

Environmental Authorisation

Authorisation number	register	EC/23/A/LN1, LN3/M/25-24
NEAS number		ECP/EIA/0001860/2025
Last amended		N/A
Holder of authorisation		Amathole District Municipality
Location of activity		EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Ward 13, Erf 65 and Erven 1328, 1327, 1326, 1325 and 1324 Elliotdale, Mbhashe Local Municipality.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are applicable to this Environmental Authorisation:

“Audit”- An audit of compliance with Conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation and the requirements / stipulations of a Construction and / or Operational Environmental Management Programme and not to an Environmental Audit undertaken in terms of an accredited environmental management system by a certified environmental management systems auditor.

“Commencement”- Any physical activity on site that can be viewed as associated with the development of wastewater treatment works and supporting infrastructure, inclusive of initial site preparation.

“EAP” – The appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner represented by CEN Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) Unit.

“ECO” – Environmental Control Officer.

“EIA regulations”– These are the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as amended on 7 April 2017 in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998.

“EMPR” – Environmental Management Programme, as contained in the FBAR.

“FBAR”- The final Basic Assessment Report titled “Proposed waste water treatment works (WWTW) and supporting infrastructure in Elliotdale, Mbhashe Local Municipality, dated 20 January 2026.”

“NEMA” – National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended.

“The Department”– The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Eastern Cape Province. *C G*

1. Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Chapter 5 of this authorisation.

2. Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017, the Department hereby authorises **Amathole District Municipality**, who has applied for this authorisation, with the following contact details:

Name	Amathole District Municipality		
Address	P.O. Box 320, East London		
Telephone	N/A	Fax	N/A
Cell	078 777 1280		
Contact	Dr. B.J. Mthembu	E-mail	tandileb@amathole.gov.za

To undertake the following activity (hereafter referred to as “the activities” indicated in Listing Notice (s) 1 &3, GNR. 327 & GNR 324 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017:

Government Notice No. R.327 of 2014 as amended in 2017	12	The development of- (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; (cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;	Sewer pipelines and pump stations will occur within 32m of watercourses.
Government Notice No. R.327 of 2014 as amended in 2017	19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.	Sewer pipelines will cross watercourses, requiring the filling / depositing or excavation / removal or moving of materials in excess of 10m ³ .
Government Notice No.	27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of	The estimated footprint of the waste water treatment works

R.327 of 2014 as amended in 2017		indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	is approximately 3,4 hectares and the estimated footprints for the pump stations is 1500m ² per pump station.
Government Notice No. R.327 of 2014 as amended in 2017	28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.	The waste water treatment works is located on land previously used for agriculture, and will be approximately 3,4 hectares in extent.
Government Notice No. R.324 of 2014 as amended in 2017	4	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. a) Eastern Cape i) Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; ii. Inside urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;	Access and internal roads within the waste water treatment plant will be required, and will be 4m in width. The waste water treatment works and related infrastructure is located within critical biodiversity areas of the eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan (2019). Sewage pump stations and pipelines fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019.
Government Notice No. R.324 of 2014 as amended in 2017	12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m ² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines fall within areas zoned as public open space.

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		v. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.	
Government Notice No. R.324 of 2014 as amended in 2017	14	The development of- (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; ii. Inside urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;	Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m ² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines are within 32m of watercourses and fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019.
Government Notice No. R.324 of 2014 as amended in 2017	15	The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010. ii. Inside urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for conservation use or equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010;	Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m ² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines are within 32m of watercourses and fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019.

At the locality defined in the Table below, and hereafter referred to as “the property”:

District	Amathole	
Municipal Area	Mbhashe Local Municipality	
Farm Name	Erf 65 Elliotdale,	
Farm Number and Portion	Erf 65 and Erven 1328, 1327, 1326, 1325 and 1324	
Erf Number and Township Extension or Suburb	Elliotdale	
Co-ordinates of corners of property:	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
	31° 58' 40.17787"	28°41'10.31141"
	31° 58' 40.19801"	28°41'15.55833"
	31° 58' 47.71609"	28°41'15.5328"
	31° 58' 47.70315"	28°41'10.28575"
Physical address	Erf 65, Elliotdale	

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3. Departmental Declarations and Conditions

