

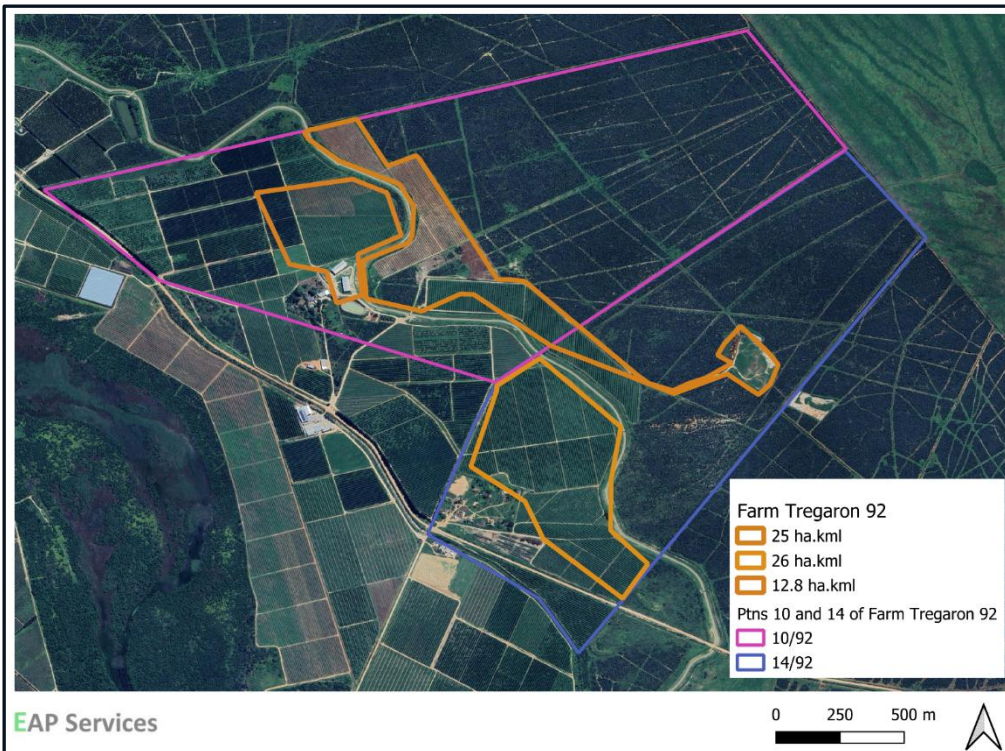
Background Information Document
Agricultural area on portions 10 and 14 of Farm Tregaron 92
 Sundays River Valley Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape
 Background information Document
 Notification of Public Participation Process
 Notice of intention to submit:
 Application for environmental authorisation in terms of Section 24G the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
 Register as an interested and affected party: 25 September to 27 October 2025

Overview of development site and activities

Portions 10 and 14 of farm Tregaron No 92 (estimated combined area 317 ha) are located approximately 6.5 km north of Sunland in ward 8 of the Sundays River Valley Local Municipality, Eastern Cape. Approximate central coordinates: 33° 27.102'S; 25° 35.758'E

The property was purchased in 1999 by Mark Hume; current dwellings and approximately 80 ha of cultivated farming (mostly citrus) was in place at the time of purchase.

Water rights were in place; water is sourced directly from the SRVM canal. Electricity reticulation was in place. Access to the site is in place from the R336.



The farming area has since been expanded:

- Infrastructure and additional cultivated land (12 ha) (2006 – 2013)
- Additional cultivated land on 25 ha north of canal (ptns 10 and 14) (2014 – 2024)
- Additional 25 ha cultivated land on SE section of ptn 14 / 92 (2006 – 2015)

Figure 1: Approximate expansion area estimated at 62 ha since 2006; Estimated 140 ha area is currently cultivated

Overview of environmental sensitivities

The Sunday's river is located approximately 1.6 km SW of the site. The SRVM canal traverses the property. The National Vegetation Map, 2024, maps Sundays Valley Thicket and Albany Alluvial Vegetation on the site. In terms of the 2022 Ecosystem Threat Status, Sundays Valley Thicket has a *least concern* status and Albany Alluvial Vegetation has an *endangered* status.



