with the Department of Water and Sanitation Dam Safety Office. A probable risk category of “Category 2, Medium in Size and High Risk” will be awarded.

At this stage it is anticipated that the required material for the construction of the proposed embankment will be sourced from within the dam basin on site. Suitable graded sands intended for the curtain and blanket filters will be sourced from approved commercial suppliers and concrete will be sourced from approved commercial ready-mix suppliers.



SECTION A-A
TYPICAL SECTION OF DAM WALL
Scale:- NTS

Figure: Typical Section of Dam Wall



SECTION B-B
SECTION OF DAM WALL ON CENTRE
OF OUTLET PIPE
Scale:- NTS

Figure: Section of Dam Wall on Centre of Outlet Pipe

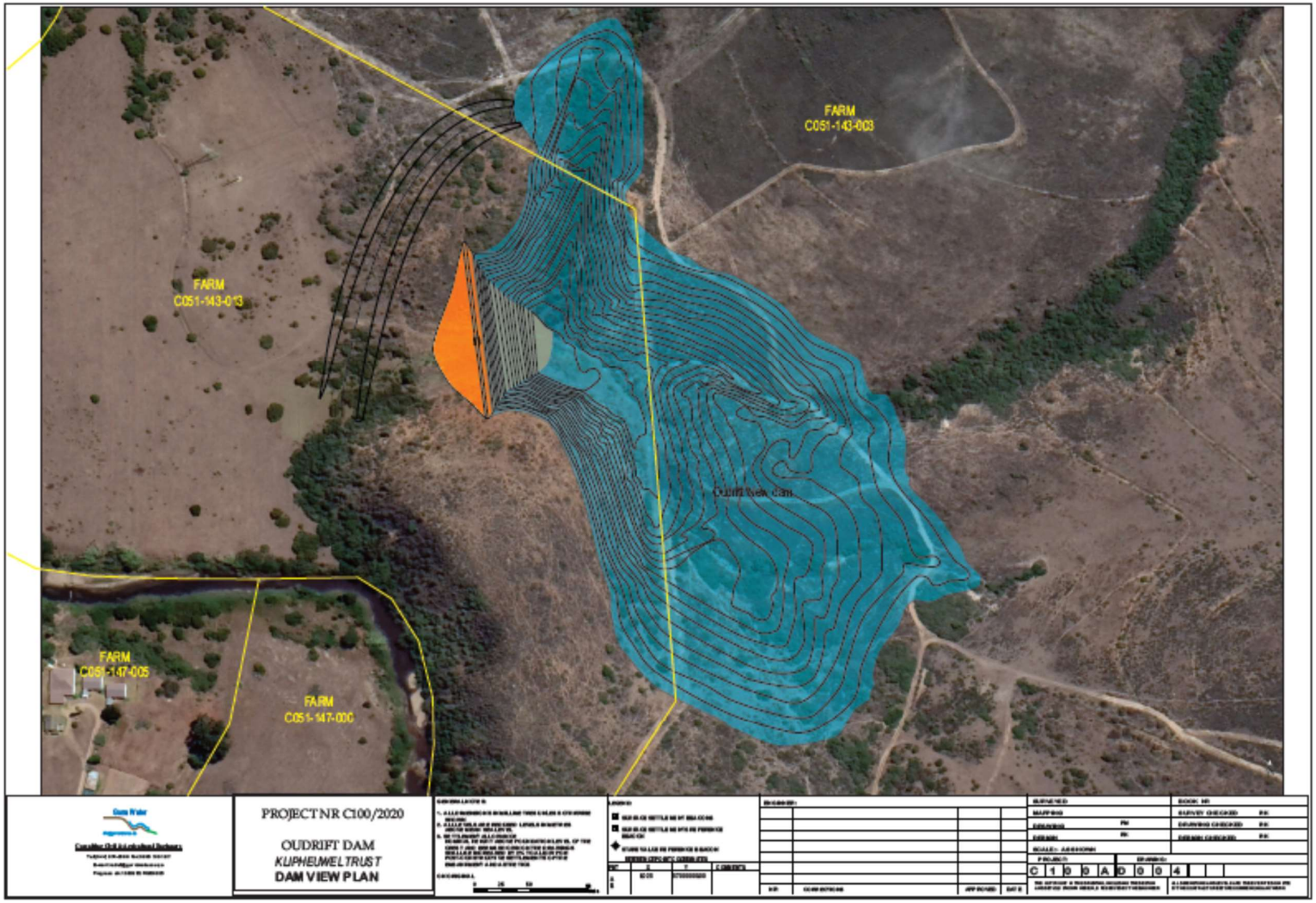


Figure: Preferred Dam Design Aerial Overlay

5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The identification of alternatives is an important component of the EIA process. Where possible, alternatives will be identified and investigated. The various alternatives will be assessed in terms of both environmental acceptability as well as economically feasibility. The preferred option will be highlighted and presented to the authorities in the EIR Report.

The following alternatives have been identified:

- Dam Design Preferred Alternative.
- Dam Design Alternative 1.

- Water Supply Pipeline Route Preferred Alternative.
- Water Supply Pipeline Route Alternative 1.

- River Crossing Preferred Alternative.
- River Crossing Alternative 1.

- The no-development alternative.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pre-Application *Scoping Report Review (30 Day Review)*

