



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Demar Centre, Main Road, Knysna, WC, Contact Number: 066 374 7795
Enquiries: TF Gwala, E-mail: TGwala@dfpe.gov.za

EIA-WC-GR-0029-2025-26

RE: OSCA COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW FARM HOMESTEAD AND ROAD ON PORTION 79 OF 205, RUYGTEVLEI, KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY DISTRICT

DATE: 11 OCTOBER 2025

Attention: Mrs. Lizelle Genade
Email: lizelle@ecoroute.co.za
Cell/ Tel: 082 938 0973

Dear Mrs. Lizelle Genade

I refer to your e-mail notification of 10 October 2025.

Please receive comments from the Branch: Forestry Management, Directorate: Forest Resource Protection in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on the above-mentioned proposed second dwelling application. Site inspection was conducted 16 October 2025.

The mandate of the Forestry Branch in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), as a commenting authority, is to ensure control over developments that affect State forests, natural forests, forest nature reserves and protected trees.

1. The applicant must assess and quantify the anticipated impacts on protected trees. See Section 12(1)(d) of the National Forests Act, (Act No. 84 of 1998) ("NFA") and Government Notice (GN) 4496, Government Gazette No. 50291 of 13 March 2024 for the list of protected tree species. Protected trees are known to occur in the vicinity of the study site.
2. Section 15(1) of the NFA states that no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree; or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a license granted by the Minister; or in terms of an exemption published by the Minister.
3. The prohibition on protected trees applies to all trees, alive and dead. It also applies to all size classes of the species listed as protected.
4. Cutting or disturbing a protected tree without a valid Forest Act Licence is a criminal offence and a transgression of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) and carries a fine or imprisonment or both.



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

5. Protected trees with active bird nests or other significant biodiversity features may not be destroyed without a valid Fauna Permit from the provincial conservation authority, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform ("DAERL"), if these would be affected.

DFFE studied the supporting documents for the above-mentioned building plan application and the following points related to Forestry's mandate i.e. the implementation of the NFA are applicable

OSCAE comments

- The Forest officer from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) inspected the above-mentioned property on the 16 October 2025.
- Upon the arrival on site, *Sideroxylon inerme*, Candlewood, Sea Kwarrie, Cape Sumac, and Sallie, were spotted on site and falling within proposed footprint. The developer will be permitted to disturb an area of 190 meters in length, and 7-meters in width for road servitude. In addition, the stakeholders committee recommended that this road must travers in areas where they are limited indigenous and protected trees to avoid unnecessary deforestation. Furthermore, an area of 295m² will be disturbed for the purpose of developing a new camping area on the same property mentioned above. National Forest Act (Act No. 84 of 1998) License to be acquired prior to the development.
- DFFE recommend that the proposed activity mentioned above should be done in phases to avoid unnecessary destruction to the Forest. 200 trees of indigenous trees must be planted under Goukamma Nature Reserve for biodiversity offset.
- An environmental control officer (ECO) must be appointed by the owner to oversee the operation to avoid unnecessary destruction and damage to protected trees, based on a lack of knowledge.
- Protected trees and Indigenous species with significant biodiversity features such as active birds' nests and may not be disturbed without a valid Fauna Permit
- In conclusion the Department of Forestry supports the proposed development. However, this comment does not exempt the landowner from abiding to other environmental legislatures

Note: The Department reserves the right to revise the initial comment based on any additional information that may be received

Should you wish to correspond further on this matter, quote Reference EIA-WC-GR-0029-2025-26. Enquiries may be directed to Ms. TF Gwala at TGwala@dffe.gov.za, Cell 066 374 7795.

Yours Faithfully,


SIGNATURE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 Letter signed by: Ms. TF Gwala
 Designation: Deputy Director Forest Resource Protection
 Branch: Forestry Management

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES	
WESTERN CAPE REGION	
	
17/11/2025	
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AND THE ENVIRONMENT	