

TOEKOMS LOW COST HOUSING PROJECT, MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

Visual Statement

Final v_1

DATE: 27 October 2025

Document prepared for HillLand Environmental (Pty) Ltd
On behalf of Mossel Bay Municipality



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

<i>APHP</i>	Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners
<i>BLM</i>	Bureau of Land Management (United States)
<i>BPEO</i>	Best Practicable Environmental Option
<i>DoC</i>	Degree of Contrast
<i>EIA</i>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>EMPr</i>	Environmental Management Plan

<i>GIS</i>	Geographic Information System
<i>GPS</i>	Global Positioning System
<i>IDP</i>	Integrated Development Plan
<i>IEMA</i>	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (United Kingdom)
<i>KOP</i>	Key Observation Point
<i>LVIA</i>	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
<i>MAMSL</i>	Metres above mean sea level
<i>NELPAG</i>	New England Light Pollution Advisory Group
<i>PNR</i>	Private Nature Reserve
<i>SDF</i>	Spatial Development Framework
<i>SEA</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<i>VAC</i>	Visual Absorption Capacity
<i>VIA</i>	Visual Impact Assessment
<i>VRM</i>	Visual Resource Management
<i>VRMA</i>	Visual Resource Management Africa
<i>ZVI</i>	Zone of Visual Influence

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Technical Terms Definition (Oberholzer, 2005)

Degree of Contrast	The measure in terms of the form, line, colour and texture of the existing landscape in relation to the proposed landscape modification in relation to the defined visual resource management objectives.
Visual intrusion	Issues are concerns related to the proposed development, generally phrased as questions, taking the form of “what will the impact of some activity be on some element of the visual, aesthetic or scenic environment”.
Receptors	Individuals, groups or communities who would be subject to the visual influence of a particular project.
Sense of place	The unique quality or character of a place, whether natural, rural or urban.
Scenic corridor	A linear geographic area that contains scenic resources, usually, but not necessarily, defined by a route.
Viewshed	The outer boundary defining a view catchment area, usually along crests and ridgelines. Similar to a watershed. This reflects the area, or the extent thereof, where the landscape modification would probably be seen.
Visual Absorption Capacity	The potential of the landscape to conceal the proposed project.

Technical Term Definition (USDI., 2004)

Key Observation Point	Receptors refer to the people located in the most critical locations, or key observation points, surrounding the landscape modification, who make consistent use of the views associated with the site where the landscape modifications are proposed. KOPs can
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	either be a single point of view that an observer/evaluator uses to rate an area or panorama, or a linear view along a roadway, trail, or river corridor.
Visual Resource Management	A map-based landscape and visual impact assessment method development by the Bureau of Land Management (USA).
Zone of Visual Influence	The ZVI is defined as ‘the area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.’

1 DFFE SPECIALIST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1.1 Specialist declaration of independence

Table 1. Specialist declaration of independence

All intellectual property rights and copyright associated with VRM Africa’s services are reserved, and project deliverables, including electronic copies of reports, maps, data, shape files and photographs, may not be modified or incorporated into subsequent reports in any form, or by any means, without the written consent of the author. Reference must be made to this report, should the results, recommendations or conclusions in this report be used in subsequent documentation. Any comments on the draft copy of the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) must be put in writing. Any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from, or based upon, this report, must make reference to it. This document was completed by Silver Solutions 887 cc trading as VRM Africa, a Visual Impact Study and Mapping organisation located in George, South Africa. VRM Africa cc was appointed as an independent professional visual impact practitioner to facilitate this VIA. I, Stephen Stead, hereby declare that VRM Africa, an independent consulting firm, has no interest or personal gains in this project whatsoever, except receiving fair payment for rendering an independent professional service.  Stephen Stead APHP accredited VIA Specialist
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2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Visual Resource Management Africa CC (VRMA) was appointed by HillLand Environmental to undertake a Visual Statement for the proposed Toekoms low-cost housing project, on behalf of the Mossel Bay Municipality. A site visit was conducted on 27 July 2025. The proposal involves the construction of 25 residential units within the existing Toekoms residential area in Groot Brakrivier (Erven 2667, 2686 & 2687). Due to the small scale of the development that is unlikely to exceed the existing residential landscape context of the locality, a Level 1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken and comprised a site visit and suitability statement regarding the proposed residential landscape change. Impacts were not undertaken.

The assessment concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to result in the loss of significant landscape or visual resources. However, there is a potential risk from skyline intrusion as seen from the R102, as well as a limited change to the existing R102 vegetated verge sense of place. To address these issues, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- Restrict building heights to 8m for erven located adjacent to the R102.
- Introduce screening vegetation along the road edge and the entrance into Toekoms.