Scope of authorisation

- a. The application is for the proposed wastewater treatment works and supporting infrastructure in Elliotdale, Mbhashe Local Municipality and is hereby approved.
- b. Authorisation of the activities is subject to the Conditions as contained in this authorisation and is binding on the holder of the authorisation.
- c. The holder of the authorisation shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Conditions as contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
- d. Should any environmental damage be detected, that in the opinion of this Department, is the result of the development, then the applicant shall be required to make good that damage to the satisfaction of the said authority at his/her own expense.
- e. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above in this authorisation.
- f. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- g. The activities must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. Once construction activities commence, they must be completed within a period of ten (10) years.
- h. Archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) as amended. Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during excavation for the purpose of construction, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped immediately. A registered Heritage Specialist must be called to the site for inspection. Under no circumstances shall any heritage material be destroyed or removed from the site and the relevant heritage resources agency must be informed about the finding. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be disturbed further until the necessary approval has been obtained from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (ECPHRA).
- i. This Environmental Authorisation does not negate the holder thereof of his/her responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity. Relevant legislation that must be complied with by the holder of this authorisation includes, inter alia:
 - o All provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).
 - o All provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
 - o All provisions of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act 84 of 1998).
 - o All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004).
 - o All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) and its Regulations.
 - o The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) administered by the Department of Mineral Resources.
 - o The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act No. 25 of 1999). C G

- j. The legislations indicated in the BAR, as submitted by CEN Integrated Environment Management (IEM) Unit.
- k. In the event of any dispute as to what constitutes environmental damage, this Department's opinion will prevail.
- l. Should fill material be required for any purpose, the use of borrow pits must comply with the provisions of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) as administered by the Department of Mineral Resources.
- m. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum and limited to the development footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
- n. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, re-use, recycling and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste shall be disposed of at a registered landfill site licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
- o. The holder of this Environmental Authorisation has the responsibility to notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

Monitoring

- p. The applicant must appoint a suitably qualified, experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and Conditions referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
- q. The ECO must also identify species of special concern and assist with the identification of no-go areas before any site clearance.
- r. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks to be / undertaken by the ECO.
- s. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.
- t. The ECO must keep and maintain a detailed register of incidents and complaints (including any spillages of hazardous substances and other materials), indicating how these issues were addressed (including any rehabilitation measures implemented) and the preventative measures implemented to avoid re-occurrence of such incidents;
- u. The ECO must obtain and keep record of all documentation, permits, licences and authorisations relevant to the project on site.

Recording and reporting to the Department

- v. The holder of the authorisation must submit a quarterly environmental audit report to the Department for the duration of construction and rehabilitation activities until completion. The environmental audit report must:
 - (i) Indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Conditions as well as the requirements of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
 - (ii) Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development. C G

Management of the activity

- w. The EMPr for the construction phase which was submitted as part of the Application for this Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved, subject to the following:
- (i) The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR, including specialist reports therein, must be adhered to and incorporated as part of the EMPr.
 - (ii) Any updates or amendments to the EMPr must be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and must be decided upon within a period of 30 days of the submission.
 - (iii) All Conditions contained within the EA with respect to construction and rehabilitation must be incorporated into the EMPr. The Conditions set within this EA are to prevail where similar Conditions are given within the EMPr.
 - (iv) Contingency plans must be included for any emergencies that may affect the watercourses during construction, such as fuel spills, from the construction equipment and any temporary sanitation facilities.
 - (v) General principles of environmental management as applicable to the construction activities including environmental best practice, erosion prevention and control, minimization of dust, etc., must be taken into cognisance.
 - (vi) Clear stipulations as to who is responsible and accountable for what actions must be included in the revised EMPr.
 - (vii) All correspondence with regard to this application must be forwarded for attention of; The Regional Manager: Environmental Affairs, Amathole Region.

Commencement of the activity

- x. The authorised activity/ies shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of this authorisation.
- y. Section 43(7) of NEMA states that submission of an appeal automatically suspends the authorised activities until the appeal is concluded in favour of the proposed development.

Notification to authorities of commencement

- z. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department to indicate that the activity/ies will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this Condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity/ies will commence. This notification period may coincide with the period contemplated in Condition X above in this authorisation.

