



## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

### **WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION – ECO-RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ON REMAINDER OF FARM SWANLAKE NO 755, ASTON BAY, KOUGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

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EAS is in the process of preparing and submitting a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) for the Section 21 water use associated with the development of a residential estate within the 500 m buffer zone of a wetland (Section 21 (i)). All processes will be done in alignment with the National Water Act (1998) 'Regulations regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Application and Appeals' (GN R267 in GG 40713) of 24 March 2017.

<b>Location:</b>	Swanlake Farm No. 755, Aston Bay
<b>Magisterial District:</b>	Kouga Local Municipality
<b>Property Extent:</b>	39,4955 Ha
<b>Applicant:</b>	Arctismart (Pty) Ltd

The study site is located approximately 4 km South West of the Jeffreys Bay CBD along Dolphin Rd, Aston Bay within the Kouga Local Municipality. The site spans two Quaternary catchments (Figure 4), namely the Kabeljous River (K90G) and the Swart/Seekoei (K90F), within a largely intact portion of dune fynbos/thicket. Figure 1 indicates where the development area falls within the 500m buffer zones of the wetlands.

Swanlake Eco Estate was authorised by the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT) on 31 March 2009. The DEDEAT approved development on five (5) different portions of the Farm SwanLake 755 and has subsequently been amended to include only 35 individual development footprints and 84 single residential erven and the establishment of the associated services infrastructure on the Remainder of the Farm Swanlake No 755.

The site is dominated by vegetated dunes, with the interdunal areas being characterized drainage features. None of these areas, exhibits any obligate wetland plant species or any soils that conform to any hydromorphic criteria (gleys or mottles) thus indicating an overall lack of any wetland characteristics. Based then on the 6 levels of the National Wetland Classification System, the observed wetland areas are typical of Inland Systems (Level 1), within the South Eastern Coastal Belt Ecoregion (Level 2), associated with ephemeral drainage lines that would only contain water for short periods during extreme rainfall events (Level 4). These however have no direct connection with any other systems downstream and are cut off from the remainder of the localised catchments either by natural dune formations or developments such as roads and Marina Martinique. This was also substantiated by the National Wetland Inventory (v 5.2), although several wetland depressions do occur within 500m of the site boundary (Figure 1). These endorheic pans have been converted into dams, while the localised catchments have been modified into grazing areas, with the exception of one that has not been

converted into a dam. The pan / dam nearest Dolphin Rd is also fed by a leaking pump station, hence the high inundation levels.

The Environmental Authorisation has been approved by the DEDEAT and is still active and as a part of the Environmental Process, the Department of Water and Sanitation requires that a Water Use License Application be submitted in order for the development to move forward within the 500m wetland buffer zones.

The EA contain various conditions for how the development has to be implemented, amongst others the the National Water Act has to be complied with, hence this WULA is now being facilitated.

A newspaper notice was published in the Kouga Express, notification signs have been erected on site, and an attempt has been made to notify all neighboring landowners of the ongoing WULA.

It is requested that all comments or objections related to this water use license application be submitted before **28 November 2022**. Any comments or objections to the applications should be lodged in writing with the DWS before this date to the contact details provided below:

DWS Director: Institutional Establishment	
Ms Tabisa Fiko	Department Water & Sanitation
P.O. Box 7019, East London	Tel: 043 701 0376
5200	Email: <a href="mailto:FikoT@dws.gov.za">FikoT@dws.gov.za</a>
Ms Lea Jacobs (EAP)	Engineering Advice and Services
Tel: 041 581 2421	Fax: 086 683 9899
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Figure 1 - Wetland Map with 500m buffer zones