Figure 2: Eastern portion is mapped as Sunday's valley thicket (least concern); western portion is mapped as Albany alluvial vegetation (endangered)



Figure 3: SANBI Red List of Ecosystems: Remnants Albany alluvial vegetation (dark orange) and Sundays Valley thicket (dark green) mapped on the site

In terms of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity conservation Plan (ECBCP, 2019), the following are mapped on the site:

- Terrestrial ecological support area (ESA) 1, terrestrial ESA 2, fields and settlement areas
- Aquatic ESA 1

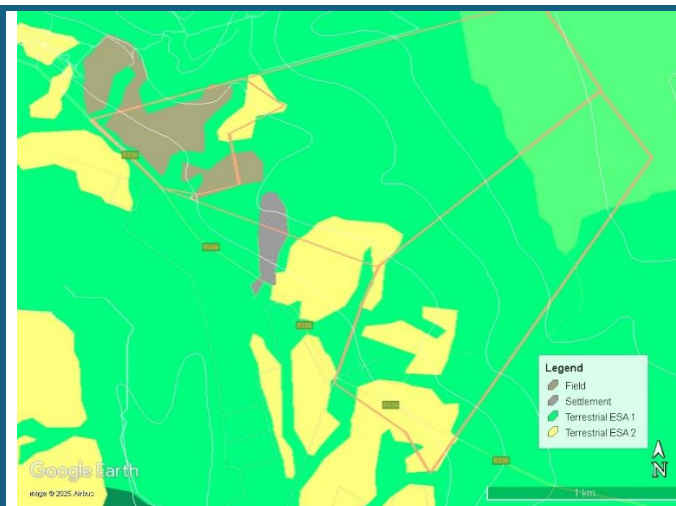


Figure 4: Terrestrial ESA 1 (green) and 2 (yellow); Fields and settlement areas (ECBCP, 2019)



Figure 5: Aquatic ESA 1 (light blue) (ECBCP, 2019)

According to the land capability, 2016, mapped by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the capability of the farm portions range from low to high. According to desktop information available, approximately 67

ha was mapped as cultivated fields, 2021, by Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

