



## NICK HELME BOTANICAL SURVEYS

PO Box 22652 Scarborough 7975  
Ph: 021 780 1420 cell: 082 82 38350 email: botaneek@iafrica.com  
Pri.Sci.Nat # 400045/08

20 June 2017

Landscape Dynamics

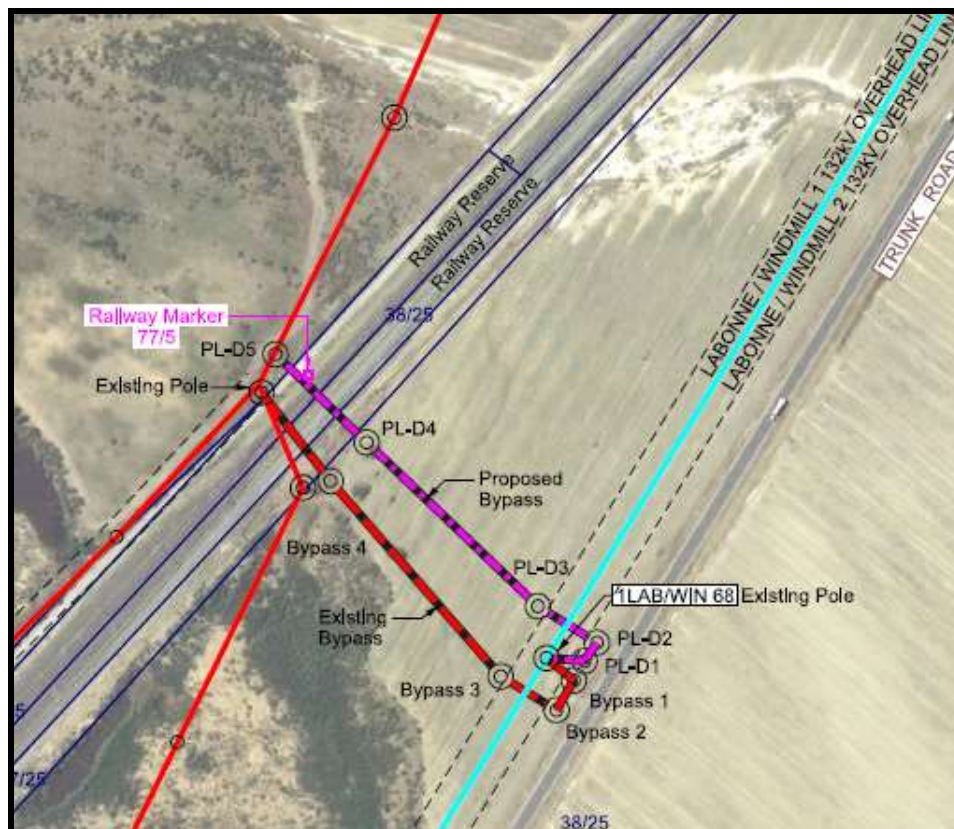
Somerset West

ATT: Susanna Nel

Dear Susanna

### **Specialist fauna & flora input: Eskom Labonne – Windmill Bypass, (Dagbreek), Hermon, W Cape.**

I understand that the study area is a small section less than 300m long, between the railway north of Hermon, and the trunk road R44, as shown in Figure 1. The proposed bypass lies just north of an existing bypass.



**Figure 1:** Map showing the proposed bypass.

Given the degraded nature of the study area and the small scale of the project I did not undertake a site visit, but was provided with various colour photographs of the site, and was able to use very recent (March 2017) Google Earth imagery of the site.

I can thus confirm that the project will not impact on any natural vegetation at all, being fully within cultivated or fallow lands. The railway reserve supports a few alien invasive shrubs in the form of *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson), along with various alien annual grasses (*Lolium*, *Avena*, *Briza*, etc), and the indigenous grass *Cynodon dactylon* (fynkweek). The likelihood of there being any plant Species of Conservation Concern within the study area is very low, and the botanical impact of the proposed project will be Negligible before and after mitigation.

According to the SA Vegetation map (Mucina & Rutherford 2006) the underlying vegetation type in the area is Atlantis Sand Fynbos, with Swartland Shale Renosterveld nearby. Both these vegetation types are listed as Critically Endangered on a national basis (DEA 2011). The soils on site are best described as sandy loams, and would have supported a mix of these two vegetation types prior to total transformation by cultivation.

The terrestrial fauna in the area is unremarkable and unlikely to be impacted by the proposed project. Species present are likely to include Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*), Porcupine (*Hystrix africaeustralis*), and Cape Gerbil (*Tatera afra*). These are all common and widespread species, as well as being highly mobile, and will not be negatively impacted. Overall terrestrial faunal impacts are likely to be Negligible before and after mitigation.

No specific faunal or botanical mitigation is required or proposed.

Yours sincerely



Nick Helme