Site closure and decommissioning

- zz. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time. C A

Specific Conditions

Planning Phase

1. The Applicant must appoint an independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the duration of the construction phase to audit the contractor's compliance with the specifications in the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr and any other permits/authorisations. The ECO must be on site regularly to ensure that the Conditions of the authorisation are adhered to and stipulations of the EMPr are fully implemented.
2. The applicant must obtain a Water Use License from the Department of Water & Sanitation prior to commencement of the construction activities.
3. The proposed WWTW must be done in accordance with the layout plan, 04/02/2025 compiled by GG& G Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd as contained in Appendix C of the final BAR.
4. The construction footprint must be surveyed and demarcated before commencement of construction activities. All areas outside the demarcated footprint must be considered as No-Go areas.
5. Details of contractor, engineer, site control officer and ECO must be displayed to the public to allow for communication between project members and community members.

Construction Phase

6. All staff must be briefed about the layout of the construction site and must be made aware of the no-go areas and surrounding sensitive environment that must not be disturbed.
7. Search and rescue operations for Species of Conservation Concern must be undertaken before the commencement of site clearing activities.
8. All construction camps, laydown areas, batching plants or areas and any stores must be situated more than 50m from any demarcated waterbodies.
9. Clearing activities must be kept to the minimum and take place in a phased manner to allow animal species to move into safe areas and prevent wind and water erosion of the cleared areas.
10. Construction activities must be restricted to demarcated areas to prevent pollution of the adjacent river.
11. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the development footprint to minimise erosion or runoff.
12. Stripped vegetation and topsoil must be temporarily stored in designated area during construction phase and be used later to rehabilitate disturbed areas and stabilize slopes.
13. Topsoil must be cleared in a phased manner and placed on designated area and be used during rehabilitation. Topsoil and vegetation on the site in new excavation areas must be stripped to a maximum depth of 30cm, or in cases where the bedrock is shallower than this, then the entire soil layer is to be removed.
14. Topsoil and vegetation must be kept in designated piles of maximum 1 m in height in a designated topsoil /compost area, to prevent anaerobic conditions from smothering seeds and rendering them inviable and must be suitably covered with shade cloth.
15. Sediment control measures must be maintained until such a time that the re-vegetation can commence.
16. The contractor must ensure that there is an emergency preparedness plan to fight accidental fires should they occur. The adjacent landowners/users must also be informed.
17. A buffer zone of 25m between watercourses and the proposed footprint must be maintained (with exception of watercourse crossings).

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18. All construction materials including fuels and oil must be stored in demarcated areas that are contained within berms / bunds to avoid spread of any contamination. Washing and cleaning of equipment must be done in berms or bunds, in order to trap any cement and prevent excessive soil erosion.
19. Mechanical plant and bowsers must not be refuelled or serviced within or directly adjacent to any water channel.
20. All alien plant re-growth must be monitored, and should it occur these plants must be eradicated.
21. Pollution of freshwater ecosystems must be prevented by the proper disposal of construction waste, sewage, and hazardous materials and stormwater, soil erosion, waste management measures must be implemented.
22. Stormwater management features must be included in any of the hard surfaces around the WWTW and the access roads, to dissipate flows and trap any sediments from entering the riverine system.
23. All open ground areas must be mulched and vegetated with indigenous vegetation to manage erosion and stormwater absorption.
24. All food waste or general waste must be kept in a secure location (i.e. a lockup cage or sealed outside room) which is not accessible to any wildlife. All waste must be regularly removed from the property and disposed of at the registered waste site.
25. Hazardous storage and refuelling areas must be bunded prior to their use on site during the construction period. The surface of the bunded area must be graded to the centre so that spillage may be collected and satisfactorily disposed of.
26. Contaminated water containing fuel, oil or other hazardous substances must never be released into the environment but must be disposed of at a registered site.
27. All contaminated water must be contained by means of careful run-off management on the development site.
28. Dust suppression measures in the form of water, must be applied on exposed surfaces and roads during periods of high dust generation on site or when necessary to reduce the dust impacts.
29. Ablution facilities and waste collection bins must be provided for construction workers on site to prevent the watercourse from being contaminated. These abluion facilities must be located more than 100m from the waterbodies and watercourses.
30. Should any buried archaeological resources or human remains be uncovered during the construction phase, work must cease in the vicinity of these finds. The Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (ECPHRA) must be contacted immediately in order to determine way forward.