The public participation process commenced on Friday the 4th of December 2020. Time for registration and comment as per the Newspaper Advertisement and the Site Notice boards was given until Thursday 28th of January 2021 (33 days). The *Pre-Application* Scoping Report was circulated to all commenting authorities and identified Interested and Affected Parties on Monday the 7th of December 2020 and time for registration and comment was given until the 1st of February 2021 (33 days). The Initial PP process included following:

- Publication of a newspaper advertisement in the Mossel Bay Advertiser Newspaper on Friday the 4th of December 2020;
- Erection of 6 site notices around the site at strategic locations including:
  - Two notices were placed at the intersection of Moordkuil Sint Road and the Gonnakraal gravel road leading towards Botlierskop Private Game Reserve;
  - One notice was placed off the Gonnakraal gravel road at the nearest location to pipeline route alternative 1;
  - One notice was placed at the existing access to the site off Moordkuil Sint Road;
  - One notice was placed on the existing game fence on site near the proposed location of the dam wall;
  - One notice was placed at the intersection of Moordkuil Sint Road and the gravel road extension of Sandhoogte Road leading past Rooiheuwel Farm;
- Direct notification via email to identified I&AP's and surrounding landowners;
- Direct notification via email to the following entities:
  - Cape Nature
  - Eden District Municipality
  - Mossel Bay Municipality: Environmentalist
  - Mossel Bay Muncipality:
  - Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Department
  - Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
  - Western Cape Department of Agriculture
  - DEA&DP: Biodiversity and Coastal Management
  - WESSA
  - Department of Transport and Public Works
  - Midbrak Ratepayers Organization
  - Local Ward Councillor – Ward 4

All I&APs have been notified via email containing a link to download electronic copies of the documentation via WeTransfer and Dropbox as well as a link to the EAP's website.

