

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINDER
OF PORTION 60 OF THE FARM PLATTEBOSCH NO.
485, STILL BAY, WESTERN CAPE
EA REF: 16/3/3/5/D5/19/0001/22**

**PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION
ECO REPORT
FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

**(Submitted 4 October 2024 as the ECO could
not access the site during September 2024)**

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1. Abbreviations used

The following abbreviations (in alphabetical order) have been used below:

Basic Assessment Report	BAR
Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	DEA&DP
Environmental Authorisation	EA
Environmental Control Officer	ECO
Environmental Management Programme	EMP
Storm Water Management Plan	SWP

2. ECO Objectives

The objective of the pre-construction meeting and site visit held, and ECO report provided were to conduct plant species search and rescue and discuss the requirements of the approved EA and EMP with the EA holder and determine readiness in terms of compliance to the EA and EMP before constructions activities commences on site. Compliance to pre-construction conditions were also assessed. This report summarises what was discussed and assessed at the meeting and site visit indicates what is still required before construction activities may commence on site.

3. ECO Scope

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd is appointed as the independent ECO, as required by the EIA regulations promulgated in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) as amended, for the construction phase of the development.

According to the EA and EMP requirements ECO compliance monitoring and inspections must be conducted monthly during the construction phase to determine whether or not all environmental conditions as stipulated in the EA, EMP and specialists reports are implemented and monitored throughout the construction phase of the project.

4. External ECO Methodology and Responsibilities

In accordance with the requirements of the EMP the ECO must and will be responsible for the following:

- Be appointed prior to commencement of any works (i.e. removal and movement of soil and / or rubble or construction activities commencing).
- Ensure and monitor compliance with the EMP and the amended EA conditions.
- Keep record of all activities on the site; problems identified; transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.

- Remain employed until all development activities are concluded, and the post construction rehabilitation and monitoring requirements are finalised.
- Monitor the on-site environmental management and implementation of the construction and rehabilitation phase specifications specified in this EMP.
- Assist to ensure that the conditions of the environmental authorisation will be complied with as well as with training of workers.
- Request and review the construction method statements of the contractors.
- Conduct monthly site monitoring of construction in respect of compliance with the EA and EMP.
- Report on the implementation of the EMP on a monthly basis.

The ECO cannot be held liable legally or otherwise as a result of non-compliance with the amended Environmental Authorisation or the EMP, liability remains with the EA Holder.

5. Identification of the ECO Client

The ECO client is the EA holder WH van Schalkwyk Vervoer BK.

6. Identification of the ECO Team

The ECO duties will be fulfilled by Johmandie Pienaar and Nicolaas Hanekom of Enviro-EAP.

7. Date of ECO Visit/s

The ECO site visit and inspection which was supposed to be the monthly inspection for September 2024 was conducted on 3 October 2024 as the ECO could not access the site during September 2024.

8. Key Activities on The Site

Ongoing Phase 1 construction of civil services.

ECO inspected the demarcation of the no-go for ongoing correctness. The ECO also specifically inspected the cleared areas and edges of the site and stockpiled waste vegetation material for signs of Milkwood trees being removed or significantly damaged.

9. Summary of ECO Findings and Recommendations and Recommendations

Finding No.	Area of activity	ECO Findings and Recommendations
S1	No-go boundaries and protected Milkwood trees within and	During July ECO site inspection, it was found that the boundaries of the no-go areas were correctly demarcated, however during the ECO site inspections conducted on 29 August 2024 and 3 October 2024 it was found that no-go demarcation points is no longer clearly visible and is not distinguishable from the demarcation being

	<p>along no-go boundaries</p>	<p>used for services layouts i.e. pipeline and roads. Some of the no-go demarcation points were moved and encroachments have occurred into the no-go areas.</p> <p>It is recommended that all no-go boundaries demarcation be immediately restored according to the no-go boundaries that was determined by the land surveyor and confirmed as correct during the July ECO inspection before site clearance commenced. The pegs used for no-go boundaries demarcation must also be clearly distinguishable from the pegs used for services infrastructure layout pegs. No developments, site clearance or road or service infrastructure developments may take place within the no-go areas without approval from the Department that these developments can occur within the scope of the Environmental Authorisation.</p> <p>Encroachments that have occurred within the no-go area must be demarcated for rehabilitation.</p> <p>Refer to the map below.</p> <p>During the ECO inspection on 3 October 2024 this requirements to be rectified immediately was also discussed with the site manager Mr Evan Vermaak.</p>
<p>S2</p>	<p>Milkwood trees within proposed development area</p>	<p>A total of 26 Milkwood trees were counted by the ECO located within the Phase 1 development area. NO MILKWOOD TREES MAY BE IMPACTED OR DAMAGED during any site clearance or construction activities without authorisation/permits.</p> <p>Extreme caution must be exercised during site clearance activities to ensure no impacts or damage to any protected Milkwood trees occurs.</p> <p>Phase 1 development has been cleared all Milkwood trees located within the approved development area must be recorded by the land surveyor and indicated on the proposed development layout. Thereafter this layout must be presented to the relevant official at the DFFE and applications for removal, relocation or pruning must be applied for and obtained from the relevant authority before any of these Milkwood trees may be impacted upon. As far as possible these trees must be accommodated on the layout within the proposed erven.</p>

