

Module 3.5 TRANSFORMATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		STATEMENT OF INTENT Significant transformation of the environment is prevented, contained, minimised or remedied
Measures		Notes
Legal Requirement	<p>Farmers have the appropriate authorisation to undertake identified activities, and they comply with the conditions of that authorisation (either in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 73 of 1989 (sections 21, 22 and 26) or the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (section 24)</p> <p>Environmental authorisation is held for listed activities, where appropriate. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction or expansion of various structures (including dams) within a watercourse or within 32 metres of the edge of a watercourse • infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from a watercourse • the clearance of more than 1 ha of indigenous vegetation in prescribed areas or more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation • physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture of 100 hectares or more • clearance of indigenous vegetation of more than 300m² in certain sensitive geographical areas • construction or expansion of roads above prescribed thresholds 	<p>In order to minimise the impact of activities which may have a detrimental effect on the environment authorisation of scheduled or listed activities is required</p> <p>Activities which may not commence without environmental authorisation from the competent authority were last revised in 2017.</p> <p>As part of the application for environmental authorisation, certain activities require a basic assessment process, whilst those with a potentially greater impact require a longer scoping and environmental impact reporting process.</p> <p>Activities that may affect a sugarcane farmer include, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction or expansion of various structures (including dams) within a watercourse or within 32 metres of the edge of a watercourse • infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from a watercourse • the clearance of more than 1 ha of indigenous vegetation in prescribed areas or more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation • physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture of 100 hectares or more • clearance of indigenous vegetation of more than 300m² in certain sensitive geographical areas and • construction or expansion of roads above prescribed thresholds <p>The authorisation that provides for the conducting of listed activities may have conditions attached to them, and farmers should ensure that they comply with these conditions.</p> <p>Note: All EIAs need to be conducted by an independent and registered Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner (EAP).</p>