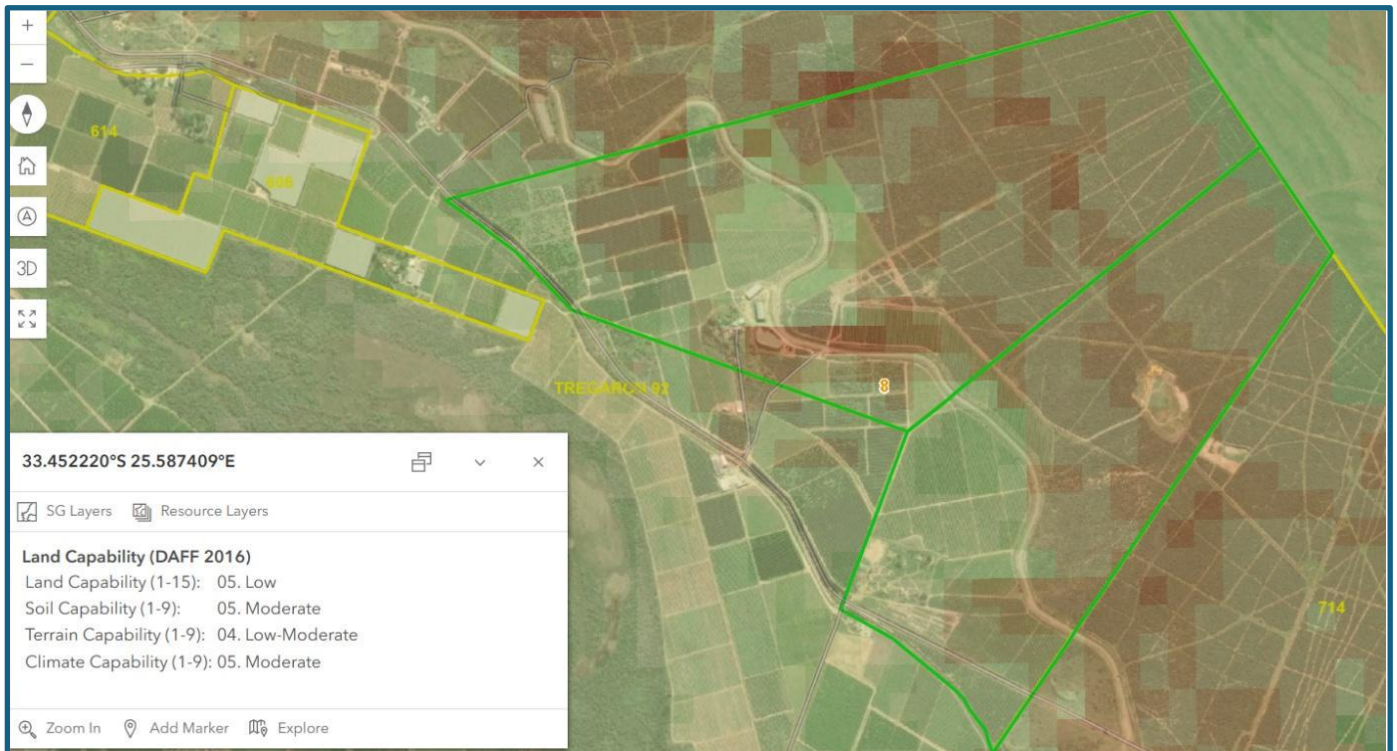


Figure 6: Land capability on the site is mapped low / moderate (red areas) to moderate / high (green areas) (source, Cape farm Mapper,

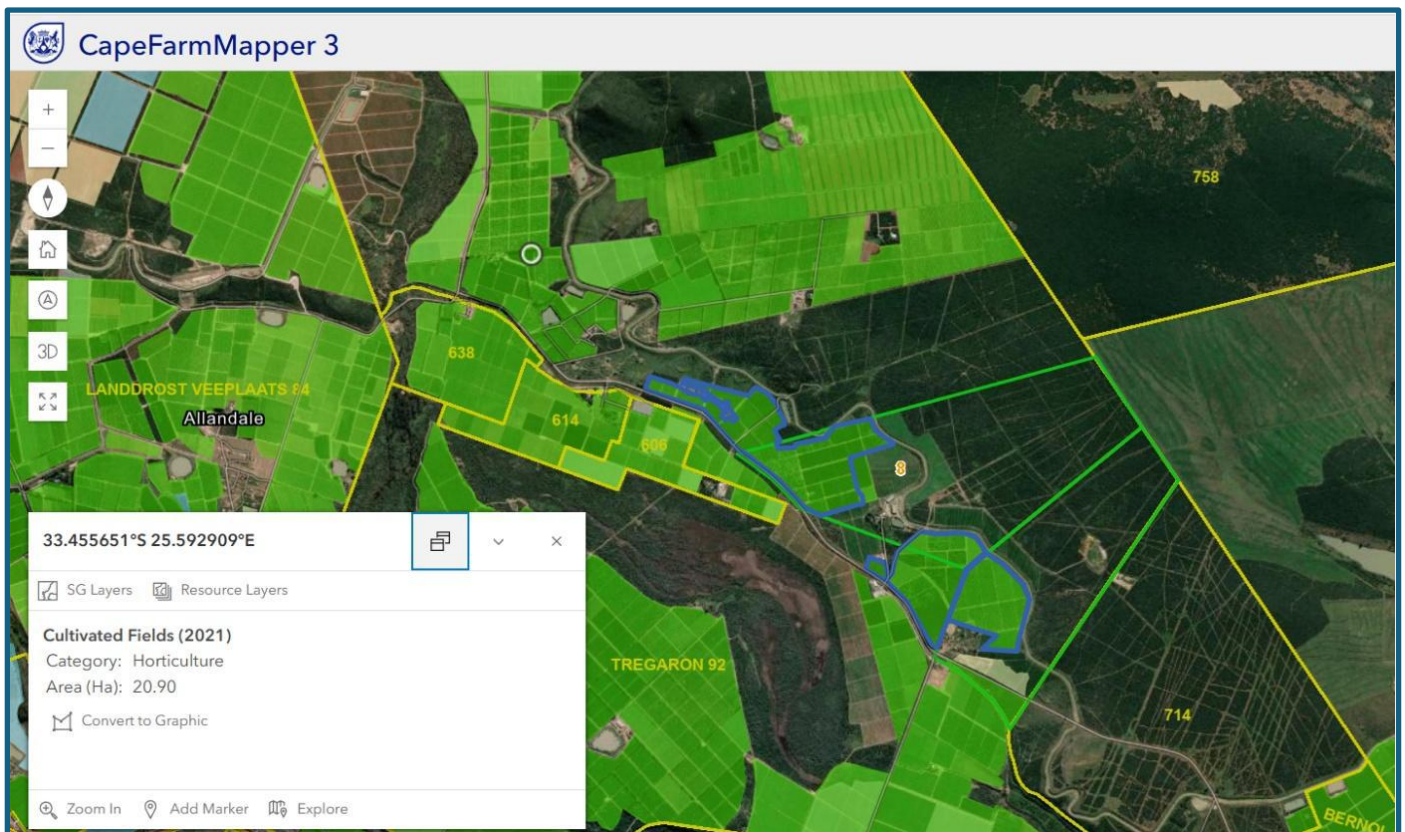


Figure 7: According to desktop information available, approximately 67 ha was mapped as cultivated fields, 2021, by Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

