AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

THE PROPOSED GEORGE KERRIDGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON ERF NO. 8270 AND PORTION 4 OF FARM 132, VREDENBURG, WESTERN CAPE.

Prepared by: Nicolaas Hanekom
Pri.Sci.Nat (Ecology) 004415
Contact details: Telephone: 0769636450
or email: nicolaas@enviro-eap.co.za

AUGUST 2025

DECLARATION OF THE SPECIALIST

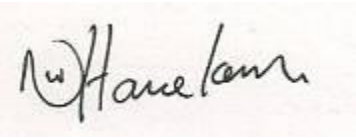
I **Nicolaas Willem Hanekom**, as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that:

- 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

- 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.



Nicolaas Hanekom
Pri.Sci.Nat 004415 **22 August 2025**

Signature of the ~~EAP~~/ Specialist: Date:

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable):

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Affairs screening report from the national web based environmental screening tool reported a “low aquatic biodiversity sensitivity. The site sensitivity verification and specialist assessment does not differ from the designation of “low” as identified in the national web based environmental screening tool. The aquatic biodiversity compliance statement, must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

- Contact details and curriculum vitae of the specialist including SACNASP registration number and field of expertise; **- Refer to cover page, section 1.1. and Appendix A of this report**
- A signed statement of independence by the specialist; **Refer to page 2 of this report**
- A statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment; **Refer to section 2.**
- A description of the methodology used to undertake the site survey and prepare the compliance statement, including equipment and modelling used where relevant; **Refer to section 3.**
- Where required, proposed impact management actions and outcomes or any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr; **Refer to section 4.**
- A description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data; **Refer to section 5.**
- The mean density of observations/ number of samples sites per unit area; and **Refer to section 6.**
- Any conditions to which the compliance statement is subjected. **Refer to section 7.**

1.1. Background & Competency

Nicolaas Hanekom is a qualified Environmental Assessment Practitioner (”EAP”) who holds a Masters Technologiae, Nature Conservation (“Vegetation Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment”) degree from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Nicolaas is certified in terms of section 20(3)(a) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act 27 of 2003), as a Professional Natural Scientist Ecological Science (Pri.Sci.Nat); Aquatic Science & Conservation Science (Cand.Sci.Nat), Registration Number: 004415 (Refer to Appendix A, CV). Nicolaas Hanekom is suitably qualified SACNASP registered specialist.

1.2. Scope and Objectives

The protocol[1] provides the criteria for the reporting of requirements for the assessment and reporting of impacts on aquatic biodiversity for activities requiring environmental authorisation.

General Information
An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the Scope of this Protocol, on a site identified as being of “low sensitivity” for aquatic biodiversity on the national web based environmental screening tool.

1.3. Terms of Reference

The Aquatic Biodiversity Compliance Statement, must be prepared by a suitably qualified specialist in the field of Aquatic Science, on the site being submitted as the preferred development site and must verify:

- That the site is of “low” sensitivity for aquatic biodiversity; and
- Whether or not the proposed development will have any impact on the biodiversity feature.

2. BASELINE PROFILE DESCRIPTION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING A STATEMENT ON THE DURATION, DATE AND SEASON OF THE SITE INSPECTION AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE SEASON TO THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT

No FEPA was mapped on site, but a FEPA wetland was mapped approximately 120m northwest of the proposed development site.

1 Published in Government Notice No. 320. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE 43110 20 March 2020.This gazette is also available free online at www.gpwonline.co.za