With these mitigation measures effectively implemented, the development is expected to result in a moderate to low negative visual magnitude in the short-term. Once the vegetation has become established, a positive landscape change is likely that would benchmark the R102 sense of place, and add aesthetic value to both the Toekoms community, and the surrounding residential areas.

3 INTRODUCTION

Visual Resource Management Africa CC (VRMA) was appointed by HilLand Environmental to undertake a **Visual Statement** for proposed Toekoms low cost housing project on behalf of the Mossel Bay Municipality. A site visit that was undertaken on 27 July 2025. The Municipality proposes to construct 25 dwelling in the existing Toekoms residential areas that is located in Groot Brakrivier (Erven 2667,2686 & 2687).

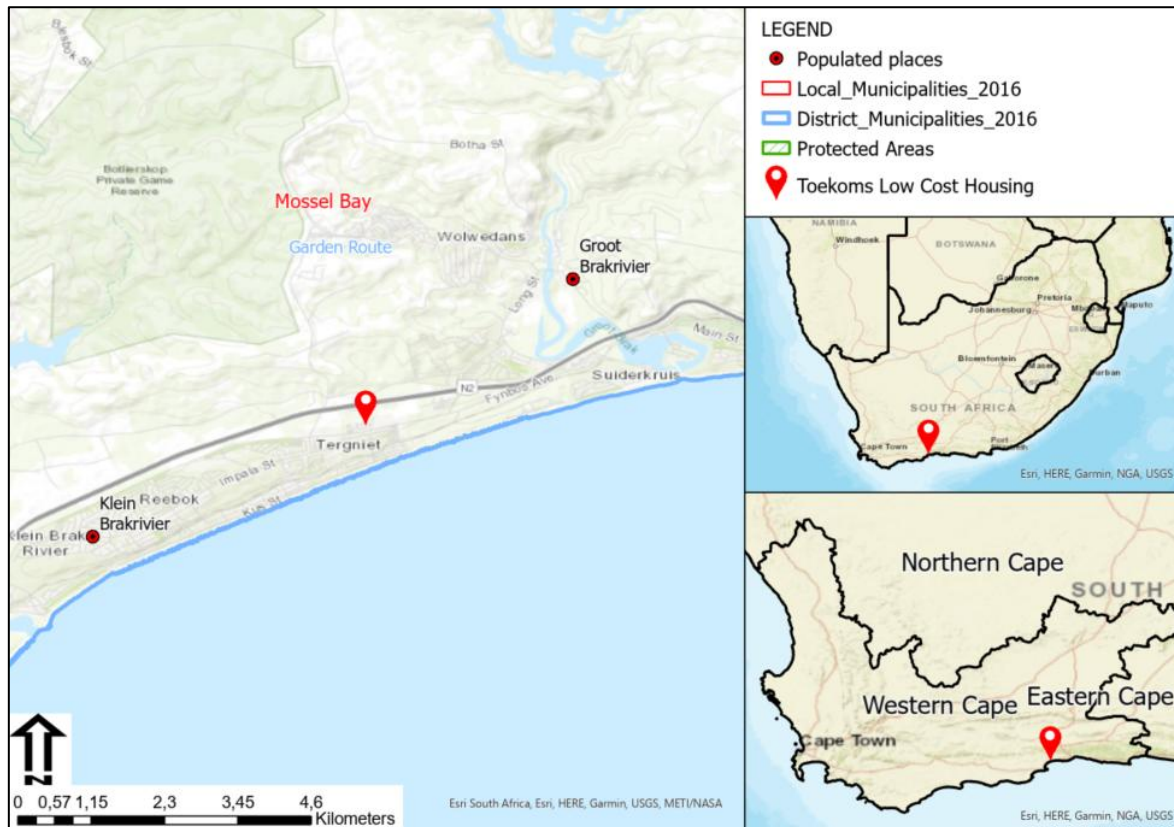


Figure 1: Assessment locality map.

3.1 Terms of Reference

The following actions informed the visual statement scope of work:

- Planning literature review to assess if any amendments to landscape based planning for the area have taken place subsequent to the previous EIAs.
- Site visit to confirm site sensitivity to landscape change.
- Make preliminary recommendations as to the suitability of the proposed landscape and possible mitigation measures that could be introduced to reduce the visual intrusion if necessary.

3.2 Study Team

Contributors to this study are summarised in the table below.

Table 2: Authors and contributors to this report.

Aspect	Person	Organisation / Company	Qualifications
Landscape and Visual Assessment (author of this report)	Stephen Stead MSc Geography, 2023 (UKZN, Pietermaritzburg)	VRMA	• 20 years of experience in visual assessments including 230 large scale landscape changes in five sub-Saharan African countries. • Registered with the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners since 2014.

