

# BREDE-GOURITZ

Catchment Management Agency  
Opvanggebied Bestuursagentskap  
I-Arhente yoLawulo lomMandla nokungqongileyo  
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## AUDIT Report for Farm Avontuur 166/17 &19, George

Breede-Gouritz CMA Officials	Rudzani Makahane Thembela Bushula
Reference number	4/9/7/K30D/ Avontuur 166/17, George
Inspection Area	Farm Avontuur 166 Portions 17&19
Date of inspection	13 February 2018

### 1. BACKGROUND

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) issued a Compliance Notice to Portion 17 & 19 of the Farm Avontuur 166 dated 21 August 2017. According to Mr. W. Turvey (Farm Owner), the previous owners buried dead cattle within the meander of the watercourse. The smell was unbearable and the potential of pollution of the watercourse as a result of decomposing animal carcasses was significant. The decision to straighten the watercourse was taken to prevent further water pollution which would have a negative impact on the aquatic habitat.

The watercourse in question is unnamed, but it eventually flows into the Bo-Langvlei, situated just north of N2 Road in Kleinkrantz, in quaternary catchment K30B.

A request for a site inspection on 13 February 2018 was received from Eco Route, an EAP that was appointed by Avontuur Farm.

## 2. Location of the WWTW



Figure 1: Google Earth map of Farm Avontuur indicating activities that took place in the property

## 3. Field observations

### 3.1 Observation findings

Findings on the farm were as follows:

- About 80m of an unnamed watercourse was straightened this point (-33.966319S; 22.686101E) and has resulted in loss of riparian vegetation. The impact of this would be sedimentation on the watercourse and erosion of the river banks.
- There is a main dam that is mainly used for irrigation in the property and has been existing before the promulgation of the National Water Act of 1998. The riparian habitat has been seriously modified downstream of this dam, due to extensive algal and aquatic vegetation growth in this stretch.
- Two (2) small instream dams were recently constructed in the drainage lies that flow into this unnamed river, and the dams do not have any release mechanism for water downstream. Coordinates of the two small dams are as follows: small dam 1 is at -33.965058S; 22.682017E. Small dam 2 is at -33.966808S; 22.680312E. The impact resulting from these dams will be the impeding of flow, resulting in flow modification and flow reduction downstream.

- Alien vegetation was dominant in this property. Impact will be flow reduction, reduction in biodiversity and destabilisation of banks.

### 3.2 Photographic Evidence



**Figure 2:** Image of Small dam 2



**Figure 3:** Image of downstream side of dam small dam 2



**Figure 4:** Image of the reconstructed dam wall for small dam 1



**Figure 5:** Image of the straightened river channel

#### **4. Discussion**

The activities of straightening the channel and construction of an instream dams constitute Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), where:

- Section 21 (c) – impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
- Section 21 (i) – altering the bed, banks, course and characteristics of a watercourse

These activities require authorisation before being undertaken. The fact that they were undertaken without any authorisation implies that they are unlawful.

#### **5. Conclusion and Recommendation**

- A notice of non-compliance must be issued to the property owner.
- The notice must direct the property owner to rehabilitate the section of the watercourse that was straightened.
- A SACNASP Registered aquatic specialist must be appointed to undertake an impact assessment of these unauthorised activities, ie the newly constructed dams and the straightening of the channel, as well as develop a rehabilitation plan for all the disturbed areas in the property.
- The buffer areas between the irrigated land and the watercourse must be determined
- An alien clearing programme must be developed for the entire property.