Operation Phase

31. Pipeline servitudes, access road and WWTW must be kept free of alien tree regrowth throughout operational phase.
32. Any operations of the sewers and the WWTW, must be in line with the DWS standards related to the management of these systems, this in terms of meeting the design specifications as well as the effluent quality outputs as defined by DWS.
33. Environmental awareness training must be undertaken with the community and business owners of Elliotdale regarding proper waste disposal for a waterborne sewage system and the associated environmental impacts of incorrect waste disposal.

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34. Maintenance management plan and monitoring system must be put in place which include regular inspections at key performing sections of the WWTW (head of works, filter, ponds, pump stations, pipelines) .
35. The applicant must ensure that an emergency response and a monitoring system are in place to detect leaks, blockages, pump station failures, or damage to pipelines.
36. The applicant must ensure that the system is operated within its design capacity and ensure that the treatment facilities are adequately maintained.
37. The applicant must ensure that water quality parameters of the final effluent are within defined parameters as stipulated in the water use license.

General

1. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activity (i.e.) will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
2. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
3. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty-eight) hours, if any Condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this Condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance. Non-compliance with any Condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA Regulations.
4. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the Conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the Conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these Conditions of authorisation.

4. Reasons for Decision

1. Background

The application from the Applicant is for activities as contained in GNR 327 & GNR 324 as amended in 2017. The following activities are being applied for:

<p><i>GNR 327-Activity 12</i> <i>The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(b) in front of a development setback; or</i></p>	<p><i>Sewer pipelines and pump stations will occur within 32m of watercourses.</i></p>
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<p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p>	
<p>GNR 327-Activity19 The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</p>	<p>Sewer pipelines will cross watercourses, requiring the filling / depositing or excavation / removal or moving of materials in excess of 10m³.</p>
<p>GNR 327-Activity 28 The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The estimated footprint of the waste water treatment works is approximately 3,4 hectares and the estimated footprints for the pump stations is 1500m² per pump station.</p>
<p>GNR 327-Activity 28 Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	<p>The waste water treatment works is located on land previously used for agriculture, and will be approximately 3,4 hectares in extent.</p>
<p>GNR 324-Activity 4 The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>a) Eastern Cape i) Outside urban areas: (cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p>	<p>Access and internal roads within the waste water treatment plant will be required, and will be 4m in width. The waste water treatment works and related infrastructure is located within critical biodiversity areas of the eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan (2019). Sewage pump stations and pipelines fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019. C.A</p>

<p>GNR 324-Activity 12 <i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i> <i>v. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.</i></p>	<p><i>Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines fall within areas zoned as public open space.</i></p>
<p>GNR 324-Activity 14 <i>The development of-</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs-</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i> <i>ii. Inside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></p>	<p><i>Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines are within 32m of watercourses and fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019.</i></p>
<p>GNR 324-Activity 15 <i>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010.</i> <i>ii. Inside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) Areas zoned for conservation use or equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010;</i></p>	<p><i>Estimated footprints for the pump stations are 1500m² per pump station. Sewage pump stations and pipelines are within 32m of watercourses and fall within areas zoned as public open space as well as within critical biodiversity areas of the ECBCP, 2019.</i></p>

Amathole District Municipality is proposing to develop a Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) in the town of Elliotdale, located in the Mbashe Local Municipality, Amathole District Municipality. The capacity for the Elliotdale WWTW will be 1.2Mℓ per day (1200 cubic metres per day) and will accommodate current and future wastewater volumes. The site extent for the WWTW is approximately 3.4 hectares.

The proposed Elliotdale WWTW will consist of the following main components:

- Tanker dump
- Inlet works (coarse screen, fine screen, degritting, flume)
- 2X Facultative ponds (total volume 3948m³) for anaerobic digestion & flow buffering C A

- Oxidation pond (1000m² area) for nitrogen removal.
- Oxidation Pond Recycle pump station
- Trickling filter (30m diameter) for BOD reduction.
- 2X Humus tanks for final solids settling.
- Chlorine contact tank & reed beds for disinfection
- Emergency overflow from the facultative ponds to drying slabs, thereafter to overflow into the chlorine contact tank.
- Sludge drying slabs (4 drying slabs, combined area of approximately 640m²)
- Dried sludge storage area (150m² bunded and contained loading slab as a central collection and loading point for off-site disposal).