3.3 Visual Assessment Approach

The full methodology used in the assessment can be found in Annexure B, with this section outlining the key elements of the assessment process. The process that VRM Africa follows when undertaking a VIA is based on the United States Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Visual Resource Management method (USDI., 2004). This mapping and GIS-based method of assessing landscape modifications allows for increased objectivity and consistency by using standard assessment criteria.

- *“Different levels of scenic values require different levels of management. For example, management of an area with high scenic value might be focused on preserving the existing character of the landscape, and management of an area with little scenic value might allow for major modifications to the landscape. Determining how an area should be managed first requires an assessment of the area’s scenic values”.*
- *“Assessing scenic values and determining visual impacts can be a subjective process. Objectivity and consistency can be greatly increased by using the basic design elements of form, line, colour, and texture, which have often been used to describe and evaluate landscapes, to also describe proposed projects. Projects that repeat these design elements are usually in harmony with their surroundings; those that don’t create contrast. By adjusting project designs so the elements are repeated, visual impacts can be minimized” (USDI., 2004).*

Baseline Phase Summary

The VRM process involves the systematic classification of the broad-brush landscape types within the receiving environment into one of four VRM Classes. Each VRM Class is associated with management objectives that serve to guide the degree of modification of the proposed site. The Classes are derived by means of a simple matrix with the three variables being the scenic quality, the expected receptor sensitivity to landscape change, and the distance of the proposed landscape modification from key receptor points. The Classes are not prescriptive and are utilised as a guideline to determine visual carrying capacity, where they represent the relative value of the visual resources of an area. Classes I and II are the most valued, Class III represents a moderate value; and Class IV is of least value. The VRM Classes are not prescriptive and are used as a guideline to determine the carrying capacity of a visually preferred landscape as a basis for assessing the suitability of the landscape change associated with the proposed project.

Table 3: VRM Class Matrix table

		VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS								
		High			Medium			Low		
SCENIC QUALITY	A (High)	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
	B (Medium)	II	III	III/ IV *	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
	C (Low)	III	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
DISTANCE ZONES		Fore/middle ground	Background	Seldom seen	Fore/middle ground	Background	Seldom seen	Fore/middle ground	Background	Seldom seen

* If adjacent areas are **Class III** or lower, assign **Class III**, if higher, assign **Class IV**

The visual objectives of each of the classes are listed below:

- The Class I objective is to preserve the existing character of the landscape and the level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. Class I is assigned when a decision is made to maintain a natural landscape.
- The Class II objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape and the level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. The proposed development may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer, and should repeat the basic elements of form, line, colour and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- The Class III objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape, where the level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. The proposed development may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer, and changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape; and
- The Class IV objective is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape can be high, and the proposed development may dominate the view and be the major focus of the viewer's (s') attention without significantly degrading the local landscape character.

Impact Phase Summary (Not undertaken)

To determine impacts, a degree of contrast exercise is undertaken. This is an assessment of the expected change to the receiving environment in terms of the form, line, colour and texture, as seen from the surrounding Key Observation Points. This determines if the proposed project meets the visual objectives defined for each of the Classes. If the expected visual contrast is strong, mitigation recommendations are to be made to assist in meeting the visual objectives. To assist in the understanding of the proposed landscape modifications, visual representation, such as photomontages or photos depicting the impacted areas, can be generated. There is an ethical obligation in the visualisation process, as visualisation can be misleading if not undertaken ethically.

3.4 VIA Process Outline

The following approach was used in understanding the landscape processes and informing the magnitude of the impacts of the proposed landscape modification. The table below lists a number of standardised procedures recommended as a component of best international practice. The process relevant to this assessment are highlighted **red** text.

Table 4: Methodology Summary table

Action	Description
Site Survey and Preliminary Statement	The identification of existing scenic resources and sensitive receptors in and around the study area to understand the context of the proposed development within its surroundings to ensure that the intactness of the landscape and the prevailing sense of place are taken into consideration.
Project Description	Provide a description of the expected project, and the components that will make up the landscape modification.
Reviewing the Legal Framework	The legal, policy and planning framework may have implications for visual aspects of the proposed development. The heritage legislation tends to be pertinent in relation to natural and cultural landscapes, while Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for renewable energy provide a guideline at the regional scale.
Determining the Zone of Visual Influence	This includes mapping of viewsheds and view corridors in relation to the proposed project elements, in order to assess the zone of visual influence of the proposed project. Based on the topography of the landscape as represented by a Digital Elevation Model, an approximate area is defined which provides an expected area where the landscape modification has the potential to influence landscapes (or landscape processes) or receptor viewpoints.
Identifying Visual Issues and Visual Resources	Visual issues are identified during the public participation process, which is being carried out by others. The visual, social or heritage specialists may also identify visual issues. The significance and proposed mitigation of the visual issues are addressed as part of the visual assessment.
Assessing Potential Visual Impacts	An assessment is made of the significance of potential visual impacts resulting from the proposed project for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. The rating of visual significance is based on the methodology provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).
Formulating Mitigation Measures	Possible mitigation measures are identified to avoid or minimise negative visual impacts of the proposed project. The intention is that these would be included in the project design, the Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) and the authorisation conditions.

