

Garona-Aries Transmission Corridor

Impacts on soils and agricultural potential

The main impact will be the loss of the soil resource as a result of siting of pylons and any other infrastructure. However, this will be minimal, due both to the small areas involved, as well as the fact that the area is climatically of limited dryland potential as a result of the climatic limitations.

The only zone of agriculturally important soils is found along the Gariep River, where irrigation is practiced. However, the transmission line will follow an existing bridge over the river and no new areas of high potential soils will be affected.

Alternatives (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B)

As far as the soils are concerned (given the scale of investigation of 1:250 000), there will be no preference for either of the alternatives. The soils that will be encountered are very similar for either set of alternatives.

The significance will be as follows:

Nature: neutral (no significant detriment to the environment)

- a) Extent: Site only (1)
- b) Duration: Long-term (4)
- c) Magnitude: minor (2)
- d) Probability: high (4)

$(a + b + c) \times d = 28$ (low significance)

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