Supporting infrastructure for the WWTW includes:

- A boundary wall / fence
- Guard house
- Ablution facilities
- Process controller office
- Storeroom
- MCC in one room for security
- Internal roads and stormwater management infrastructure

The applicant appointed CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit, to undertake a Basic Assessment process as required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017, in this regard.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration:

- a) The information as contained in the BAR;
- b) The mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr;
- c) The Terrestrial Biodiversity & Plant Species Assessment Report, dated 31 October 2024;
- d) The Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment Report, dated 05 February 2025;
- e) The Palaeontological Impact Assessment Report dated 14 July 2024;
- f) The Animal Species Compliance Statement, dated 18 August 2024;
- g) The findings of the site visit undertaken by Ms N. Ntshutsha and Mr T. Gwiji from DEDEAT on 09 April 2026.
- h) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended.
- i) The motivation submitted with respect to the need and desirability of the proposed activity.

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below:

- a) Provided, detailed qualifications of the EAP indicate that the EAP is competent to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- b) The BAR, included a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity. C A

- c) The BAR, identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The proposed methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR, adequately covered the minimum requirements as prescribed by the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements for public involvement as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017.

4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings:

- The negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity will be manageable and not unacceptable provided the Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation are adhered to and fully implemented.
- The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR, and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed, adequately mitigates against the identified impacts.
- The specific legal and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
- The information as contained in the BAR, is accurate and credible.
- The EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the Conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, the proposed activity/ies will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management as laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 as amended and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted. *CA*

5. APPEAL OF AUTHORISATION

- 5.1 In terms of Regulation 4 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended in 2017, you are hereby instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application.
- 5.2 The notification referred to in Condition 5.1 above in this Authorisation must-
- 5.2.1 Specify the date on which the Authorisation was issued.
- 5.2.2 Inform interested and affected parties of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 published in G.NR. 5985 of 13 March 2025 in terms of Section 44 read together with Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 as amended; and
- 5.2.3 Advise interested and affected parties that a copy of the Environmental Authorisation and reasons for the decision will be furnished on request.
- 5.2.4 Your attention is drawn to the provisions of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations and Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 which prescribe the appeal procedures to be followed.
- 5.2.5 Any appeal against the decision as contained in this authorisation must be addressed in writing, to the MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (hereinafter referred to as "the MEC") in terms of Regulation 4(1) of the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 and within 20 (twenty) days after the appellant has been notified in terms of paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, of the decision.
- 5.3 An Appeal Submission must be made on a form obtainable from the Departmental Appeal Administrator and/or the Departmental website on www.dedea.gov.za or relevant Regional Office.
- 5.4 The Appellant must also serve a copy of the appeal to the regional office that processed the application.
- 5.5 In the event that an appeal is lodged, copies of such appeal must be served on the applicant (if not the appellant), all registered interested and affected parties as well as juristic state departments (organ of state with interest in the matter) within 20 days of having been notified in accordance with the requirements as stipulated in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the decision.
- 5.6 The appeal must include a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for review. *CA*
- 5.7 The address to which the **original** of any appeal must be mailed is outlined below. Please note that originals may also be delivered per hand or by courier.

Department	Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism
Postal Address	Private Bag X0054, BHISHO,5605
Hand Delivery	2nd Floor Independent Avenue Office Park, Cnr Independence Avenue and Circular Drive, Bhishe, 5605
In order to facilitate efficient administration of appeals, copies of application form to appeal and any subsequent appeal documentation must also be submitted as follows:	
Office of the Appeal Administrator Chief Director, Environmental Affairs	Ncumisa.Manyonga@dedea.gov.za Cynthia.nong@dedea.gov.za

- 5.10 In the event that an appeal is lodged with regard to this authorisation, the Listed Activities described in this authorisation may not commence prior to the resolution of the appeal in favour of the applicant and prior to the Department's written confirmation of compliance with all Conditions that must be met before construction can commence, whichever event is the latter.

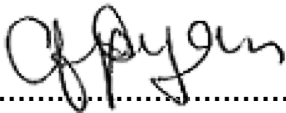
Compiled By:



Date: 29 April 2026

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Ms N.E. Ntshutsha (Registered EAP: 2019/1643)
Environmental Officer: Environmental Impact Management
Amathole Regional Office

Authorised by:



Date: 29 April 2026

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Ms C.Gyan
Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management
Head Office