

## **BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY**

### **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO.107 OF 1998)**

#### **INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY**

The Bergrivier Municipality, in collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, has commenced with the process to draft an Environmental Management Framework, in terms of regulation 3 of the Environmental Management Framework Regulations, 2010, published under Government Notice R547/2010 in *Government Gazette* 33306 dated 18 June 2010, read with section 24(2) and (3), of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (the Act). Members of the public are herewith informed of the preparation of the Draft EMF and may submit written representations to the contact details supplied below.

Section 24(3) of the Act provides that the National Minister, or a Provincial Minister with the concurrence of the National Minister, may compile information and maps that specify the attributes of the environment in particular geographical areas, including the sensitivity, extent and interrelationship and significance of such attributes that must be taken into account by every competent authority. Such information and maps are to be used as environmental management frameworks in the consideration of applications for environmental authorisations in or affecting a geographical area to which the framework applies.

The MEC will use the EMF process to identify "urban areas" for Bergrivier Municipality in terms of the EIA Listing Notices. Chapter 5 of the Act provides, among other things, for the listing of activities (listed activities) that may not commence without an environmental authorisation. Different requirements apply depending on whether the activity is proposed to be established in or outside "urban areas", defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 of 2014 as areas situated within the urban edge (as defined or adopted by the competent authority) or, in instances where no urban edge or boundary has been defined or adopted, the areas situated within the edge of built-up areas. Listed activities which trigger the requirement for an environmental authorisation may take place within urban areas, as defined, without obtaining environmental authorisation when these are excluded in terms of the EMF to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and services.

The Bergrivier Municipality comprises of the towns of Aurora, Dwarskersbos, Eendekuil, Piketberg, Porterville, Redelinghuis, Velddrif & Laaiplek as well as the Moravian Church rural settlements of Goedverwacht and Wittewater across an area of 4 407.04km<sup>2</sup> within the West Coast District Municipality. The Groot Winterhoek Mountains at Porterville, a UNESCO site, and the Berg River Estuary in Velddrif, a Ramsar site, form part of the municipal area which borders the Atlantic Ocean to the west of Laaiplek and Dwarskersbos.

The proposed EMF will support the environmental rights of people situated in the geographical area to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being, and to have the environment protected. The EMF aims to prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation and secure the sustainable development and use of natural resources in the geographical area while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

Any information regarding this process may be obtained electronically on request by email to Paulette Jacobs (paulette@hydroscience.co.za), Angila Joubert (joubertA@bergmun.org.za) or Liza Petersen (Liza.Petersen@westerncape.gov.za).

Written representations to the proposed EMF and urban areas can be submitted before or on **31 July 2025** by—

- (a) emailing the representations or objections to:

HydroScience

Contact Person: Paulette Jacobs Tel: 082 850 5482

Email: [paulette@hydrosience.co.za](mailto:paulette@hydrosience.co.za)

Bergvriër Municipality

Contact Person: Angila Joubert Tel: 022 783 1112

Email: [joubertA@bergmun.org.za](mailto:joubertA@bergmun.org.za)

Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Contact Person: Liza Petersen Tel: 021 483 4247

Email: [Liza.Petersen@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Liza.Petersen@westerncape.gov.za)

- (b) posting the representations to:

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Ms Liza Petersen Directorate: Planning and Policy Coordination, Private Bag X9086 Cape Town 8000;

- (c) delivering the representations to:

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Attention: Ms Liza Petersen, 2nd Floor, Leeusig Building 1 Dorp Street Cape Town 8001.

Representations received after the deadline will not be considered.