



# CLEARING ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS

Ebenhaeser

## Project objectives:

- Removal of alien vegetation adjacent to main canal.
- Job creation (35 Temporary jobs).

## Project Timeframe

12 Months

## Long term goals:

- Clear all alien invasive vegetation from the banks and the surrounding agricultural lands.
- Implement water conservation and demand management.
- Prevent pollution of water systems.
- Create a safe and clean canal and furrow system.

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“Alien invasive plants growing alongside the irrigation canal and main furrows are damaging our infrastructure, as Roots break the concrete walls to reach the water. The broken canal then leaks water, which results in farmers not receiving their scheduled water”, explains William Fortuin, project manager for the Ebenhaeser Community Association (ECA). According to

The ECA applied to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry for assistance to clear the alien invasive species. The initial funding is only sufficient to clear the banks of the canal. A second phase project intends to replace the canal with a pipeline. Working for Water has shown interest in supporting the project in order that the land further from the canal can also be cleared.



Fortuin, the maintenance of the 4.5 kilometre canal system is a shared responsibility between the Lower Olifants River Water User Association (LORWUA) and the community of Ebenhaeser.

The 35 temporary jobs that this project will create bring welcome relief to several families.

The jobs come paired with capacity building programmes





## Water and the Environment



and link with further water conservation and environmental awareness programmes.

Alien trees provide sought after fire-wood which will be sold to earn extra income.

The longer term objectives are to:

- Clear all alien invasive vegetation from the banks and the surrounding agricultural lands.
- Implement a water conservation and demand management plan.
- Prevent pollution of the water systems.
- Create a safe and clean canal and furrow system.

“The project focuses on controlling pollution, water conservation, upgrading infrastructure, empowerment, capacity building, and ultimately providing a good supply of water to emerging farmers. We want to involve women actively in this project by giving them opportunities for work as well as to learn about water and the environment,” says Fortuin.