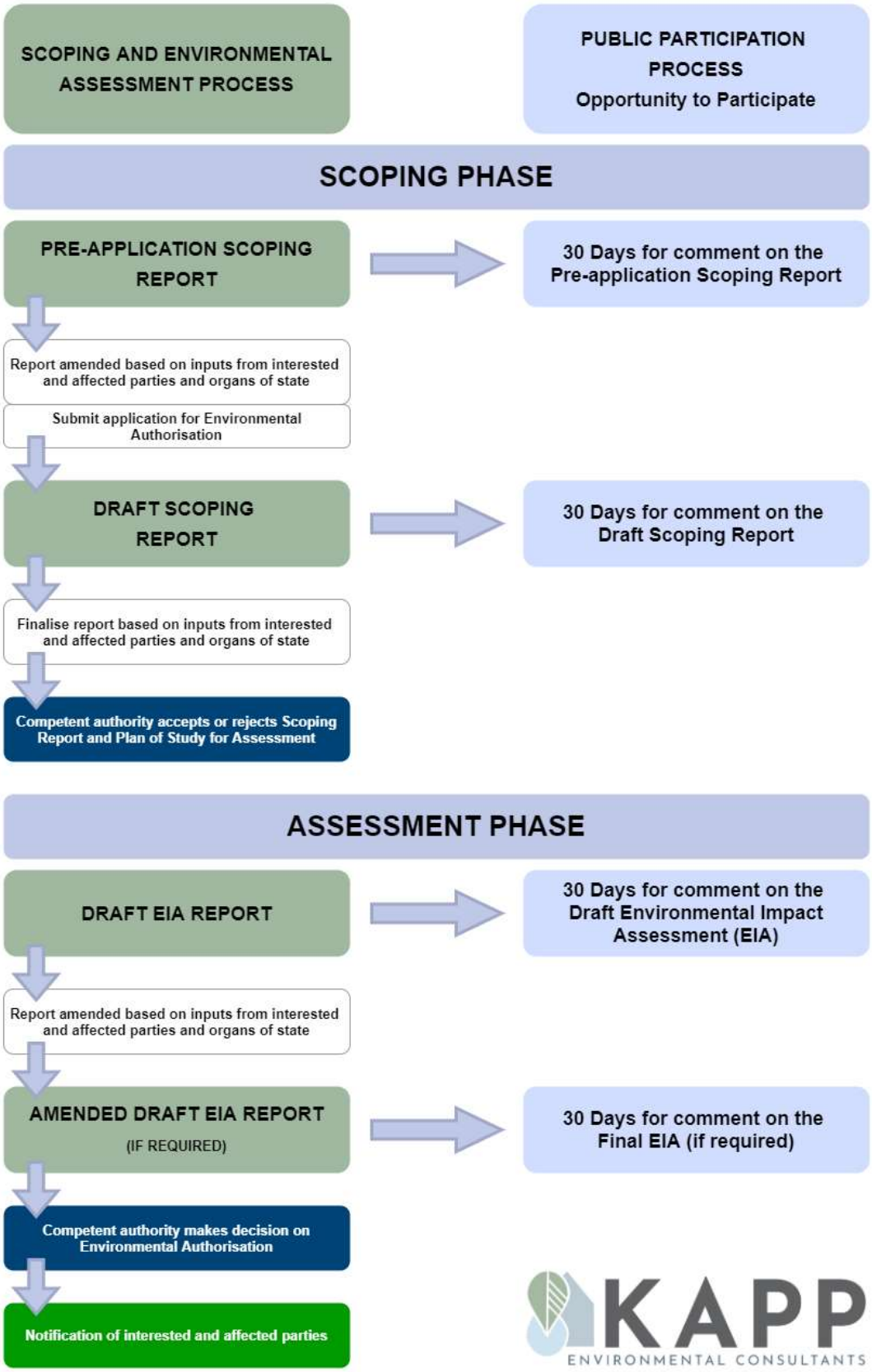


Figure: Public Participation Process

7. ANTICIPATED IMPACTS AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA

The key issues listed in the following sectin have been determined through an internal process based on experience with similar applications, environmental scoping and public participation process as well as site visits. A baseline description of the environment was gathered through historical information and available reports, visual inspections of the site and its surroundings, desktop studies as well as preliminary specialist recommendations. This information was used to assess the potential areas of study, as a result of the proposed Oudrift dam development.

The possible key issues identified include:

1. Terrestrial Vegetation Impacts;
2. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Impacts;
3. Freshwater Resources Impacts;
4. Impacts to the Ecological Reserve;
5. Impact on Archaeological resources;
6. Impact on Palaeontological resources;
7. Impacts on Faunal and Avifaunal Species;
8. Visual Impacts;
9. Socio-Economic Impacts.