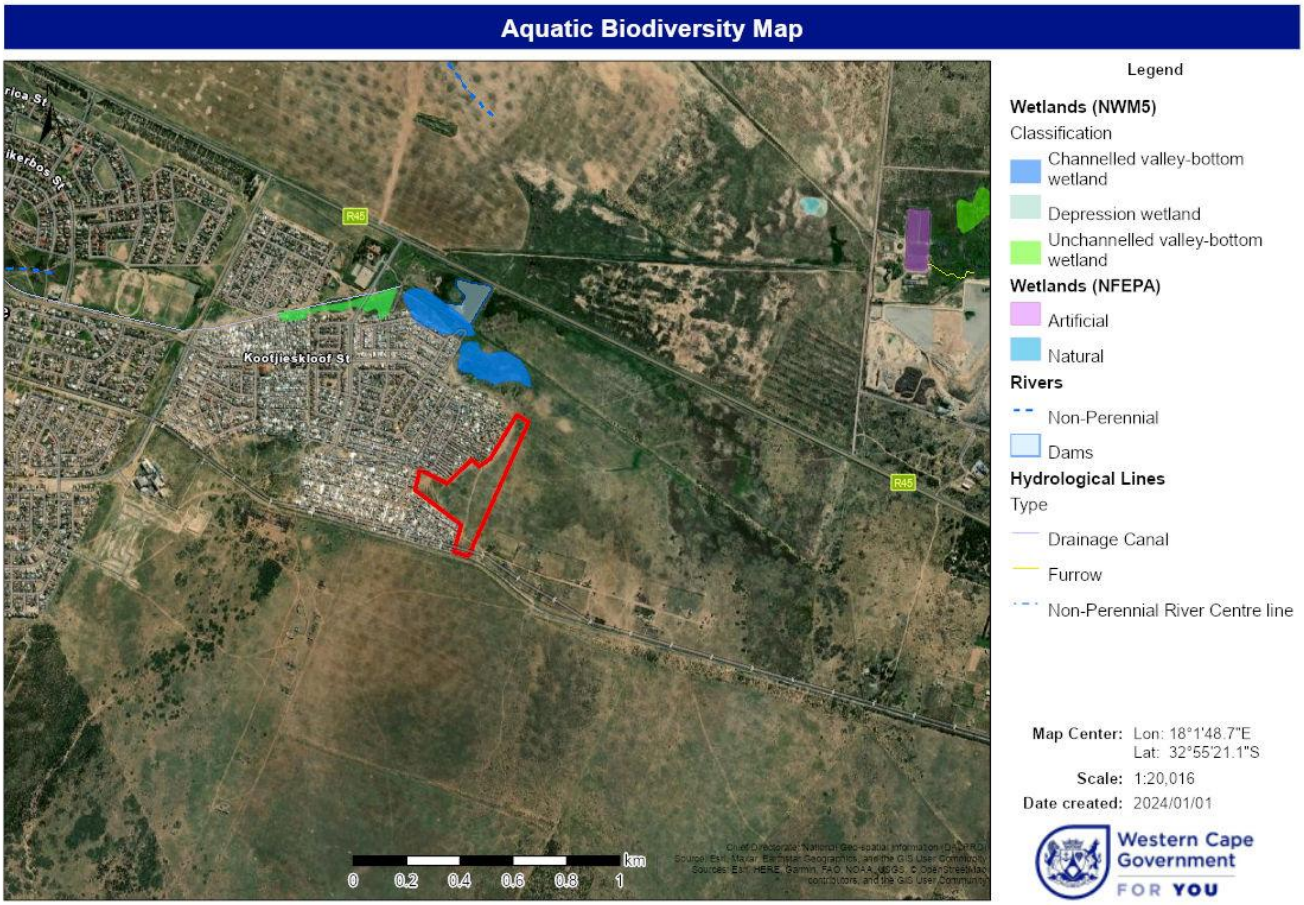


Figure 1: NFEPA Map.

Photograph 1: Mapped NFEPA Wetland. Proposed housing development site in background of photograph behind and left of the existing residential development.

3. A DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY USED TO UNDERTAKE THE SITE SURVEY AND PREPARE THE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND MODELLING USED WHERE RELEVANT

A literature review and desktop analysis were undertaken prior to the field investigation, utilizing various sources including the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) data and other relevant sources. Recent and historical aerial imagery of the site was reviewed in order to identify points for investigation during the field survey. Utilising the above information, a field investigation was undertaken whereby:

- Sites of geomorphological or topographic variance were identified and subjected to an evaluation of species present within transects established across the selected site.
- Species were identified and collated.

- Additional random sample points were selected from other sites surrounding the proposed impacted areas for comparative purposes.

The assessments entailed both a literature review of the region, as well as on site evaluations, during which specific primary data will be collected and evaluated. In addition, the identification of key ecological features was undertaken allowing for the interpretation of the prevailing habitat form and associated processes.