The National DFFE screening tool report for the site indicates the following sensitivities:

- Agricultural – Very High
- Animal – High
- Aquatic – Very High
- Archaeology and heritage – Very high
- Civil aviation – High
- Defense - Low
- Paleontology – Very high
- Plant – Medium
- Terrestrial biodiversity – Very High

The following specialist studies have / will be completed for this proposed expansion:

Specialist Protocols identified

Application Category: Agriculture_Forestry_Fisheries| Crop Production

	Specialist Assessment	EAP Comment
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	Soil assessment (completed) Gavin Schafer Pr.Sci.Nat., MSc (soil science)
2	Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment	Motivated that no specialist study required; this is expansion of farming in the Sundays River Vally Municipality in an area surrounded by existing irrigated croplands. Land use deemed to be aligned with IDP and SDF of the area.
3	Archaeological And Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	Notice of intention to develop (NID) to be submitted to ECHPRA / SAHRA. Assessment to be carried out by Celeste Booth
4	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	NID to be submitted to ECHPRA / SAHRA. An assessment to be carried out by Mr DD Wilken
5	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	A terrestrial biodiversity verification will be carried out by Jamie Pote (SACNASP 115233) and a compliance statement / assessment compiled.
6	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	An aquatic verification will be carried out by Dr Brian Colloty (Pr Sci Nat 400268/07) and a compliance statement / assessment compiled.
7	Hydrology Assessment	An aquatic assessment and soil assessment has/ will be carried out. A hydrology assessment is not deemed necessary for proposed crop farming.
8	Socio-Economic Assessment	Motivated that no specialist study required; this is expansion of farming in the Sundays River Vally Municipality in an area surrounded by existing cultivated areas. Land use deemed to be aligned with IDP and SDF of the area. EAP to report on and assess social and economic impacts
9	Plant Species Assessment	A flora verification will be carried out by Jamie Pote (SACNASP 115233) and a compliance statement / assessment compiled.
10	Animal Species Assessment	A fauna verification will be carried out by Claire De Jongh (SACNASP 115390) with an external review carried out by Dr Jonathan Collville (SACNASP 34759 (Terrestrial Ecology) and a compliance statement / assessment compiled. Additional fauna studies may be required dependant on outcome of site verification.

Overview of legal environmental requirements

National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)

The NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations sets out a list of activities that may not commence without environmental authorisation (EA) from the competent authority. Section 24G of the NEMA allows for an application for environmental authorisation to be submitted for the regularization of unlawful commencement and continuation of activities which are listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations published in terms of the NEMA. The identified NEMA EIA listed activities which require authorisation:

- Listing Notice 1 (GNR 386, 2006) Activity 12:
The transformation / removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered / endangered ecosystem listed in terms of Section 52 of the NEM: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)
- Listing Notice 1 (GNR 544, 2010) Activity 8:
The construction of agri-industrial infrastructure outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2000 square meters or more
- Listing Notice 3 (GNR 546, 2010) Activity 12, 13:
The clearance of an area of 300 square metres / 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes of indigenous vegetation within any a critically endangered / endangered ecosystem / critical biodiversity area...
Listing Notice 3 (GNR 546, 2010) Activity 14: : The clearance of an area of 5 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes of indigenous vegetation...
- Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984, 2014) and (GNR 325, 2014, as amended 2017) Activity 15:
The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation...
- Listing Notice 3 (GNR 985, 2014) and (GNR 324, 2014, as amended 2017) Activity 12:
The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation... within any a critically endangered / endangered ecosystem / critical biodiversity area...

NEMA listed activities requiring authorisation will be confirmed with the competent authority prior to application submission. The competent authority identified is the Eastern Cape Department of Economic development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)(NWA)

An application will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation for any Section 21 water uses listed in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) that may require authorisation as identified during the assessment process.

Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983 (CARA)

An application will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for permits required in terms of regulations published in terms of the conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983 (CARA Act).

National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA)

In terms of Section 38(1) of the NHRA any development exceeding 5000m² can trigger the need for assessment. A NID will therefore be submitted to the Eastern Cape Heritage Resources protection Agency (EHRPA) and the South African Heritage Resources Association (SAHRA) and the required assessments will be carried out to inform the sensitivities and required actions for any identified resources identified / high likelihood of occurring within the project area.

