



Attention: Stephen van Staden and Samantha-Leigh Daniels

Scientific Terrestrial Services

29 Arterial Road West
Oriel, Johannesburg, Gauteng
2007

30 October 2024

Dear All

RE: BMB comment on proposed offset options for the expansion of the Macassar WWTWs

The Biodiversity Management Branch (BMB) of the City of Cape Town (the City) values the opportunity to engage on the proposed offset requirements for the Macassar Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) expansion project. The Macassar WWTW is located within the City's Macassar East Nature Reserve and the sound functioning of this plant is critical to the ecological integrity of the Eerste River estuary and the neighbouring Helderberg Marine Protected Area.

The BMB hereby confirm that the three preferred offset areas proposed in the Technical Memorandum dated 25 October 2024 are within our Protected Area Expansion vision and are identified as priority areas on the fine scale conservation plan for the Cape Town area, the BioNet. Below are comments with regards to each of the proposed offset areas:

- **Option 1 – onsite mitigation:**
The proposed onsite offset option of approximately 25 ha of extremely high quality Cape Flats Dune Strandveld on Ptn 0 of Erf 1205 to be conserved is fully supported. This area will be consolidated into the Macassar East Nature Reserve and will be managed and proclaimed as Nature Reserve in terms of section 23 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (the NEM: PAA). The BMB can confirm that we have sufficient operational resources in place to manage this area to the standards required of a Nature Reserve.
- **Option 7 - The Paardevlei wetland ecological link to the coast:**
With recent changes in the overarching Paardevlei development precinct, a Paardevlei Nature Reserve will be established and proclaimed in terms of the NEM: PAA. Critical to the viability of this new reserve is a meaningful ecological link to the coast and to the Helderberg Marine Protected Area. The land is owned by the City and a potential corridor could encompass a portion of ST794-0 RE, ST791-5 and ST791-4 RE. The BMB is in full support of any land made available for this ecological corridor and extension to the Paardevlei Nature Reserve to contribute to the required offset. The CCT: Human Settlements Department is the project management team responsible for the Paardevlei project and they need to be engaged to confirm what land could be made available for this purpose. Operational budget will need to be sourced in order to manage any offset area. A Strategic Management Framework (SMF) budget request will need to be submitted by the applicant supported by the BMB.

- **Option 8** - A portion of the CCT's Burgherspost offset land bank

The City is in the process of purchasing over 800 ha of Endangered Swartland Granite Fynbos and Atlantis Sand Fynbos in the landscape conservation initiative known as the Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership. The deeds of sale have been signed and the payment has been made. The subdivision and transfer process is underway. The City is busy purchasing this Critical Biodiversity Area as a development facilitation land bank for City projects. The BMB would be in full support for it being used to mitigate for any residual offset requirements for the Macassar WWTW, however some operational budget would need to be secured. A Strategic Management Framework (SMF) budget request will need to be submitted by the applicant supported by the BMB.

Please continue to liaise with us with regards to the outcome of the offset considerations and do not hesitate should there be a need for any additional information.

Yours faithfully,

Julia
Wood

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by Julia Wood
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Julia Wood

Manager: Biodiversity Management Branch