ANNEXURE B

GREATER OVERBERG FPA: RULES FOR FIREBREAKS

LEGISLATION

According to the National Wild and Forest Fire Act (Section 12), every owner on whose land a Wild fire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must prepare and maintain a firebreak on his or her side of the boundary between his or her land and any adjoining land.

DEFINITION OF A FIREBREAK

According to the NV&FFA (Section 13) a firebreak, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, is a break that:

a) is wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a Wild Fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land,

b) will not cause soil erosion, and

c) is reasonably free of inflammable material capable of carrying a Wild Fire across it.

NB: Always take into account that some natural (or human made) Wild conditions for example, recently burned Wild (younger than 4 years), a natural Vlei, a dam or a river, old farmlands and floodplains can be regarded as a natural firebreak.

PURPOSE OF FIREBREAKS

The purpose of a firebreak will determine what type of construction the firebreak should conform to. The purpose of firebreaks could be to:

a) Prevent fire spread of controlled or uncontrolled fires

b) Point where fire may be extinguished

c) Point where back burns may be started

d) Point of attack of fire

e) Access point to a fire

Factors influencing Fire break construction

The following factors must be taken into account with the construction of firebreaks.

a) Topography
   - Slope of the ground
   - Landscaping
   - Elevation
   - Vegetation type

b) Moisture content
   - Size and shape of material
   - Volume and area covered
   - Fuel content.

c) Weather patterns
   - Wind direction
   - Temperature
   - Rainfall

d) Conservancy aspects
   - Erosions possibilities
   - Scarce/endangered species

e) Spotting distance

f) Method of clearing

g) Cost of maintenance

h) Purpose of firebreak
**Firebreak Requirements**

Each firebreak within the different circumstances or land use will determine what type and width will be applicable.

a) Firebreaks must be prepared and maintained on an annual basis as indicated by the GO FPA Ops Plan.

b) Members must comply with the national policy applicable to exemptions.

c) Firebreaks must meet the requirements of the NEMA act, the Environmental conservation act and conditions set out in this document. (If in doubt contact the FPO)

**Position of Firebreaks**

The positioning of the firebreaks will be determined by the Operational Plan of the GO FPA. This Ops Plan will be updated annually.

In general, in order to ensure the minimum environmental impact, firebreaks will be positioned (as much as possible):

- on or along existing disturbed areas, e.g. a road, old farm lands and natural Wild divisions,
- to follow the natural lay (contours) of the area and to minimize the visual impact,
- to prevent soil erosion.

Table 1 shows the various terrain or land type relevant to this area and the width and method to create firebreaks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Type</th>
<th>Prescribed width (meters)</th>
<th>Recommended method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stubble land/fallow land</td>
<td>2 m</td>
<td>Cultivate (Crop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fynbos/Natural veld agricultural land interface</td>
<td>Width = 2.5 x height (minimum = 5 m)</td>
<td>Crop; Brush cut; hoeing allowed on slopes less than 30 degrees only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road verge. (Provincial and district roads)</td>
<td>3 m on either side</td>
<td>Crop; brush cut, hoe, burn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alien infestations</td>
<td>Width = 2.5 x height (minimum = 5 m)</td>
<td>Crop; brush cut; hoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour cottages, Farm infrastructure and homesteads</td>
<td>10 m</td>
<td>Crop, brush cut, hoe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fire Management plan's Strategic Firebreaks plan may require that some of firebreaks width will differ from that which has been set out here.