



PROPOSED WIND ENERGY FACILITY EIA PROCESS

RECORD OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

HANSIE VISSER, LANDOWNER GRAVEWATERKOP 158 PORTION 5

Held on
Friday 27 July 2007,
Vredendal

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Notes for the Record prepared by:

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Please address any comments to Shawn Johnston at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:

HANSIE VISSER, LANDOWNER GRAVEWATERKOP 158 PORTION 5

Venue: Vredendal

Date: Friday, 27 July 2007

Time: 09:00

MEETING ATTENDEES

- » Hansie Visser, Landowner Gravewaterkop 158 Portion 5 (Skaapvlei)
- » Karen Jodas – Savannah Environmental
- » Shawn Johnston – Sustainable Futures ZA

DISCUSSION SESSION

This meeting was convened by Shawn Johnston and Karen Jodas to clarify farm boundaries and verify landowners in the Skaapvlei area around the proposed Wind Energy Facility site. The meeting also clarified current land-use practice, whether two wetlands were present in the area and the seasonal conditions of the Skaapvlei Road. Mr Hansie Visser further highlighted the seasonal tourism (flower tourists and the traditional family campsites on the coast). The following issues were discussed:

- » The houses at Skaapvlei are occupied by TransHex employees
- » There are 2 camps for sheep on the farm. Rotational grazing is practiced. This farm plus the other properties owned total 18000ha, and this extent of land is important for the economical operation of the farm.
- » What extent of the land would potentially be lost to infrastructure (i.e. road surfaces and turbines)?
- » There are 2 pans on the property – one north of road, and the other in the central area of the farm. The pan to the north of road has been dry for more than 20 years, and there is no birdlife which regularly frequents this area anymore.
- » Both parents are buried at the house, and there is a strong need to keep the property in the family.
- » The municipality grades the access road.
- » The road provides the access to Gert du Toit se Baai. By December the road is often so degraded that it is not passable in an ordinary car.
- » The visitors to Gert du Toit se Baai often cause problems for his livestock – including littering and stock losses.
- » The majority of the farm is covered with thick sands.
- » The areas which were previously cultivated were last used more than 12 years ago. The re-growth in the se areas has been slow.
- » Can portion 11 and 12 of 158 not be considered for inclusion in the study area?

- » Using areas which are not good for grazing and/or previously disturbed by agriculture will benefit all parties.