National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No.10 Of 2004) , Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 19 of 1974 and National Forest Act (Act 84 of 1998)

An indication will be provided of any NEMBA threatened or protected species (TOPS) / species listed in the Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 19 of 1974 / protected trees listed in terms of the National forest Act.

Proposed NEMA Section 24G Environmental Authorisation Application for agricultural activities on portions 10 and 14 of Farm Tregaron 92, Sundays River Valley Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Eastern Cape

Background information Document, September 2025

Public Participation

Notice is hereby given that the landowner (Mark Hume) and applicant (HUMEAT cc) intends to apply for an environmental authorisation in terms of Section 24G of the NEMA for the regularization of unlawful commencement and continuation of activities which are listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations published in terms of the NEMA. Related applications:

- An application will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation for a WUL / GA as and if required.
- An application will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for CARA permits as required.
- An application will be submitted to the Eastern Cape Heritage Resources protection Agency (EHRPA) and the South African Heritage Resources Association (SAHRA) for permits as required.

A public participation process will be conducted according to Regulation 41 of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended, 2017). **All interested and affected parties (IAPs) are encouraged to participate in the process.** Register and / or submit initial comments as an IAP within 30 days of this notice to the contact details provided below.

Registration dates: 25 September 2025 to 27 October 2025

A 30-day review and comment period will be provided on the draft Section 24G NEMA application form and supporting appendices including, inter alia, specialist studies, retrospective assessment, draft environmental management plan report and the public participation and comments and response report. and draft EIR report.

Should a water use license be found to be required a 60-day comment and review period will be provided on relevant information to all registered IAPs.

Application Process for NEMA S24G EA authorisation EA Process Proposed Public Participation		
Schedule	Pre-Application Phase	Target Date
In progress	Identify potential IAPs	August - September 2025
Completed	Initial site visit by EAP	September 2025
Commenced	Initial specialist investigations and planning reports	August - September 2025
Completed	Submit Notice of intent to submit application for NEMA S24G EA to the EC DEDEAT	September – October 2025
We are here in the process	Submit Notice of intent to submit application for NEMA S24G EA to potential registered and interested parties and provided for a 30-day registration of interested and affected parties (IAPs); Distribute background information document to all registered IAPs; Note, relevant organs of state, parastatals, NGOs and site landowners and adjacent landowners will be automatically registered for the assessment process;	September – October 2025
	Placement of Site Notices at the sites to encourage registration of interested / affected parties Advertising the intent to apply for an application for EA in a local newspaper to encourage registration of interested / affected parties. A registration period of 30 days will be provided.	September – October 2025
	Submit initial comments and provide any relevant information / aspects / potential impacts you feel should be included in the assessment.	
	Keep record of all registrations and initial comments in comments and response report	September – October 2025
	Draft S24G application and supporting appendices	
Upon completion of verification and site development plans,	Submit draft NEMA S24G EA application and supporting appendices to registered IAPs for a 30-day comment and review period	October – November 2025

Application Process for NEMA S24G EA authorisation EA Process Proposed Public Participation		
Schedule	Pre-Application Phase	Target Date
assessment and EMPPr as required		
	Keep record of all comments and responses in a public participation ad comments and response report; update comments and response report as required.	October – November 2025
	Final S24G application and supporting appendices	
Upon completion of responses to all relevant comments and ensuring final application report addresses all comments	Update draft application and supporting appendices with all comments and responses and submit Final NEMA S24G application to DEDEAT for consideration	November - December 2025
	Decision making phase	
DEDEAT decision making	No timeframes for decision making on a S24G NEMA application; decision making process is generally 107 days for proposed NEMA LN1,2, 3 activities	January – April 2026
	Notify IAPs of authority's decision (within 14 days of receiving decision)	April – May 2026
	Appeal Phase	
Decision will be distributed to all IAPs and 20 days provided to submit an appeal on the decision	Submit appeals within 20 days of receiving decision as and if required	May 2026

**The Environmental Assessment Practitioner appointed for the S24G application process:
Claire De Jongh (EAPASA registration: 2021/3519)**

Register to participate in this process by contacting the details provided below.

Claire De Jongh

Tel: 0846074743

Email: claire@eapservices.co.za | admin@eapservices.co.za

Address: 17 High St, Mount Pleasant, Gqeberha, 6070

Project related information will be made available on the following website: www.eapservices.co.za