		<p>During the July ECO report the following was recorded - <i>Dense stands of Milkwood trees were also observed within Phase 2 and Phase 3 remaining indigenous vegetation areas and when these areas are being cleared the shrubs around the Milkwood trees must be carefully cleared by hand not to damage any Milkwood trees and all Milkwood trees must be recorded and where removal or impacts on these trees cannot be avoided applications for removal, relocation or pruning must be applied for and obtained from the relevant authority before any of these Milkwood trees may be impacted upon.</i> During the ECO inspection conducted on 29 August 2024 it was observed that clearance activities has commenced within the dense stands of Milkwood trees within Phase 2 area, this was also done with machines and not by hand as recommended by the ECO. It is recommended that the applicant immediately cease with these clearance activities within the dense stands of Milkwood trees until authorisation has been obtained from the DFFE as damage to Milkwood trees has been observed.</p> <p>Refer to the map below.</p>
S3	Construction Camp	<p>The construction camp was established at the main entrance to the site and further than 32m away from the edge of the drainage lines and not within an area containing Milkwood trees. Refer to the map below.</p> <p>All relevant construction camp requirements as per the EMP must be accommodated within this construction camp i.e. stockpiling; bunded fuel storage; fire fighting equipment; clear notice board with emergency telephone numbers; closed ablution facilities/chemical toilets for staff; hard copies of EA and EMP etc.</p> <p>Although there is a notice board the relevant emergency and site management contact numbers are not being displayed, this must be immediately rectified.</p>
S4	Complaints	<p>The site manager must keep a complaint register at the construction site office within which all public complaints must be recorded as well as how they were dealt with.</p>
S5	Stormwater Management and Services Infrastructure Proposed	<p>As per the requirements of the EMP the detailed stormwater management plan must be provided to the ECO for inputs before finalisation. The draft SWMP has been provided to the ECO for inputs and a meeting was also held with the engineer during the</p>

	within No-go Areas	<p>first ECO site visit to discuss the plans as proposed.</p> <p>During engineer investigations it was determined that stormwater attenuation facilities would be required within the no-go areas to accommodate stormwater from the proposed development area.</p> <p>After the initial site visit the ECO recommended alternative locations for the attenuation ponds taking into consideration the steep gradients of the drainage lines within the no-go areas. Before the detailed SWMP can be finalised and implemented it is recommended that the SWMP proposal with all associated services infrastructure plans also be represented to the Department for inputs to ensure that the proposal remains within the scope of the authorisation as it relates to the requirements of the EA and EMP.</p>
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10. Conclusion

The findings and recommendations as listed in the table above is not a complete list of the EA and EMP requirements to be adhered to by the EA holder. It remains the responsibility of the EA holder to ensure that he/she understands and adheres to ALL the requirements of the EA and EMP.

Should there be any uncertainty on the requirements the EA holder must please contact the external ECO to discuss and clarify.

This external ECO report has been compiled by environmental assessment practitioner Johmandie Pienaar from Enviro-EAP.



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Map 1: July 2024 ECO map for indicating areas where Milkwood trees were observed and to be avoided; proposed construction camp placement; proposed search and rescue plants temporary placement. No machinery clearance are allowed within the dense stands of Milkwood Trees as identified within Phase 2 and Phase 3 areas. **The blue square on the map above shows where encroachment into the no-go area has occurred, as per the recommendations no-go demarcation must be immediately reinstated as per original demarcation done by the land surveyor and the impacted no-go area must be rehabilitated**

Supporting photographs:



Photo 1: Encroachment within no-go area to be demarcated for rehabilitation (photo taken 03 October 2024).



Photo 2: Encroachment within no-go area to be demarcated for rehabilitation (photo taken 3 October 2024).



Photo 3: Phase 1 services construction progress (photo taken 3 October 2024).