As a result of the above-mentioned anticipated impacts, it is recommended that the specialist studies as listed below, be undertaken during the EIA phase of the process or alternatively that the existing reports be updated. The specialist studies assist with the development of an understanding of the system processes and the potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed development on both the social and biophysical environments:

1) Biodiversity Assessment *(Mark Berry – Mark Berry Environmental Consultants);*
2) Freshwater Impact Assessment and Risk Matrix *(Toni Belcher - BlueScience);*
3) Input into Ecological Reserve Determination *(Toni Belcher - BlueScience);*
4) Archaeological Impact Assessment including a Desktop Palaeontological Assessment *(To be confirmed);*

The results of the possible specialist study will be analysed and interpreted in order to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the system, devise potential alternatives to select activities and develop the necessary mitigation measures in order to minimise negative impacts and optimise positive impacts. The specialist recommendations will be incorporated in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). It is furthermore foreseen that a River Maintenance Management Plan will be compiled to authorize future maintenance and management activities along the pipeline routes and within the dam basin. The activities as described in the project description will be assessed on both an individual as well as a cumulative level with respect to the project in its entirety.

8. ANTIIPATED EIA TIMEFRAMES AND WAY FORWARD

The following time frame is anticipated with regards to the way forward:

Table: Anticipated EIA Process Timeframes

Activity	Estimated Timeframe
Project announcement to I&APs and Pre-Application Scoping Report Review	December 2020
Consultation with key stakeholders and community Compilation of Comment and Response Report	December 2020 – February 2021
Submit NEMA Application Form	April 2021
Incorporate I&AP comment into Draft Scoping Report 30 Day Public Review of Draft Scoping Report	April 2021
Incorporate I&AP comment into Final Scoping Report Submit final Scoping Report, Plan of Study For EIA to decision-making authority for a decision	June 2021
DEA&DP Approval of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA	July 2021
Specialist Studies	December 2020 – May 2021
Finalize Draft EIA Report and make available for Public Review	July 2021
Incorporate I&AP comment into 2nd Draft EIA Report 30 Day Public Review of 2nd Draft EIA Report	September 2021
Incorporate I&AP comments into Final EIA Report and submit to decision making Authorities for a decision.	November 2021
Decision from Authorities	February 2022
KAPPEC informs all registered I&APs of Decision	February 2022

This Executive Summary of the Pre-Application Scoping Report has been sent to all the identified and potential IAPs. Individuals Interested and/or affected by the proposed activity are invited to register with Kapp Environmental Consultants (KAPPEC) as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). I&APs must provide their details including: Name, contact details, preferred method of correspondence (e.g. e-mail address or fax number) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application to the contact person indicated below by latest Monday the 1st of February 2021. A copy of the Pre-Application Scoping Report will be made available on the KAPPEC website at www.kappec.co.za Additional links for document download are available via both WeTransfer and Dropbox

WeTransfer: https://we.tl/t-CYQBO4EX3Y
Dropbox:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9ledwv721ruq0ky/AAAPNYihoz24csthMd6X5UBWa?dl=0

Should I&APs be unable to access electronic copies of the Pre-Application Scoping Report, an electronic copy can be delivered either on a cd disk, or a flash drive, as per the I&AP requirement. Should neither of the above suffice, a hard copy can be made available on request (at direct cost).

For more information regarding the proposal, please contact: Mr. Renier Kapp, Kapp Environmental Consultants, **(Cell):** 082 675 5233, or **E-mail:** renier@kappec.co.za

Following the closure of the comment period (30 days) the comments received from IAPs will be addressed and an application stage Draft Scoping Report will be compiled. The application stage Draft Scoping Report (including the Comments & Responses Report) will again be circulated for comment to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&Aps).

Any new issues raised by the registered IAPs will be responded to following which the Scoping Report will be finalised and submitted to DEA&DP for a decision regarding whether or not to approve the Final Scoping Report. Should DEA&DP approve the Final Scoping Report then the EIA process will move into the second phase, the Impact Assessment phase, in accordance with the Plan of Study for EIA as contained in the Final Scoping Report.

Should you have any outstanding questions with regards to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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For KAPPEC

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