3.5 Assumptions and Uncertainties

- Digital Elevation Models (DEM) and viewsheds were generated using ASTER elevation data (NASA, 2009). Although every effort to maintain accuracy was undertaken, as a result of the DEM being generated from satellite imagery and not being a true representation of the earth's surface, the viewshed mapping is approximate and may not represent an exact visibility incidence. Thus, specific features identified from the DEM and derive contours (such as peaks and conical hills) would need to be verified once a detailed survey of the project area has taken place.
- The use of open-source satellite imagery was utilised for base maps in the report.
- Some of the mapping in this document was created using Bing Maps, Open-Source Map, ArcGIS Online and Google Earth Satellite imagery.
- The project deliverables, including electronic copies of reports, maps, data, shape files and photographs are based on the author's professional knowledge, as well as available information.
- VRM Africa reserves the right to modify aspects of the project deliverables if and when new/additional information may become available from research or further work in the applicable field of practice or pertaining to this study.
- Mapping makes use of the SANBI BGIS webmap (SANBI, 2018), as well as Google Earth Pro satellite imagery.

4 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

4.1 Landscape Policy Fit

In terms of regional and local planning fit for planned landscape and visual related themes, the expected visual/ landscape policy fit of the landscape change is rated **High Positive** for the following reasons:

- The proposed development is within the urban edge, and within an area that is already visually associated with residential type developments.
- The Mossel Bay SDF indicates that residential infill is planned for the site.

4.2 Visual Absorption Capacity

Land use is a crucial factor in determining landscape character, especially regarding the Visual Absorption Capacity (VAC) of the landscapes. Oberholzer defines VAC as the potential of the landscape to conceal the proposed project (Oberholzer, 2005). i.e.

- High VAC – e.g., effective screening by vegetation and structures.
- Moderate VAC - e.g., partial screening by vegetation and structures.
- Low VAC - e.g., little screening by vegetation or structures.

The VAC levels are rated **Medium** for the following reasons:

- Residential development to the west, and to the south, as well as the Toekoms settlement, all create a medium to strong form, line and colour contrast.
- There are some medium sized trees, and alien invaded Hartenbos Dune Thicket remnants in the vicinity, and along the R102, that also provide partial visual screening for residential type development.

4.3 Zone of Visual Influence

The visible extent, or viewshed, is “the outer boundary defining a view catchment area, usually along crests and ridgelines” (Oberholzer, 2005). In order to define the extent of the possible influence of the proposed project, a viewshed analysis was undertaken from the proposed site at a specified height above ground level. The extent of the Zone of Visual Influence is defined as **Medium** (Local Area) for the following reasons:

- The site is located on a local area high point, where there is potential for the proposed development to extend over a wider area.
- Due to the local prominence, there is a risk of higher levels of local visual intrusion could take place due to skyline intrusion as seen from the R102. This will only take place for double-storey residential developments.
- The higher VAC of the surrounding built landscape would effectively contained the visual influence to the local area.

4.4 Receptors and KOPs

Key Observation Points (KOPs) are the people (receptors) located in strategic locations surrounding the property that make consistent use of the views associated with the site where the landscape modifications are proposed. The following receptors were located within the expected ZVI:

- Adjacent Tergniet residential.
- N2 Westbound.
- R102 Road (KOP Status).
- Toekoms residential.

Due to the close proximity of the receptors to the proposed landscape change, the Visual Exposure is rated as Very High. The exception is the N2 National Highway, with the northern buffer area resulting in Medium to High Visual Exposure. The proposed development will be clearly visible to the R102. As there is limited vegetation screening for the proposed erven, this could set a negative precedent for development located directly adjacent to the road that is not partially screened by vegetation along the road verge. Mitigation by means of planting of small trees/ shrubs would effectively address this risk in the medium-term.