All data collected in the field and during the literature review was evaluated and interpreted in order to provide an understanding of the nature of the prevailing environment at a landscape and habitat level. In addition, specific evaluation of data relating to habitat form and structure was undertaken, aiding in the identification of bio-physical anomalies within the prevailing environment. Such variance may be considered to be indicative of differing habitat forms, which under consideration, may be of higher order ecological value in relation of the prevailing environment.

The study area was surveyed on foot, and all indigenous species growing in the greater study area were noted. Various transects were conducted to cover the area. Particular attention was paid to potential fauna and flora Species of Conservation Concern and presence of freshwater ecological features that represent wetlands and aquatic biodiversity areas that could have been present. Various photographs were taken.

4. WHERE REQUIRED, PROPOSED IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES OR ANY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE EMPR

The following potential impacts (both direct and indirect) on freshwater resources were identified.

Direct.

- Increased erosion and sedimentation with construct activities, particularly site clearing, can exacerbate erosion that can lead to sediment inflow in wetlands.
- Alteration of hydrological flow due to the development can modify surface runoff and infiltration patterns increasing risk of flash flooding or drying, especially in areas with soil with increased clay content.
- Dangerous goods storage and spills during construction that can lead to surface water contamination entering the wetland

Indirect Impacts

- The risk to the offsite identified wetland is pollution from surface water.

Proper management, mitigation or monitoring requirements for inclusion in the Environmental Authorization and its conditions, or the Environmental Management Plan is required. All

stormwater collected on site must be properly handled and managed to ensure that polluted stormwater and litter/waste is not discharged directly into the wetland. All dangerous goods must be stored and handled on site in bunded and on sealed surfaces. Drip trays must be used under parked vehicles. Should any spill occur, it must be reported, immediately contained and cleaned up. The construction camp and dangerous goods storage must be further than 100m away from the wetland and no construction vehicles may be parked overnight within 100m from the wetland.

5. A DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE AND ANY UNCERTAINTIES OR GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE OR DATA

The site visit was carried out on 6 December 2023. The timing of the survey is regarded as sub-optimal in terms of accurately assessing the Freshwater Ecology features of the site. A follow-up survey is not considered essential for decision-making.

6. THE MEAN DENSITY OF OBSERVATIONS/ NUMBER OF SAMPLES SITES PER UNIT AREA

Standard methods of evaluation were used. A hand-held Garmin ® GPSMap 64s was used to record ‘sample’ waypoints and the ‘sample track’. At the ‘sample waypoints’ specific details of the surrounding vegetation and features of habitat were recorded, and photographs taken to support the general observations made on the site. No attempt was made to cover the whole property, but sampling was focused so as to obtain the best overall understanding of landscape and biodiversity conditions on the site.

7. ANY CONDITIONS TO WHICH THE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT IS SUBJECTED

The findings, results, observations, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on the author’s best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information and knowledge of the area.

This report may not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This restraint also refers to electronic copies of this report which are supplied as sub portion of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements, or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must specifically refer to this report. If such comments form part of a main report for this investigation, the report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

8. REFERENCES

Driver, Nel, Snaddon, Murray, Roux, Hill (2011). Implementation Manual for Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas. Draft Report for the Water Research Commission.

DWAF, 2009. Rapid Habitat Assessment Model Manual. Report no RDM/ Nat/00/CON/0707. Authors: D Louw & CJ Kleynhans Submitted by Water for Africa.

KEMPER, N. 1999: Intermediate habitat integrity assessment for use in the rapid and intermediate assessments. IWR Environmental.

Kleynhans C.J., Thirion C. and Moolman J. 2005. *A Level 1 Ecoregion Classification System for South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. Report No. N/0000/00/REQ0104. Resource Quality Services, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Pretoria

Kleynhans CJ, Louw MD. 2007. Module A: EcoClassification and EcoStatus determination in River EcoClassification: Manual for EcoStatus Determination (version 2). Joint Water Research Commission and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry report. WRC Report No.

Kleynhans CJ, Mackenzie J, Louw MD. 2007. Module F: Riparian Vegetation Response Assessment Index in River Eco Classification: Manual for EcoStatus Determination (version 2). Joint Water Research Commission and DWA and Forestry report.

