

Module 3.8 WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES		STATEMENT OF INTENT Wetlands and natural watercourses are conserved
Measures		Notes
Legal requirement	<p><b>Vleis, marshes, water sponges and water courses are protected in terms of Regulations published under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilisation of vegetation in a wetland or within the flood area of a water course or within 10 meters horizontally outside the flood area has not damaged the area</li> <li>No cultivation or drainage of a vlei, marsh or water sponge, or any land within the flood area or within 10m horizontally outside the flood area or water course, has occurred, unless authorised</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protection of wetlands/water courses under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act</b></p> <p>In terms of the regulations published under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, no land user may utilise vegetation in a vlei, marsh or water sponge or within a flood area of a water course, or within 10 metres horizontally outside such flood area in a manner that causes or may cause deterioration of, or damage to natural agricultural resources.</p> <p>Furthermore, no land user may drain any vlei, marsh or water sponge on his farm unit, or cultivate any land on his farm unit within the flood area of a water course, or within 10 metres horizontally outside the flood area of a water course, unless he obtains written permission by the executive officer.</p> <p>In addition, activities within 32m of the edge of a watercourse (including wetlands) and any infilling or excavation of more than 5m<sup>3</sup> from a watercourse must first obtain Environmental Authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>However, the above prohibition does not apply in respect of either:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a vlei, marsh or water sponge that has already been drained or is under cultivation at the commencement of the regulations, provided that this is not done at the expense of the conservation of natural agricultural resources;</li> <li>land within the flood area of a water course or within 10 metres horizontally outside the flood area of a water course that is under cultivation at the commencement of the regulations, provided that it has already been protected against excessive soil loss due to erosion through the action of water.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The flow pattern of water is regulated in terms of Regulations published under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No run-off water from a water course has been diverted to another water course, unless authorised</li> </ul>	<p><b>Regulation of flow pattern of water under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act</b></p> <p>The flow pattern of water is regulated in terms of Regulations published under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No run-off water from a water course has been diverted to another water course, unless authorised in terms of a run-off control plan approved by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, or through an authorisation in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act, 73 of 1989 or the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 with authorisation by the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation.</li> </ul>