



23 November 2016

Mr D. Jeffery
Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants
PO Box 44
Klapmuts
7625

Dear Mr Jeffery,

Site inspection of Erf 298, Raithby, Stellenbosch Municipality

A site visit was conducted on Tuesday 22 November 2016 to determine the vegetation type and condition of Erf 298, Raithby, Stellenbosch Municipality. The original vegetation that would have occurred is Swartland Granite Renosterveld and the prime objective of the inspection was to see if any of this vegetation type remains on the property.

A circuit was walked in an anti-clockwise direction from south to north more-or-less following the eastern boundary and then back following the western boundary. The property shows clear signs of having been cultivated in the past. The remains of exotic fodder lupins (*Lupinus* sp.) as well as many other exotic weeds now inhabit the site. Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), an invasive grass, is widespread throughout the property. Only two indigenous species of note were recorded namely *Stoebe plumosa* (slangbos) and *Helichrysum pandurifolium* (ear-leaf strawflower). These species colonize disturbed sites as pioneer species in secondary regrowth after disturbance and are therefore good indicators of previous disturbance.

Stands of woody alien invasive *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson Willow) occur with scattered individuals of *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle) also present. A stand of exotic Napier Fodder (*Pennisetum purpureum*) was also located approximately in the centre of the property. This also indicates prior agricultural use of the land. No wet areas were found.

Base on the field observations it is concluded that the property is entirely transformed and



although now lying fallow is not showing any signs of reverting to a natural condition. It is doubtful that natural Swartland Granite Renosterveld would ever return unaided.

It is therefore my opinion that development of the property would not negatively impact any natural plant community and would therefore not trigger any environmental regulations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D.J. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Dr D.J. McDonald Pr. Sci. Nat.
Botanical Specialist