4.5 Scenic Quality

The scenic quality of the proposed development site is rated **Medium** for the following reasons:

- The undulating topography, affording views to the south to the coastline.
- The existing vegetation along the R102 verge has been retained, which softens the intensity of the residential area.
- Partial development of the agricultural zoned areas to the north of the site where there is currently no development.
- Clustered settlement landscape context reduced to the intensity of the residential development experience.

4.6 Receptor Sensitivity

The receptors sensitivity to landscape change is rated as **Medium** for the following reasons:

- Reducing receptor sensitivity to landscape change is the higher VAC/ residential development context of the site and surrounds.
- Increasing sensitivity is the potential for skyline intrusion, as well as the potential change for partial vegetation screening of residential developments along the R102.
- The residential areas to the south are all facing away from the site, with the gated area estate to the west, inward facing with single storey structures not allowing for open views towards the site.
- The N2 Highway receptors are buffered by the open ground between the site, with the main view to the ocean, and the proposed development area very much part of the existing settlement pattern.

As the location of double-storey units directly adjacent to the road could set a negative precedent for similar development, that is not currently reflected in the local landscape, mitigation in dwelling height should be a requirement.

4.7 Mitigations

The following mitigations are proposed:

Table 5. Preliminary Mitigations Table.

Issue	Mitigation	Description
R102 Sense of Place	Tree planting (Albany Thicket relevant) with 5m spacing along the R102 with maintenance place.	Planting of medium sized/ wind hardy indigenous shrubs and trees in the POS along the R102. The entrance to Toekoms should also include some feature trees to soften the entrance into the residential area. To ensure that the trees survive, a 2-year maintenance plan should be implemented by the municipality. Trees that do not survive, should be re-planted. As municipal infrastructure is located within the area, the discretion of the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) should be applied when selecting and positioning trees. Care must be taken to ensure that root systems do not compromise or damage underground or surface infrastructure, such as pipelines, cables, and paving. <i>Refer below for suitable trees and shrubs for planting that are found in the local area.</i>
	Retain existing vegetation	Along the buffer area, the existing vegetation should be retained to allow for immediate visual screening.

	8m height restriction for the erven along the R102	The areas adjacent to the R102 are currently single-storey. This is likely to change as the general height restriction is 8m. The row of houses along the R102 should not be higher than 8m.
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Table 6. Planting Species Table

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes / Description
<i>Osyris compressa</i>	Cape sumach	Small evergreen tree with glossy leaves and reddish fruit; found in coastal forests and thickets.
<i>Diospyros dichrophylla</i>	Poison star-apple	Shrub or small tree with shiny green leaves and edible fruit; found in coastal and forest margins.
<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	Crossberry	Hardy shrub or small tree with purple star-shaped flowers and four-lobed edible fruits.
<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	Cheesewood	Evergreen tree with fragrant flowers and sticky orange seed capsules; used ornamentally.
<i>Searsia crenata</i>	Dune Crowberry	Dense shrub common in coastal areas; produces small berries and is used for dune stabilization.
<i>Searsia glauca</i>	Blue Kuni-bush	Shrub with bluish foliage; drought-resistant and suitable for coastal gardens.
<i>Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus</i>	Candlewood	Medium tree with aromatic leaves and orange-brown bark; important for coastal forest structure.
<i>Tarchonanthus littoralis</i>	Coastal Camphor Bush	Grey-green aromatic shrub/tree with woolly white flower heads; tolerant of wind and salt spray.
<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	White Milkwood	Evergreen tree with a dense canopy and milky sap; culturally and ecologically significant along the coast.
<i>Osteospermum moniliferum</i>	Bitou bush	Evergreen flowering shrub