Turner, A.A. (ed.) 2017. Western Cape Province State of Biodiversity. CapeNature Scientific Services, Stellenbosch

Mucina, L. and M. Rutherford. *Eds.* 2012 update. Vegetation map of South Africa, Lesotho, nd Swaziland. *Strelitzia 19*. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

APPENDIX A
SPECIALIST CV

CURRICULUM VITAE – NICOLAAS WILLEM HANEKOM

Profession: Environmental Scientist and Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Date of Birth: 01/02/1967

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nicolaas Hanekom is a qualified Environmental Assessment Practitioner (”EAP”) who holds a Masters Technologiae, Nature Conservation (“Vegetation Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment”) degree from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Nicolaas is certified in terms of section 20(3)(a) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act 27 of 2003), as a Professional Natural Scientist Ecological Science (Pri.Sci.Nat); Aquatic Science &

Conservation Science (Cand.Sci.Nat), Registration Number: 004415. Nicolaas Hanekom is suitably qualified SACNASP registered specialist.

He has also completed the suite of Greener Governance courses with certificates in;

- An Overview of Environmental Management at the Local Government Level, Centre for Environmental Management, North-West University;
- Greener Governance for Local Authorities, Centre for Environmental Management, North-West University;
- Tools for Integrated Environmental Management and Governance, Centre for Environmental Management, North-West University.

He further attended and obtained a certificate on Integrated Protected Area Planning at the Centre for Environmental Development, University of Kwa Zulu Natal and a certificate in Project Management (Theory and Practical), through CS Holdings. Nicolaas has lectured in two subjects at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He has 26 years of environmental planning experience, working for Free State and Western Cape departments of environmental affairs, where he reviewed and commented on development (EIA) applications, in the West Coast Region.

He has, as practising EAP been responsible for many environmental impact assessments and EIA applications, waste license and atmospheric emission license applications.

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE OF FRESHWATER SPECIALIST

Name:	Nicolaas Willem Hanekom (Pri.Sci.Nat)
Profession:	Ecological Scientist
Nationality:	South African
Years experience	26 Years
Academic Qualifications	• National Diploma, Nature Conservation (Cape Technikon) • B. Tech Degree in Nature Conservation (Cape Technikon) • M.Tech in Nature Conservation (Cape Peninsula University of Technology) • Completed various Environmental Management Courses • Qualified Environmental Management System ISO 14001: 2004 Audit: Internal Auditor Course Based on ISO 19011:2002 (Centre for Environmental Management North West University)
Areas of specialisation:	• Ecosystem (terrestrial and aquatic) monitoring and assessments • Design of monitoring programmes for ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) • Environmental Impact Assessments • River classification and environmental water requirements

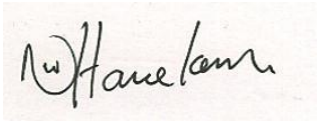
	• Wetlands Delineation • River and Wetlands management • Water Use Authorization Applications • Water quality management • River Health Assessments
Countries of Work Experience:	South Africa (Northern Cape, Western Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga, Gauteng)
Employment Record	• Student at Bontebok National Park (1992) • Assistant Reserve Manager at Gariep Dam Nature Reserve, Free State (1993 - 1998) • Reserve Manager, Conservation Services Manager for Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (1998 - 2006) • External Lecturer at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (2003 - 2005) • Director: Environmental Management at Cape Lowlands Environmental Services (2006 – 2010) • Director, Environmental Management and lead Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner at Eco Impact (Pty) Ltd (2010 – to date)
Professional membership, accreditations and courses	• South African Council for Natural Scientists Professions Pri.Sci.Nat (Ecological Science) • Riparian vegetation identification and health assessment. Internal Western Cape Nature Conservation short course presented by Dr C Boucher (Stellenbosch University) in 2000. • SASS5 Aquatic Biomonitoring Training Course. 2 to 5 September 2013. Ground Truth Water and Environmental Engineering consultancy in partnership with the Department of Water Affairs. • Workshop on “Section 21(c) and (i) Water Use Training: Understanding Watercourses and Managing Impacts to their Characteristics”. 10 May 2017. Presented by Dr Wietsche Roets of the Department of Water and Sanitation (Sub-Directorate: Instream Water Use).
Summary of experience	1992: South African National Parks. Student at Bontebok National Park with management and monitoring actions related to the Breede River. 1993 -1998: Free State Nature Conservation. Ecological management and monitoring actions related to the Gariep Dam, Orange and Caledon Rivers.

