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@dffe.gov.za

EIA-WC-GR-0017-2025-26

RE: OSCA COMMENT ON ERF 412, BRENTON ON LAKE, KNYSNA

DATE: 12 September 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 18 July 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 primary dwelling application. Site inspection was conducted 20 August 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.

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.



Batho pele putting people first

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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 20 August 2025.
- Upon the inspection two (2) protected trees of *Sideroxylon inerme* (Milkwood) and *Afrocarpus Falcatus* (Outeniqua yellowwood) were spotted on site. The two trees mentioned above are encroaching towards the proposed footprint and they will be pruned to allow extension of the existing primary dwelling. National Forest Act (Act No. 84 of 1998) License permit must be acquired to conduct the activity mentioned above.
- 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
- The Department of Forestry supports the proposed development. However, these comments do not exempt the landowner from abiding by 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-0017-2025-26. 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

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