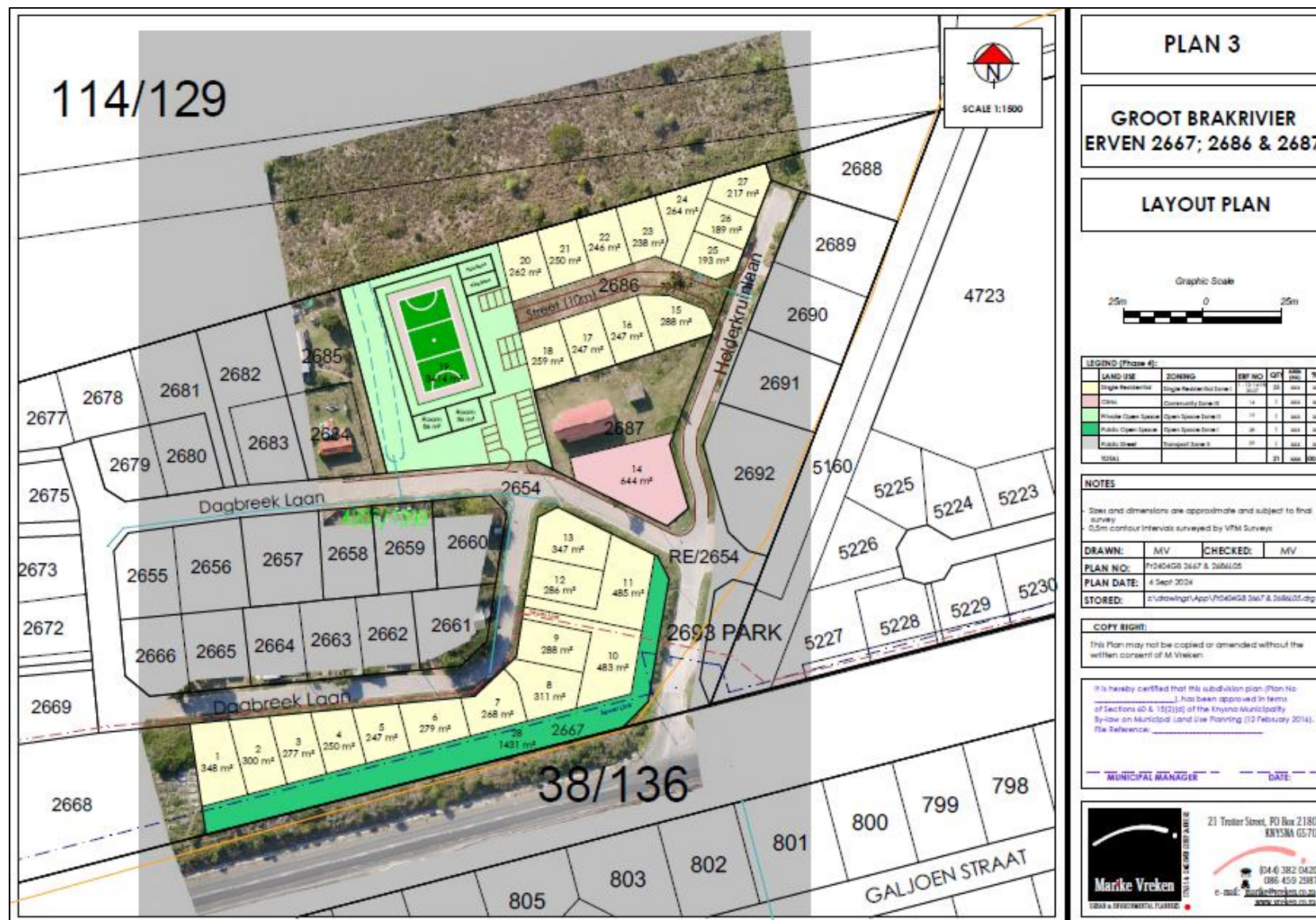


Figure 2: Proposed layout plan.