	1998 -2006: CapeNature. Ecological management and monitoring actions related to the Berg River Estuary, Verlorenvlei, Lamberts bay's Jackalsvlei, Wadrift Soutpanne, Oliphant's River mouth, Rocherpan Nature Reserve, etc. Review and assessment of EIA applications, inclusive of Freshwater ecology. Did some site visits with Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (Hester Lyons) to confirm the presence of aquatic ecological features during EIA water use registration applications. 2006 to date: Cape Lowland Environmental Services and Eco Impact Legal Consultant. Ecological (Freshwater and aquatic) Specialist input, assessment, monitoring and reports.
Publications and assessment reports	Just to name a few. Was involved in many Ecological Assessments, monitoring and inputs in EIA applications. • Elandskloof Farm 475 Citrusdal Biodiversity Baseline Survey. August 2010. This Biodiversity Assessment Covering Terrestrial and Aquatic Aspects to Inform Decisions Regarding The Proposed Elandskloof Weir Flood Damage Project On Farm 475, In The Citrusdal Area. • Cape Solar Energy Electricity Generation Facility. Farm 187/3 & 187/13 Kenhardt. Biodiversity And Ecological Baseline Survey. January 2011. (Included Terrestrial and aquatic ecological assessments and water use authorization applications) • Prieska Photvoltaic Power Generation Project. Prieska Commonage Northern Cape. Biodiversity And Ecological Baseline Survey. July 2011. (Included Terrestrial and aquatic ecological assessments and water use authorization applications) • Witteklip Erf 123 Extension, Vredenburg. Biodiversity Baseline Survey. Updated - October 2012 (Included Terrestrial and aquatic ecological assessments and water use authorization applications) • Baseline Biodiversity Survey And Wetland Delineation for ECCA Holdings: Cape Bentonite Mine on Erf 1412 Near Heidelberg. Prepared for: Shangoni Management Services Pry (Ltd). October 2014. • Freshwater Impact Assessment Laingsburg Flood Damage Repairs & Storm Water Infrastructure. 18 February 2016. • Ecological Assessment for Swartland Municipality - Upgrades To Voortrekker/Bokomo Road And Voortrekker/Rozenburg Road Intersections and Upgrade to the Diep River Bridge, Malmesbury on A Portion Of Erf 327, Malmesbury (Road) Erf 1530, Diep River Bridge Crossing, and Erf 1528, Property South

	of Diep River where Road Widening and Turning Circle Will Be Constructed. March 2016. (Freshwater Ecology Inputs and Water Use Registration) • Freshwater Impact Assessment. McGregor Bridge, Robertson Bridge and Willem Nels River Maintenance Management Plan. 24 June 2016. (Freshwater Ecology assessment and input as well as Water Use Registration) • Water Use Authorization Application Risk Matrix. Orange Grove Trust Vegetation Clearing and Agricultural Development on Portion 4 of Farm Glen Heatlie No 316, Worcester. 12 June 2017. (Freshwater ecological inputs in EIA process and Water Use Registration). • Water Use Authorization Application Risk Matrix Prepared For: Witzenberg Municipality Sand Mine Farm 1 Prince Alfred Hamlet. 28 March 2017. (Freshwater ecological inputs in EIA process and Water Use Registration). • Proposed Hartmanshoop Agri Vegetation Clearing Project and Irrigation on Erf 686, Laingsburg. 12 August 2017. (Freshwater ecological inputs in Water Use Registration). • County Fair: Hocraft Abattoir And Rendering Facility Waste Water Treatment Works "CF Hocraft WWTW" Mosselbank River Second Quarter 2018 Biomonitoring Report. June 2018. (Done quarterly biomonitoring for the last three years).

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, these data correctly describe my qualifications, my experience, and me.



Nicolaas Hanekom Pri Sci Nat.
Registration number 004415