

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)**

### **Trails Camp – Onguma Nature Reserve**

#### **Fishers Pan Nature Reserve (Pty) Ltd**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared in support of the application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the seasonal operation of Trails Camp within Onguma Nature Reserve.

The purpose of this EMP is to ensure that all operational activities associated with the campsite are conducted in a controlled and environmentally responsible manner, with specific emphasis on maintaining the integrity of the surrounding natural environment and minimizing disturbance to ecological processes.

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## **2. PROJECT CONTEXT AND SETTING**

Trails Camp is an existing low-impact tented tourism campsite located within Onguma Nature Reserve. The site is situated within a previously disturbed cattle post area that has been developed for controlled campsite use.

The operational footprint is clearly defined and includes existing facilities such as ablution infrastructure, septic tank and French drain systems, borehole water supply, and a solar power installation. The surrounding environment remains largely natural and forms part of the broader ecological system of the reserve.

The camp operates seasonally between April and September and accommodates guests in temporary tented structures, supported by guided nature-based activities.

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### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

The approach to environmental management at Trails Camp is based on practical, on-site control of activities and responsible use of existing facilities. The following principles guide operations:

- All activities are contained within the existing developed footprint
- No expansion or additional land disturbance is undertaken
- Existing services and infrastructure are utilised without modification
- Guest activities are managed and supervised
- Environmental awareness forms part of daily operations

This approach ensures that the operation remains consistent with the conservation objectives of Onguma Nature Reserve.

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### **4. BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

#### **4.1 Vegetation (Flora)**

The campsite is located within a savanna ecosystem consisting of indigenous vegetation. While the immediate footprint has been previously disturbed, surrounding vegetation remains intact and supports the ecological integrity of the area.

#### **4.2 Wildlife (Fauna)**

Onguma Nature Reserve supports a variety of wildlife species. The scale and nature of the campsite operation are such that disturbance is minimal, with all activities managed to avoid unnecessary interaction with wildlife.

#### **4.3 Soil and Site Condition**

The site reflects historical disturbance associated with previous land use. The existing campsite footprint is stable, and no further soil disturbance is required for ongoing operations.

#### **4.4 Water Resources**

Water for the campsite is supplied via an existing borehole. The activity does not impact surface water systems and is limited to controlled groundwater use.

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## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Environmental risks associated with Trails Camp are understood to be localised and manageable. The following measures are implemented as part of routine operations:

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### **5.1 Waste Management**

Waste generated at the campsite is managed on a daily basis to maintain site cleanliness and prevent environmental impacts.

- Waste is collected and removed from the site regularly
  - No waste is disposed of, buried, or burned on-site
  - Waste is transported to approved disposal facilities
  - Guests are guided on responsible waste practices
  - Staff maintain oversight to ensure compliance
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### **5.2 Wastewater Management**

Existing wastewater systems are utilised and maintained to ensure proper handling of effluent.

- Septic tanks and French drains are used as installed
  - Systems are regularly inspected and maintained
  - Any issues are addressed immediately
  - No untreated wastewater is released into the environment
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### **5.3 Water Use**

Water use is controlled and aligned with the scale of the operation.

- Water is sourced from the existing borehole
- Usage is monitored operationally
- Guests are encouraged to use water responsibly
- Leaks or faults are addressed without delay

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## **5.4 Energy Use**

The campsite operates using renewable energy.

- Solar power is used as the primary energy source
  - Energy use is limited to operational requirements
  - No reliance on grid electricity or fuel-powered generators
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## **5.5 Vegetation Protection**

Activities are managed to avoid disturbance outside the existing footprint.

- Movement is confined to established areas
  - No clearing or removal of vegetation occurs
  - Staff monitor the condition of the site
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## **5.6 Wildlife Protection**

Interactions with wildlife are controlled and managed.

- Activities are guided and supervised
  - No feeding or interference with wildlife is permitted
  - Noise levels are kept to a minimum
  - Waste is managed to avoid attracting animals
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## **5.7 Soil and Site Stability**

The existing site condition is maintained through controlled use.

- Existing access tracks are used
- Vehicle movement is limited
- No off-road driving is permitted
- Drainage patterns are maintained

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## **5.8 Fire Risk Management**

Fire risk is managed through preventative measures.

- No uncontrolled fires are permitted
- Fires, if used, are confined to designated areas
- Basic fire response measures are in place
- Staff are aware of fire prevention practices

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## **6. OPERATIONAL CONTROL**

Environmental management is integrated into daily operations.

- Camp management oversees implementation of this EMP
- Staff are aware of environmental responsibilities
- Guest activities are structured and controlled
- Any environmental issues are addressed promptly

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## **7. MONITORING**

Monitoring is conducted through routine observation and operational oversight.

- Site condition is regularly assessed
- Waste and sanitation systems are monitored
- Any changes or impacts are addressed as they arise

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## **8. CONCLUSION**

The seasonal operation of Trails Camp is conducted within an existing developed campsite footprint and is managed in a manner that prioritises environmental protection.

Based on the nature of the activity and the management measures in place, environmental impacts are expected to remain minimal and effectively controlled.

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