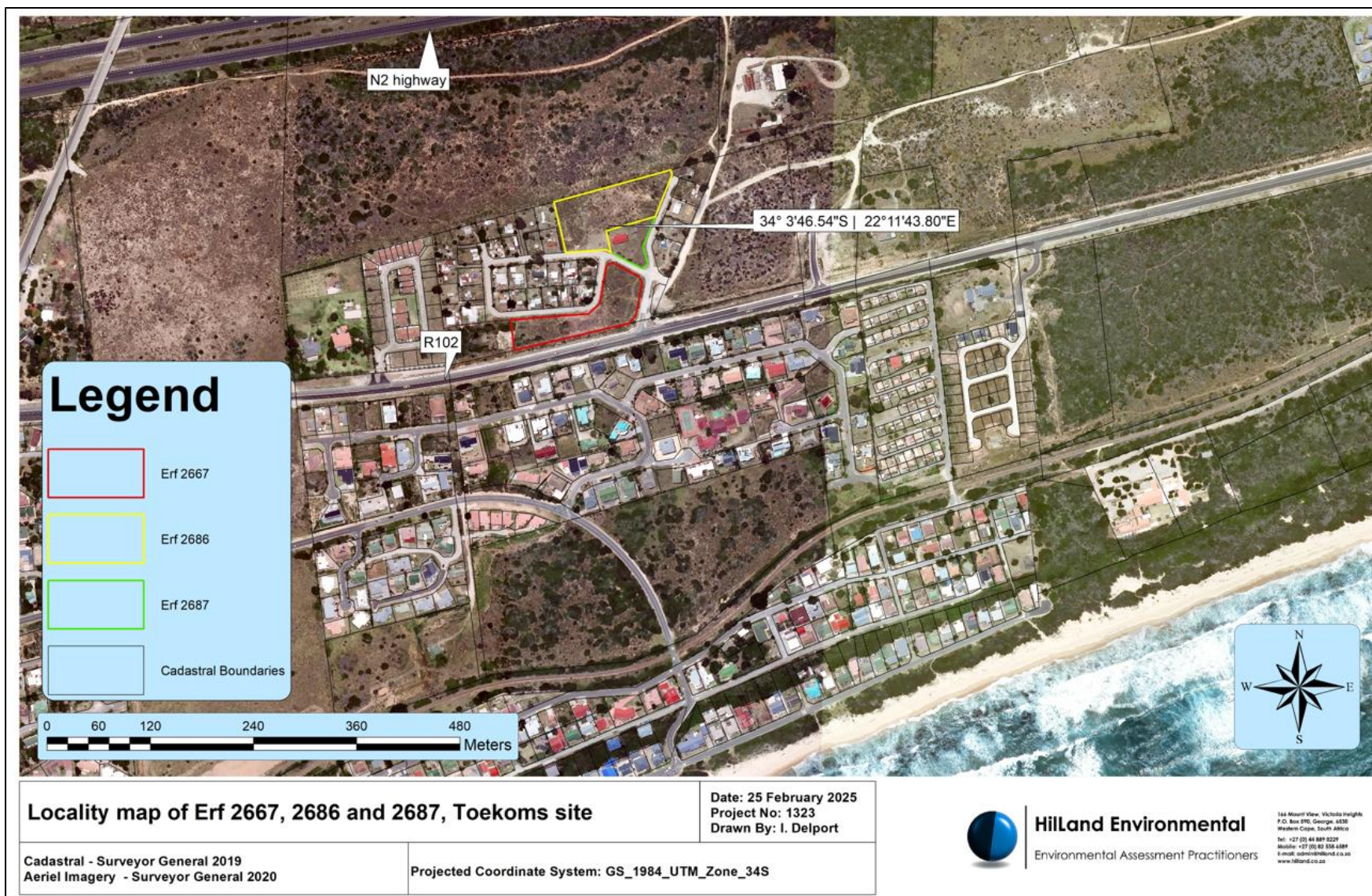


Figure 3: Locality map.



Mossel Bay Municipality SDF Plan: Midbrak Status Quo with the proposed development site indicated in Area 64.



Figure 4: Survey point locality map.

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6 ANNEXURE A: SITE VISIT PHOTOGRAPHS AND COMMENTS

The following photographs were taken during the field survey as mapped below. The text below the photograph describes the landscape and visual issues of the locality, if applicable.

_ID	1
_REMARKS	R102 Eastbound KOP with proposed dwelling to the left of the photograph on top of the embankment
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:02:45.000 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06439057
_LONGITUDE	22,19401058
Landuse	Road infrastructure
Risk	Low
Motivation	Urban context with buffer strip along the road retained and providing potential for partial screening by vegetation. Low profile of structures also offering limited visual intrusion. Suitable with screening vegetation mitigation.
Direction	NE
Photo	/Media/R102 Groot Brak_20250724_150440568.jpg
	

_ID	2
_REMARKS	Site proposed erven
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:07:02.601 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06354369
_LONGITUDE	22,19575569
Landuse	Open Space
Risk	Low
Motivation	Partly degraded vegetation with some smaller bushes adding landscape value. Existing sense of place to be retained.
Direction	W



_ID	3
_REMARKS	Existing development context
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:09:13.000 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06324415
_LONGITUDE	22,19514623
Landuse	Residential
Risk	Low
Motivation	Existing, similar residential landscape context with no visual intrusion. Suitable without mitigation.
Direction	W



_ID	4
_REMARKS	Site proposed with the N2 Highway in the background (embanked to the north with limited views of the site located to the south).
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:09:41.621 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06276405
_LONGITUDE	22,1954982
Landuse	Open Space
Risk	Low
Motivation	Clear vegetation that is being used informally as a play ground area. Suitable with proposed development retaining some play area facility.
Direction	N



_ID	5
_REMARKS	Site proposed
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:12:18.000 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06411777
_LONGITUDE	22,19426975
Landuse	Open Space
Risk	Low
Motivation	Partly degraded thicket with some smaller bushes adding landscape value. Adjacent to an existing cemetery. Retain as much as possible of the exiting vegetation along the R102.
Direction	E



_ID	6
_REMARKS	Context South of the R102 as seen from the proposed site.
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:15:39.245 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06451969
_LONGITUDE	22,19478406
Landuse	Residential
Risk	Low
Motivation	Existing residential to the south of the R102 has low impact potential due to road buffer and southern facing aspect to the ocean view. Suitable without mitigation. The vegetation depicted in the photograph below, along the road should be retained.
Direction	S
	

