



**EASTERN CAPE**  
PARKS

REF: ESKOM Thyspunt Powerline  
ENQ: Dave Balfour  
DATE: 30 June 2009

SiVEST Environmental Division  
Attention: Chris le Roux or Themba Skonje  
Fax: 011 803 7272

Dear Chris le Roux

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment Draft Scoping Report: Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project

Eastern Cape Parks (ECP) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report, with particular reference to the Northern Corridor (DEAT Ref No: 12/12/20/1212) as follows:

ECP is opposed to the construction of the transmission lines across any portion of the Groendal Nature Reserve, or in close proximity to the protected area, due to its status as a wilderness area. It should also be noted that a process is underway to extend World Heritage Site (WHS) status to Groendal, as part of the Cape Floral Region WHS. An evaluation of the status of all the protected areas within the Cape Floral Region WHS has been concluded, and on the basis of the recommendation that Groendal should be included in the extension and receive WHS status, an application is currently in process through DEAT to UNESCO.

During site visits and discussions, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner noted this concern. ECP would like to see this noted more explicitly in the final EIR, with the Groendal Nature Reserve, and preferably a reasonable buffer zone outside the reserve boundary, excluded from the proposed northern corridor.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Dave Balfour (Manager Scientific Services - Tel: 043 742 2557, Fax: 086 511 9880, e-mail: [dave.balfour@ecparks.co.za](mailto:dave.balfour@ecparks.co.za)) should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lenoray Gower  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Thyspunt Transmission Lines: Comment on Draft Scoping Report. 30 June 2009

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