



FORESTRY WESTERN CAPE: Private Bag X 12, Knysna 6570

Reference: EIA-WC-GR-0049-2023-24

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Eco Route

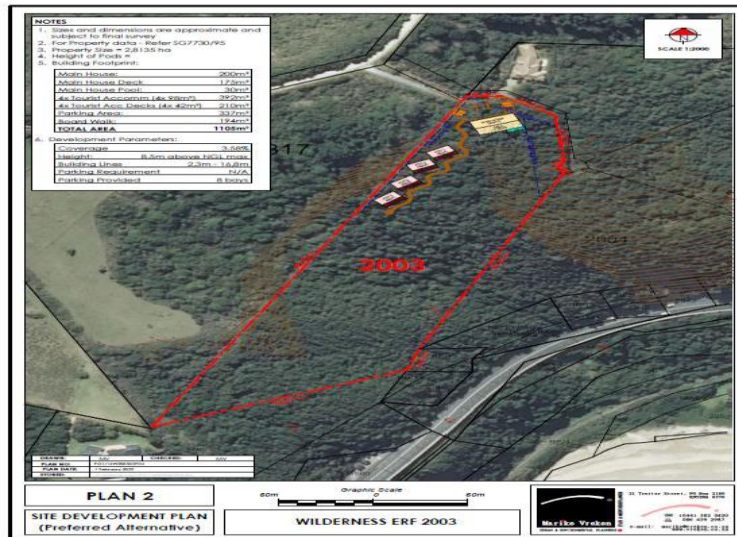
Attention: Janet Ebersohn

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COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING AND FOUR SELF-CATERING GUEST COTTAGES ON ERF 2003, WILDERNESS:

- 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).
- 2 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.
- 3 According to the report: the whole of the property consists of pristine Indigenous Forest; the property is currently zoned as Open space III
- 4 According to the report: "Proposed Development: Buildings and Structures: 1 x main dwelling house of 200 m² with a deck of 175m² and a 30m² swimming pool = Total footprint 405m², 4 x self-catering 2-storey tree-top pods of 98m² each with a 42m² deck for each unit = Total footprint 560m²; Proposed Development: Infrastructure: There will be designated parking areas in the northwestern section of the property that also makes provision for a total of 8x vehicles = Total footprint 337m²



- 5 Forestry conclude/ request the following:
 - a. Forestry request that the developmental footprint be kept to an absolute minimum- and thus does not support above proposal
 - b. The above Landowner has no property rights for above proposal.
 - c. Forestry further strongly object to above proposal
 - d. Forestry request that one dwelling unit be maintained- as per past Land-Use approvals- and future proposals be forwarded for comment to accommodate previous said request; and further suggest that Bed & Breakfast options be looked into within the parameters of the one dwelling unit
 - e. Kindly note that this letter is not a NFA licence. Continuing above activity without a valid NFA licence is illegal and a criminal offence under the NFA.
- 6 Forestry reserves the right to revise initial comment based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours Faithfully