_ID	7
_REMARKS	R102 Westbound KOP
_REC_TIME	07/24/2025 15:19:03.000 GMT+02:00
_LATITUDE	-34,06390377
_LONGITUDE	22,19686643
Landuse	Road infrastructure
Risk	Medium
Motivation	Very high VE with skyline intrusion. Mitigate to Low with tree plantings along road within the buffer area.
Direction	NW
	

7 ANNEXURE B: SPECIALIST INFORMATION

7.1 Professional Registration Certificate



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

STEPHEN STEAD

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: PHP0063

has been awarded membership as a
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER (PHP)

This membership is subject to the *Standards for Membership and Code of Conduct*, referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the APHP Constitution respectively. The definition of a Professional may be found at: www.aphp.org.za/membership

Please contact us via info@aphp.org.za should further information be required.

THIS CERTIFICATE IS VALID FROM 1 JUNE 2025 – 1 JULY 2026

CHAIRPERSON

[Issued by the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners Executive Committee]

Watermark Image: Lydenburg-Head, circa 500 AD.
Illustration from: Ritual Space in the Zimbabwe Culture. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3172310317> (accessed 29 Jun 2025)

Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners
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7.2 Curriculum Vitae (CV)

1. **Position:** Owner / Director
2. **Name of Firm:** Visual Resource Management Africa cc (www.vrma.co.za)
3. **Name of Staff:** Stephen Stead
4. **Date of Birth:** 9 June 1967
5. **Nationality:** South African
6. **Contact Details:** Cell: +27 (0) 83 560 9911
Email: steve@vrma.co.za
7. **Educational qualifications:**
 - University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg):
 - Bachelor of Arts: Psychology and Geography
 - Bachelor of Arts (Hons): Human Geography and Geographic Information Management Systems
 - MSc Geography, University of KwaZulu, Natal (2023)
8. **Professional Accreditation**
 - Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners (APHP) Western Cape
 - Accredited VIA practitioner member of the Association (2011)
9. **Association involvement:**
 - International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) South African Affiliate
 - Past President (2012 - 2013)
 - President (2012)
 - President-Elect (2011)
 - Conference Co-ordinator (2010)
 - National Executive Committee member (2009)
 - Southern Cape Chairperson (2008)
10. **Conferences Attended:**
 - International Geographical Congress, Lisbon (2017)
 - IAIAAsa 2012
 - IAIAAsa 2011
 - IAIA International 2011 (Mexico)
 - IAIAAsa 2010
 - IAIAAsa 2009
 - IAIAAsa 2007
11. **Continued Professional Development:**
 - Integrating Sustainability with Environment Assessment in South Africa (IAIAAsa Conference, 1 day)
 - Achieving the full potential of SIA (Mexico, IAIA Conference, 2 days 2011)

- Researching and Assessing Heritage Resources Course (University of Cape Town, 5 days, 2009)

12. Countries of Work Experience:

- South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho, Kenya and Namibia

13. Relevant Experience:

Stephen gained six years of experience in the field of Geographic Information Systems mapping and spatial analysis working as a consultant for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and then with an Environmental Impact Assessment company based in the Western Cape. In 2004 he set up the company Visual Resource Management Africa that specializes in visual resource management and visual impact assessments in Africa. The company makes use of the well-documented Visual Resource Management methodology developed by the Bureau of Land Management (USA) for assessing the suitability of landscape modifications. Stephen has assessed of over 150 major landscape modifications throughout southern and eastern Africa. The business has been operating for eighteen years and has successfully established and retained a large client base throughout Southern Africa which include amongst other, Rio Tinto (Pty) Ltd, Bannerman (Pty) Ltd, Anglo Coal (Pty) Ltd, Eskom (Pty) Ltd, NamSolar and Vale (Pty) Ltd, Ariva (Pty) Ltd, Harmony Gold (Pty) Ltd, Millennium Challenge Account (USA), Pretoria Portland Cement (Pty) Ltd

14. Languages:

- English – First Language
- Afrikaans – fair in speaking, reading and writing.

15. Projects:

Table 7: VRM Africa Projects Assessments Table

DESCRIPTION	COUNT	DESCRIPTION	COUNT
Dam	2	UISP	8
Mari-culture	1	Structure	8
Port	1	OHPL	12
Railway	1	Industrial	12
Power Station	3	Wind Energy	22
Hydroelectric	4	Battery Storage	14
Resort	4	Mine	20
Golf/Residential	1	Residential	45
Road Infrastructure	5	Solar Energy	62
Substation	5	TOTAL	237