



Eco Route

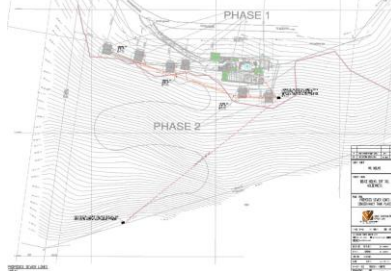
Attention: J. Marshall

Email: admin@ecoroute.co.za

Tel/ Fax: -

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ERF 301, WHITES ROAD, HOEKWIL (WILDERNESS HEIGHTS):

- 1 Forestry is responsible for the implementation and the enforcement of the National Forest Act (NFA), Act 84 of 1998 as amended and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998 as amended (NVFFA). Thank you for giving Forestry this opportunity to comment on above application.
- 2 Forestry studied the supporting documents for the above mentioned application and the following points related to Forestry's mandate i.e. the implementation of the NFA are applicable
 - a. The above proposed application is for: proposal is for a primary dwelling, garage and six tourist accommodation



- b. The property: consists of indigenous forest with Fynbos elements; has a size of "39322 m², and most of it is characterised by a relatively steep south-facing slope"
 - c. Section 15 of the National Forest Act (NFA) (Act No. 84 of 1998) as amended prohibits the cutting, disturbing, damaging or destroying of protected tree species without a licence. Section 7 of the National Forest Act (NFA), act no 84 of 1998 as amended provides for the prohibition of the destruction of indigenous trees in any natural forest without a licence. Under Section 7 of the NFA the whole forest ecosystem is protected and not just the indigenous/ protected trees within the forest. "Forest" is defined in the NFA to include i.a. "a natural forest... and the ecosystems which it makes up", thereby including all components of the forest, not only the trees." Under section 62 (1) of the NFA any person who contravenes the prohibition of certain acts in relation to trees in natural forests referred to in Section 7 (1) is guilty of a second category offence. A person who is guilty of a second category offence may be sentenced on a first conviction for that offence to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to two years, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.
 - d. Forestry objected in the past to the land-use proposal of the rezoning as well as tourist accommodation for above property as this will cause significant species loss-and thus further object to the current proposal of six tourist accommodations- thus Forestry will only support the primary dwelling and recommend that the landowner investigate an alternative to use the primary dwelling as a dual guest house. Forestry requests to comment on the proposed primary dwelling building plans- in order to mitigate and ensure a conservation outcome.
- 3 Forestry reserves the right to revise initial comment based on any additional information that may be received

Yours Faithfully

pp. AREA MANAGER FORESTRY: WESTERN CAPE
13/12/24