Enviro-EAP
Environmental Consultants

S24G APPLICATION REPORT FOR THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF KNOR VARKIE CAMP SITE, CARAVAN PARK AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ON FARM KLIPHOEK 8/59, VELDDRIF, WESTERN CAPE
DEA&DP Ref: 14/2/4/2/1/F1/14/0031/24

SPECIALIST CONFIRMATION OF TERRESTRIAL VEGETATION REPRESENTED ON THE DEVELOPED SITE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

CapeNature in a letter dated 27 November 2024 commented that a specialist or EAP did not indicate whether the site is representative of Saldanha Flats Strandveld and whether or not if it remains in the areas adjacent to the current development.

I hereby confirm that I, Nicolaas Hanekom, surveyed the site on 4 September 2023 and during the survey of the existing Knor Varkie facilities and adjacent areas I observed that the site and surrounds were significantly modified and that the indigenous vegetation remaining are more representative of estuarine vegetation and not of Saldanha Flats Strandveld. Below photos taken of the Knor Varkie facilities and surrounds on 4 September 2023.

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Saldanha Flats Strandveld (FS 3):
Saldanha Flats Strandveld occurs on the sandy coastal flats, both north and south of the Berg River, at elevations of up to 120 m. Most of the Rocherpan Nature Reserve is covered by this unit. Soils are alkaline to neutral sands, south of the Berg River often overlying shallow limestone (frequently visible in ploughed lands as piles of stone), and in rare instances the sands overlay shallow granites. The vegetation is usually a fairly dense shrubland up to 1.4 m high with regular emergents (1.5-3 m). There is an abundance of leafy deciduous shrubs, succulents, and restioids, but very few of the other typical fynbos elements such as Rutaceae, Rhamnaceae, Polygalaceae or Proteaceae, and no Ericaceae are present. Thicket elements are nearly always present, often emergent, and spiny, and usually make up 5-15% of the canopy cover. Annuals are common, and geophytes are not diverse, although a few species may be locally common (Mucina & Rutherford 2006; Helme 2007). This dense shrubland can have up to 70% total canopy cover with two main strata. The higher 2-3 m stratum is dominated by *Euclea racemosa* subsp. *racemosa* and *Stoeberia utilis* subsp. *utilis* and the lower 1-2 m stratum is dominated by *Eriocephalus africanus* subsp. *africanus, Melianthus elongatus, Willdenowia incurvata,* and *Ballota africana.* Other important species in this community are *Pteronia onobromoides, Pteronia divaricata, Calobota angustifolia, Calobota spinescens, Salvia lanceolata, Hermannia scordifolia, Hermannia trifurca, Eriocephalus racemosus, Searsia glauca, Searsia laevigata, Tetragonia fruticosa, Putterlickia pyracantha, Cissampelos capensis,* and *Asparagus*. Endemic taxa include the geophytic

herbs *Hessea mathewsii* (Critically Endangered) and *Romulea elliptica* (Endangered) (Rebelo *et al.* 2006).

Findings relevant to the Knor Varkie facilities and its surrounds:
The site and adjacent areas do not represent the vegetation structure and species of Saldanha Flats Strandveld due to the fact that the area was previously cultivated with Atriplex as can be clearly seen on available Google Earth imagery in which planting rows can still be seen. The site is located and representative of the Estuarine Functional Zone (EFZ) of the Berg River Estuary (which was also confirmed by the Estuarine Specialist in their specialist report). The proposed development area and adjacent areas consists of small patches of functional intertidal and supratidal estuarine habitat (salt marsh and reeds & sedges) but is mostly dominated by areas of disturbed vegetation i.e. salt bush (Planted *Atriplex*) and alien trees. It is therefore concluded that it does not represent Saldanha Flats Strandveld.

Mr Nicolaas Willem Hanekom

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