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Image Caption 1: Artist's impression of the proposed Cape Winlands Airport by Boogertman + Partners

Image Caption 2: Masterplan perspective, by NACO

Available soundbite from Deon Cloete, Managing Director of Cape Winlands Airport

Green Light Granted for Cape Winlands Airport Expansion

SA's next generation aviation hub secures another major milestone toward regional connectivity and economic growth

Cape Town, South Africa – 30 October 2025 - Cape Winlands Airport has received Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP), marking a key step forward in the planned airport expansion. The authorisation was officially issued on 27 October 2025.

The planned expansion of Cape Winlands Airport is expected to be an investment of approximately R8bn into the economy of the Western Cape. One of the biggest infrastructure projects in the City of Cape Town it is anticipated to open in 2028.

This approval marks a major milestone in the *progression of the Cape Winlands Airport expansion project* and follows an extensive environmental assessment and consultation process undertaken in full compliance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). The authorisation is the culmination of more than two years of dedicated environmental planning and public participation, including four rounds of public consultation, two open days, and over 40 specialist studies assessing environmental, social, and technical factors. With this authorisation now in place, the Environmental Practitioners have 14 days to formally notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

"The granting of Environmental Authorisation is an important validation of the extensive work and consultation that has gone into ensuring this project meets the highest environmental and community standards," said Deon Cloete, Managing Director, Cape Winlands Airport. "We are mighty pleased with this positive outcome and grateful for all the support and encouragement received over the years. This is truly a milestone made possible with the support of our stakeholders, partners and the community".

A new aero hub for Cape Town

The Cape Winlands Airport Expansion Project aims to establish a modern, multi-purpose regional airport that enhances connectivity, supports economic growth, and unlocks new opportunities for trade, tourism, and industry across the Western Cape. The project envisions upgraded infrastructure, improved logistics capacity, and enhanced sustainability measures, positioning the airport as a strategic hub in the regional and national transport network.

The proposed project entails the expansion of the existing Cape Winelands Airport in a phased development approach. This includes the realignment of the primary runway (01/19) and extending its length to 3.5 km. The development will also include comprehensive airside infrastructure such as taxiways, aircraft parking stands, refuelling systems and cargo facilities. The expansion plans include a new boutique terminal building with modern facilities such as efficient check-in counters with advanced technology for swift processing, spacious and comfortable waiting lounges with ergonomic seating and an array of retail options. The exterior will include at-grade parking and landscaped areas to enhance the airport's functionality and aesthetic appeal. Plans also include hotels and a conference centre, all of which will be developed based on a solid business case to ensure long-term viability and success. The airport has ambitious green aspirations including being one of the greenest airports in the world. It aims to be as self-sufficient as possible and will apply green principles throughout the development.

Airports as catalysts for positive impact

The airport is expected to sustain approximately 35,000 direct and indirect jobs and could sustain just over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs during its initial 20 years of operation. The development represents an expected initial investment of approximately R8 billion in Cape Town, which will deliver the terminal buildings, runway and a 450-hectare developable estate. "We see this an investment in people, opportunity and long-term regional growth and not just an investment infrastructure," said Cloete. "By creating tens of thousands of jobs and establishing a world-class aviation and logistics hub, we're helping to unlock the full potential of the Cape Winelands and greater region."

With the consistent and positive tourism growth, this airport expansion helps to ensure that city and province is able to accommodate the sustained tourism growth and helps to future proof the city.

What's next

The next phase will focus on developing the detailed plans and implementation measures as stipulated by DEADP before any construction-related activities begin. Throughout this period, Cape Winelands Cape Winelands Airport remains committed to a sustainable development, transparent engagement, and regional economic upliftment as it progresses toward the next stage of this landmark initiative.

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